

Superintendent's Message – February 6, 2008

Impact of State Budget on Education

"We have a serious budget shortfall, but improving our education system is the key to ensuring that California has a well-qualified workforce to secure a healthy economy in the future," stated State Superintendent for Public Instruction Jack O'Connell in his annual State of Education address on Tuesday, January 22, 2008.

O'Connell called for schools to continue focusing on closing the achievement gap but acknowledged that the budget deficit hobbles efforts to do so. Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger has called for cutting \$4.4 billion from schools over the next 18 months as part of the effort to close a \$14.5 billion budget deficit.

Moreland's administrative team strongly believes in supporting our students and delivering a first-class educational program. We are closely following the information provided by respected agencies and are projecting the impact on Moreland. I strongly encourage you to keep informed by attending Moreland's board meetings held twice monthly, over the next few months, to learn what steps the district will be taking. The schedule for meetings is posted on our web site at www.moreland.org.

Gifted and Talented Education (GATE) Program

Moreland's GATE program has been designed to develop critical thinking and problem-solving skills and help students to become independent, life-long learners. During the week of January 22nd, all 3rd, 4th, 6th and 7th grade students who are new to the district this year, and 5th grade students not previously identified as GATE students, were tested.

Stacey Ruddy, the district's GATE coordinator, has scheduled a GATE parent evening to address the educational needs of GATE students. To attend the event, please RSVP to Stacey at sruddy@moreland.k12.ca.us.

- Supporting Your Gifted Child, February 28, 6:00-7:30 p.m. in the Community Center Gym
- What's Motivation Got to Do With It? Advanced Learners and the Adults Who Care on May 10th. Hold the date. Registration information including location and time will be available soon.

More information about the GATE program can be found at www.moreland.org/a_gate.html.

Second Harvest Food Drive

Once again, Moreland staff, students, and families have come together to support families in our community that are in need. During our collection drive in November and December, our district donated more than 12,000 pounds of food, water, and other supplies. The breakdown of donations is as follows:

- District Office: 2076
- Anderson: 229
- Baker: 1314
- Country Lane: 1881
- Easterbrook: 1283
- Payne: 2493
- Moreland School: 2788

I am very proud of Moreland's community spirit. Thank you for your help with this worthwhile cause.

Glen Ishiwata