

Superintendent's Message November 5, 2008

With the uncertain current state of the economy, we are all facing unanswered questions in this difficult economic time. At Moreland, we want to encourage you as parents to stay informed on California's current economic issues and how they may affect your child's education. To support you in this, here are some quick facts about the state budget, and their effect on your Moreland schools:

- The state budget was signed 85 days late. This delay impacted California school districts' ability to solidify a budget before the start of the school year.
- This results in a possible deficit of \$1.5 million in Revenue Limit for the Moreland School District.
- The Legislature and governor approved a state budget plan that cuts \$3 billion from schools.
- This budget plan authorizes the Governor to make mid-year reductions to certain state programs and undermines Prop. 98, which voters approved as a way to guarantee ongoing minimum funding to schools.
- The 2008-09 budget solution sets the stage for significant fiscal challenges in 2009-10 and beyond.
- District expenses such as salaries, benefits, and utilities will continue to rise in spite of the fiscal challenges in 2009-10 and beyond.
- The current budget doesn't address the structural problems between state revenues and expenditures.
- This budget plan results in no Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) for Special Education programs, GATE, or class size reduction.

Though California's schools will inevitably be affected, because negotiations about budget reform continue to be waged, we cannot know the full impact facing school districts. In Moreland School District, we are working to minimize the impact of the budget reduction on our schools, and will continue to provide your children with the highest quality of education possible. I thank you for your continued support. I am confident that, by coming together as an informed community invested in quality education, we will not only weather this economic storm, but help California's legislators set our course straight for the future.

Sincerely,

Glen Ishiwata
Superintendent, Moreland School District