

## **Superintendent's Message – October 24, 2007**

### **Moreland Educational Foundation**

Moreland Educational Foundation's (MEF) annual Pumpkin Patch in the Haunted Woods will be open through October 30<sup>th</sup> in the wooded area at Easterbrook Discovery School. This is a fun and exciting event that our students and community look forward to every year. There are pumpkins of all shapes and sizes to choose from, games, a spooky haunted trail, movie nights, and a raffle. Please see the MEF web site, listed below, for the exact hours of the pumpkin patch.

MEF's yearly fundraising activities include the Pumpkin Patch, Music in Moreland Night at the Children's Discovery Museum, and a summer giving campaign driven by a highly successful enrichment summer school. Funds raised by MEF are used to support many programs important to the success of Moreland students including technology, music, math, science, and reading. Last year, MEF contributed \$50,000 to supply each school library with three new computer workstations, along with servers and software. In the past, funds have been donated to ensure the continuation of Moreland's library and music programs.

If you are interested in joining the other hard-working MEF volunteers that are providing a valuable service to our students and community, please visit the MEF website (<http://www.mefhome.org/index.html>) to learn more about the organization and opportunities. Also, please stop by the Pumpkin Patch in the Haunted Woods to support your school and thank the volunteers for their amazing efforts on behalf of your student.

Thank you MEF for your dedication to our students and community!

### **Independent Study**

The holiday season is right around the corner and families are starting to schedule vacations and trips for school breaks. I want to encourage you to keep your children in school while school is in session. Good attendance in school is important to your child's quality of education, educational experience, and academic performance.

Many parents who schedule their vacation during school time immediately before or after a school break request an independent study program. Establishing independent study programs for students takes considerable time on the part of the teacher and school administration. Moreland's Independent Study Policy (BP 6158), updated and distributed to all Moreland families through all schools last Spring, states that:

the minimum period of time for any independent study option shall be five school days, and a maximum of ten days. If independent study is running concurrent with any school vacation, the time including vacation days cannot be more than 15 days total.

An Independent Study Program for an individual student may only be approved upon determining that the student is prepared to meet the district's requirements for independent study. I would like to strongly encourage you to plan your vacations during scheduled school breaks, not during times that school is in session, to ensure that your child receives the excellent educational experience that our wonderful, professional staff provides.

Thank you for your support.

Glen Ishiwata