

## Superintendent's Message – September 2010

Strategic planning and evaluation, dedication, teamwork, focus, professional development, and overall commitment to student achievement are showing results at Moreland School District. Data released by the California Department of Education on Monday, September 13, 2010, showed that Moreland had the greatest test-score gain among Santa Clara County school districts on the Academic Performance Index (API). Moreland now sits at 870 points, well above the state's goal of 800 points. Moreland Middle School had an enormous 75 point gain, rising to 843 points. Additionally, Anderson Elementary School and Easterbrook Discovery School have been named California Distinguished Schools. This award identifies and honors schools that have demonstrated educational excellence for all students and progress in narrowing the achievement gap.

The increase in API scores and receipt of awards are important for one reason – we are on the right track to meeting the academic needs of all of our students. Investment in professional development for teachers and teachers aides, in new curriculum and peer training, and implementing new strategies in the classroom is working together to support our goal of closing the achievement gap while raising the achievement of all students.

An ancillary benefit to meeting the academic needs of our students and raising API scores is that these scores are widely used as a measurement of academic excellence. Parents want to send their children to schools that have high test scores. This translates into higher home values, a strong sense of community, and families invested in the success of the students and in the schools. This also affects our ability to attract and retain the highest caliber of staff available to support student learning and prepare students to become lifelong learners and contributing, responsible members of a global society.

We look forward to providing your student with a high quality education and celebrating the continued successes of your child, the school, and the District. With your support and our dedicated staff, your child will be prepared for academic success.

Sincerely,  
Glen Ishiwata