

REPORT-

A Newsletter for Parents and Commu-

September 08



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The Sulphur Springs District Office is located at 27000 Weyerhaeuser Way, Canyon Country, CA 91351-4947. Board of Trustees Meetings are held on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of each month at 7:30 P.M.

The Public is invited!

Visit our Web Page at
www.sssd.k12.ca.us

Assessment Results

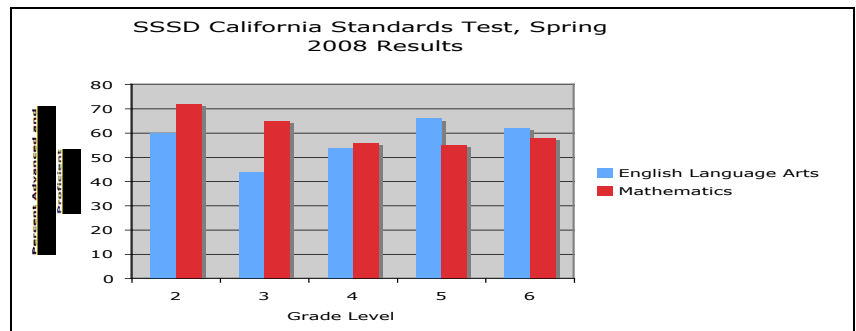
One important piece in the learning process is the role assessment, or testing, plays. In spring 2008, students throughout the state participated in California's Standardized Testing and Reporting Program (STAR) including the students in the Sulphur Springs School District.

Students in grades two through six took the California Standards Tests that covers standards-based items in English-Language Arts and Math that are related to the standards children are being taught daily in their classroom. Fourth graders take a Writing test and fifth graders take the California Standards Test in Science. Third graders also took the CAT/6 (California Achievement Test, Version 6), which is a norm-referenced test. The CAT/6 assesses students in reading, language, spelling and mathematics.

Student results were sent home in late August. The California Standards Test (CST) reports student performance in bands of five levels: Advanced, Proficient, Basic, Below Basic and Far Below Basic. The goal of No Child Left Behind is to have all students reach the Advanced or Proficient level by 2013-2014 in English/language arts and math. The results of the CAT/6 are reported as national percentiles in each of the areas assessed: reading, language, spelling, and math. A national percentile compares the students' results with scores of a national sample of students in the same grade who were tested at the same time of the school year.

The following tables show the percentage of students in the Sulphur Springs School District who scored at the "Advanced/Proficient" level in English/Language Arts, and Math.

Table 1 Percent of Students Scoring at the Advanced and Proficient Level on the English/Language Arts CST 2008



As an example, in English/Language Arts, 66% of all fifth graders were at the Advanced/Proficient level. This was an 18% improvement over the Spring 2007 results for this grade level. In mathematics, 72%
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Who's New ? Who's Where ?

Wes Burcham has joined the District as the Technology Services Manager. He comes to us with ten years of experience as an IT Manager and 25 years working with Macintoshes. Mr. Burcham has also worked as a photojournalist with several newspapers including USA Today and the Associated Press. He has both national and international awards for his photography, which he now pursues as a hobby. Mr. Burcham will bring his extensive experience to use in continued support of the districts quest to remain at the cutting edge of technology.

The Sulphur Springs School District is very fortunate to have a superb administrative staff leading each of our school sites in providing a safe, top-quality instructional program for every student. The administrative staff for the 2008-09 school year is:

Lynn David, Principal, and Jane D'Anna, Assistant Principal, at Canyon Springs.

Marie Stump, Principal, and Amanda Fischer, Assistant Principal, at Fair Oaks Ranch.

Gayle Abril, Principal, at Golden Oak.

Sandra Smith, Interim-Principal, and Janet Simons, Assistant Principal, at Leona Cox.

Betsy Letzo, Principal, at Mint Canyon.

Roni Andrus, Principal, and Sandy Bull, Assistant Principal, at Mitchell.

Kim Lytle, Principal, and Beverly Farrell-Smith, Assistant Principal, at Pinetree.

Judy Veale, Principal, and Alan Reinstein, Assistant Principal, at Sulphur Springs.

Rick Drew, Principal, and Josh Randall, Assistant Principal, at Valley View.



Wes Burcham

Assessment Results : from page 1

of the second graders were Advanced or Proficient. The Spring 2008 STAR CST results for the district show a 20% increase in the number of students at the Advanced or Proficient levels when compared to last year in English Language Arts and a 6% increase in Mathematics.

