

## **Superintendent's Message – March 5, 2008**

### **Support Music in Moreland**

There have been a number of studies done on the effect of music on academic development. It has been shown that students engaged in music have higher grade point averages than non-music students within the same school. These same studies have shown that involvement in music programs helps students develop necessary skills in a variety of ways including improving writing, communication, and analytical skills.

A study of a reading program in New York showed that music participation dramatically improved reading achievement scores. Learning to read music enhances the student's ability to perform the skills necessary for reading, listening, anticipating, forecasting, memory training, recall skills, concentration techniques and speed reading. There are similar studies in the area of mathematics. Participation in music boosts self-esteem, helps to develop the brain, and is fun.

Recently, I attended an event – The Morning Buzz – sponsored by the San Jose Chamber of Commerce. This event was a panel discussion about how businesses want schools to prepare students for the Silicon Valley workforce. One panelist was the Executive Vice President of World Education from Cisco. Another was a Vice President from Adobe. The key message these two executives delivered was our young people need to come to interviews showing a burning passion for lifelong learning and self-improvement, and strong collaboration skills. Students in music programs cultivate both the passion for learning and the skills needed to work in teams. Regardless of the career each of our students pursues, these two skills will serve them well. Our Moreland music program provides this strong foundation for our students.

Please join us at the Children's Discovery Museum on Saturday, March 15<sup>th</sup> from 6:00-10:00 p.m. for the Fifth Annual Moreland Family Night, presented by Music in Moreland and the hard-working volunteers in our Moreland Educational Foundation. We will enjoy an evening of fun with great music, good friends, food, museum displays, dancing, and a silent auction. This event generates funds needed to keep music alive in Moreland.

Thank you for your help with this worthwhile cause.

"Maybe if everyone in the world learned to make music, we would all be able to work and play in harmony." ~ Glen Ishiwata