

For Superintendent's Corner  
April 2007

**STAR**: The Standardized Testing and Reporting (STAR) assessments will be administered between May 7 and 22. "What's up with all this testing and accountability?" Other than the fact that it is Federal Law, it is a tremendous point of reference for schools to measure learning, compare data, and set goals for improvement. It has also been an opportunity for our students to demonstrate to their teachers what they've learned. Teachers and schools take pride in what students achieve. We all celebrate in achievement, and the students in the Moreland School District are second to none. The results are also important for all of our schools because they are used to determine the Academic Performance Index and the rankings of schools. Please refer to information from your school for more detailed information.

**Construction**: On December 12, 2006, the Board of Trustees approved the replacement of 25 portable classrooms with permanent modular classrooms during the summer of 2007. These classrooms will be placed at Anderson, Baker, Country Lane, and Payne. **The locations of these buildings may be of interest to community members.** Work began during the spring break at Baker and Payne, where eight portables were moved (4 at each site) in order to make way for construction to begin in late May. The target completion is early August for the opening of the 2007-08 school year. Please contact your school principal or Dana Taylor, Assistant Superintendent of Business Services, at (408)874-2922, if you have any questions.

**Open Enrollment (Intra-district) and Inter-district Transfer Requests**: The deadline for the second round of open enrollment forms is May 4<sup>th</sup>. For requests **to transfer from** Moreland School District, the district has already reviewed and notified parents. **Inter-district transfer** requests for incoming students who **have previously attended** Moreland schools, and are returning, will be approved by the first of June. **Inter-district transfer** requests for incoming students who **have not attended** Moreland schools previously will be approved during the first part of July.

**Charter School**: At the April 3, 2007, Board of Trustees meeting, the Board voted unanimously to offer the Discovery Charter School the Anderson facilities they are currently using for the 2007-2008 school year. In addition, the Moreland School District staff will continue discussions with the Discovery staff to seek a long-term arrangement.

**Change of Board Policy on Independent Study**: A proposal to change the Board Policy (6158) on Independent Study was presented to the Board at their meeting on April 17<sup>th</sup>. The Board will consider the proposed change at its meeting on **May 29<sup>th</sup>**. The change adds: "*The minimum period of time for any independent study option shall be five school days, and a maximum of ten days.*"

*Independent study may not be concurrent with any other form of absence, e.g. illness, bereavement, school holiday, teacher workday, etc.” In addition, the Administrative Regulation would add: The written agreement would have to include “Explaining that the independent study option is not available to students/pupils who will be out of their home school due to vacation/travel for more than ten consecutive school days. Such students/pupils will be dis-enrolled and re-enrolled in any District school where space is available upon their return.”*

Any questions may be asked, or concerns may be shared, with the school principal or Assistant Superintendent Dana Taylor. Parents may also address the Board of Trustees at any upcoming scheduled meeting during “Public Comments” part of the meeting.

**Strategic Plan:** The district is preparing for a two-day session—April 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup>—to develop the new Strategic Plan for the Moreland School District. This plan will guide the decisions made by the district for the next five years. Several invitations have been sent to community members and staff to participate in this work.

**Communication:** Copies of the community newsletter will be available at school sites and the District Office. The newsletter will be published three times a year. Also, community members, who are not parents of Moreland students, may contact Christine Thorpe in the Superintendent’s Office at (408)874-2901 to have their names and phone numbers placed on a list to receive phone messages periodically from the district.

**Gang Awareness:** On May 30, 2007, Moreland School District and Council Member Pete Constant are jointly sponsoring a Gang Awareness presentation by the Safe School Campus Initiative staff. The presentation will begin at 7:00 p.m. and be held in the multi-use room at Moreland Middle School.

**Emergency Drill:** The district is holding a **district-wide emergency drill** on April 25<sup>th</sup>. All district schools and staff, including those in the district office, will participate in this drill to ensure we are well prepared in the event of a major emergency.

The schedule of Board meetings is available on the new District website. Regularly scheduled Board meeting agendas are posted 72 hours in advance at <http://www.moreland.k12.ca.us/bot/agenda.html>.

*Find a way to help your school serve students better.*

Glen Ishiwata, Superintendent  
(408)874-2901; [gishiwata@moreland.k12.ca.us](mailto:gishiwata@moreland.k12.ca.us)