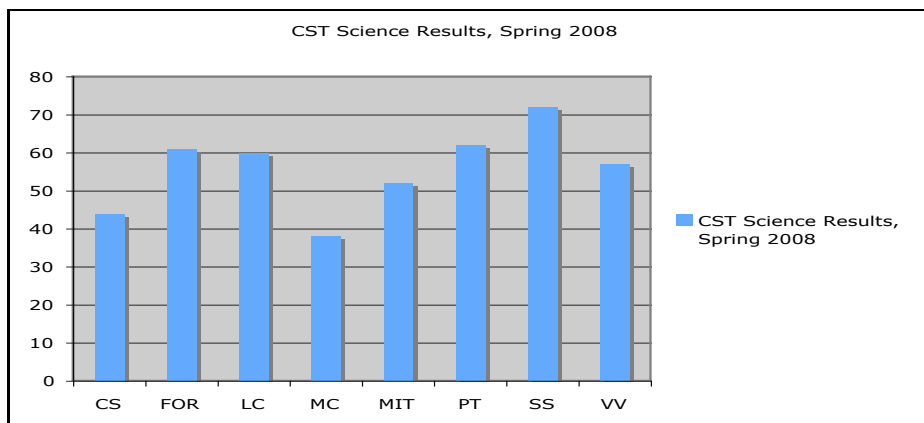
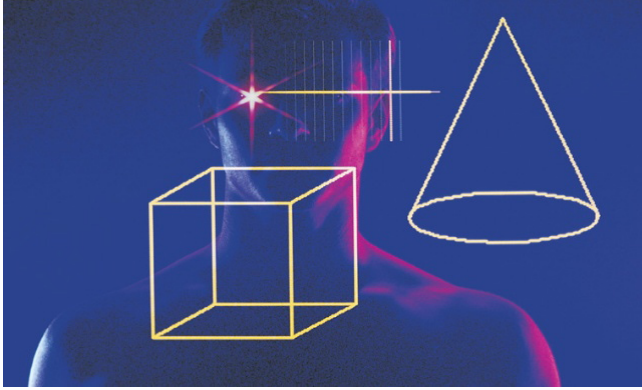


Table 2 : Percent of Fifth Grade Students Scoring at the Advanced/Proficient Level on the Science CST 2008

In 2008, schools showing an increase in their CST Science Results ranged from 3% to 19% growth. District wide the number of students at the Advanced/Proficient levels increased 7% from 2007.

Educating children is a team effort. Parents, guardians, students, schools and communities all benefit when the responsibility for learning is shared. Working together will benefit your child as he/she learns and masters this year's grade level standards.



Helping Your Child = Success

A new school year is underway, and this is a good time for parents to consider ways to help ensure a happy and successful school year for their children. Here are a few simple steps parents can take to help make this school year great:

Establish routines. Children generally thrive, academically and behaviorally, with routines that they can count on not changing. This is why most teachers follow a schedule that is planned in advance. Parents can help their children by thinking about ways to simplify the morning and evening routines to make every school day run smoother. Simple steps, such as picking out the next day's clothes the night before, and sticking to a set time for homework, can go a long way toward reducing stress for the whole family.

Plan healthy meals. Students who eat a nutritious breakfast focus better in class, perform better on tests, behave better, and are more likely to maintain a healthy weight. Keep nutritious food on hand for breakfast, or make sure your child eats breakfast at school. If your child packs his own lunch, establish guidelines about what he is allowed to pack. Emphasize the benefit of protein-rich energy foods, such as nuts, low-fat cheese, fruits, and vegetables. Limit access to sugary drinks and foods with low nutritional value, such as potato chips. If your child eats the lunch provided at school, obtain a copy of the school menu, and review the better choices with your child.

Meet school staff. Children tend to feel more connected to school, and they perform at their best, when they feel their teacher and parents are a united front. Make time to introduce yourself to your child's teacher, and take opportunities to let your child know that you communicated with her teacher. The most successful schools are more than educational institutions, they are learning communities. Parent interest and involvement can go a long way toward building that sense of community for their children.

Get involved. There are many ways parents can take a more active role in their child's education. For some parents, that might mean volunteering in their child's classroom, for some it could involve participating in PTA activities, and for some it might be as simple as talking with your child about school every day. When you ask about school and pay attention to what your child has to say about their school day, it sends a message that you think school is very important. Ask your child to talk about the best part of their day, or whether they learned anything that surprised them.

Focus : " *We have outstanding teachers, administrators, parents and students. We can and we will improve our results in reading comprehension. Our students deserve it.* "

Dr. Nolet, Superintendent of Schools



Under Construction

Our new Sulphur Springs District Office is nearing completion, and will be open for business September 29, 2008.

Golden Oak Community School, the newest addition to the Sulphur Springs School District, welcomed 390+ students on August 14. Students and staff are thrilled with their new state-of-the-art facility, complete with Computer Lab, Science Lab, SmartBoards, and running track!

Completed Construction



Mint Canyon Community School boasts two new kindergarten class rooms complete with bicycle path and play yard!

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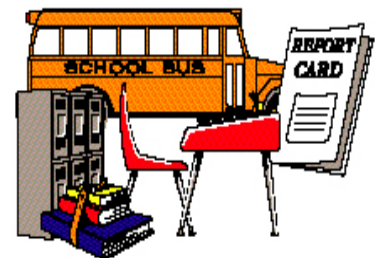
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 Mr. Paul Frisina, Dir. Special Ed.
 Mrs. Kathy Harris, Dir. Personnel/Pupil



Comment Card

Please mail this comment card to our District Office or simply fax to (661) 252-3589

The Sulphur Springs School District is very interested in knowing your thoughts regarding any of the topics we've covered in this newsletter or any other questions or ideas that you may have.



(Optional) Contact name: _____ Phone () _____