

Gary Hexom, Director/Principal

August, 2008

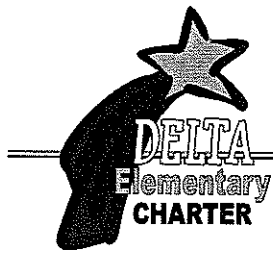
Dear DECS Community Members,

On behalf of the staff and members of the Board of Trustees I wanted to welcome you to another exciting year here at DECS. We look forward to a year of growth, prosperity, accomplishments and celebrations.

We've had several important changes take place since our last visit. Mrs. Ramos will move to a 2-3 combination class and Mrs. Davis will provide reading support to second graders in the afternoon. In the meantime Mrs. Hall will be teaching first grade on a halftime basis, her teaching partner will be Sonia Borja, who comes to us after teaching several years at Capitol Christian School. We have also hired a new 5th grade teacher Christine Miller. She has most recently been teaching grade six in Dixon. Coincidentally, she spent the bulk of her student teaching here at Clarksburg Elementary. We are confident that they will enhance our already outstanding staff.

While some of you may have been led to believe that educators have a leisurely summer. Please know our staff has been working hard to get ready for the coming year. Each participated in a weeklong intensive course regarding effective teaching instruction. In addition we will be implementing a "new" math program. Actually it's the same publisher but it will be the "California" version. This will be more closely aligned to the rigorous standards here. In addition teachers will receive some in-service training on this just before school begins. Also, Mrs. Davis participated in a two day training in GLAD, Guided Language Acquisition Design, a program to assist in all aspects of classroom management and lesson delivery. While some of our teachers have already been trained, our goal is to have all teachers receive the two day and subsequent four day training within the next year. Finally, this week staff will participate in two days of training in the areas of backward mapping and Project Based Learning, two areas highlighted in our Charter. Such offerings provide staff with opportunities to grow as professionals and can have a profound effect on student achievement.

We also believe we will be offering transportation from West Sac. and Freeport. We're in the final stages of planning and are excited about the impact this might have on our enrollment. In order to recoup some of our expenses we will impose a



fee structure. The cost is yet to be determined, know that we will make it as reasonable as possible. The cost will only apply to those students who reside outside of the District and will be riding this particular bus. If you know of some potential students please encourage their parents to ring the school and check on space availability. I have a feeling that we will fill up fast so, you may want to encourage any prospective parents to ring as soon as possible.

As I sit here and review my previous 39 years in this honorable profession, I can't help but reminisce about some of the marvelous folks I've met along the way. Children from all walks of life, parents who care deeply about their children, teachers and other staff members who have dedicated themselves to improving the lot of our students and Board members who give so much time on behalf of the rest of us. In so many ways the children who walked in my 8th grade classroom in Auburn in the fall of 1969 are so similar to the children of today. I love that sense of wonder, the enthusiasm, optimism and positive outlooks. They are malleable, it is therefore our responsibility to be positive role models, to keep our word, to be honest, to lend a hand and above all else, believe. It is almost unheard of for children to be successful without at least one caring adult who believes in them. Know that you/we are all in a position to have such an impact.

In closing we look forward to seeing all those bright young faces on Wednesday the 20th of August. Also, please remember that that day is a Wednesday and like all Wednesdays, will be shortened and school will dismiss at 2:00. Thank you for affording me this opportunity to share.

Peace,

Gary