



Superintendent's Update

May 1, 2009

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Dear Staff and Community Members:

New Principal Appointment for New Shores School 2009-10

It is my pleasure to announce the appointment of Ms. Cherie Ho as principal for the New Shores School that will open in the fall of 2010. She will assume her new duties in August 2009 to prepare for the opening of the new school and to support our curriculum department during an important Student Information software conversion. Ms. Ho has been the principal at Nesbit Elementary for the past 5 years. Prior to her years at Nesbit, Ms. Ho was the principal responsible for the successful opening of the Sandpiper campus in 1997 where she remained Principal for 8 years. Ms. Ho's experience in our district and her familiarity with the Belmont-Redwood Shores Community makes her the ideal candidate for the new school. Along with educational experience and proven leadership skills, Ms. Ho has the organizational experience needed to address the variety of details required to open a new school. The District is extremely fortunate to have the dedication and skills of Ms. Ho to fill this very important position.

The Nesbit Principal position will be advertised and interviews will include participation from staff and community members. The position will be advertised to internal and external candidates who are interested in becoming the new school leader at our State Distinguished Elementary School. The goal is to name the principal by the end of the school year.

New Student Information System

Beginning this spring, the District will begin the monumental task of implementing a new student information software system. The current SASI system is obsolete and no longer meets the reporting requirements of the State. Ms. Penny Weaver, our Assistant Superintendent of Education, will be guiding the District through the transition process. This transition requires extensive data preparation, system testing and the development and implementation of a District-wide training program for staff. Ms. Weaver will be supporting each of the school sites and the District Office team to successfully transition student data into the new system and to prepare employees for the implementation beginning July 2009. Mr. Sean Colt, our Technology Director, will provide support to Ms. Weaver in the data conversion portion of the project.

Thanks to the technology expertise in systems migration that both Ms. Weaver and Mr. Colt bring to the project, the District will save several thousands of dollars in consulting fees. Plans are to use these saved funds to better serve the curriculum needs and priorities of the District. During the system migration, Ms. Ho will be temporarily supporting the curriculum department in the area of textbook adoptions, teacher training, testing, and priority activities as assigned.

Ms. Ho's position will be funded through general funds set aside for a part time principal and part time assistant for 2009-10 and also through funds that had been set aside for consultant services to implement the new software conversion.

The District is very fortunate to have such talented and versatile staff. As a result of this plan we will be able to maximize the use of district funds in preparation of programs for our students and to ensure a smooth transition to the new student information system

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Emerita Orta-Camilleri". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above a horizontal line.

Dr. Emerita Orta-Camilleri
Superintendent