

REPORTER

A Newsletter for Parents and Community

May/June 08



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The Sulphur Springs District
Office is located at 17866 Sierra
Highway.

Board of Trustees Meetings beginning in
July 2008 will be 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

California - May Budget Revision

Proposition 98

The May Revision withdraws the Governor's January proposal to suspend Proposition 98 in 2008-09. The legislature reduced current-year (2007-08) funding that counts toward the Proposition 98 guarantee by \$507 million during the Proposition 58 special session. This action in turn reduced the minimum guarantee by roughly that amount in 2008-09. The May Revision estimates the Proposition 98 minimum guarantee at \$56.6 billion for the current year.

For 2008-09, the May Revision estimates that the minimum guarantee would increase to \$56.8 billion. The Administration proposes to fully fund the recalculated minimum guarantee, backfilling for the lower estimate of property taxes (\$521 million) and funding slightly higher enrollment than previously estimated (23,000 ADA above the January estimate), thus providing an additional \$1.8 billion in General Fund support above the January Governor's Budget.

New Revenues Dependent on Voter Approval of Changes to State Lottery

The Governor's primary solution to solving the expanded Budget problem is to borrow against the State Lottery. Under the Governor's proposal, the state would borrow \$15 billion against expected future increases in Lottery revenues based on an assumption that an overhaul of the existing program will generate a sufficient stream of new revenues to allow education to retain its current \$1.2 billion in annual Lottery proceeds and attract lenders to loan the State \$15 billion.

The major risk to education in this proposal is a provision intended to reassure lenders that their loan to the state would be secure. Education's \$1.2 billion would be redirected to the bondholders in the event proceeds from expanded sales do not materialize as projected.

The proceed of this loan would be set aside in a reserve, with \$5.1 billion to be transferred to the General Fund for expenditure in 2008-09 to help bridge the Budget gap. The remaining balance would be available for Budget contingencies in future years when state revenues fall below the ten-year average trend.

This proposal would require voter approval before it could be implemented, and the Governor seeks to place the measure on the November 2008 General Election ballot.

Leadership in Education: A Vote for the Future

This year marked the 24th SCV Education Foundation's Teacher Tribute recognition event. The purpose of this event has always been for business and community members to recognize and honor teachers. This year the Teacher Tribute event honored 53 teachers from each of the schools in the valley. This event also raises funds for the Education Foundation's scholarships and teacher grant programs. The theme for this year was, "Leadership in Education: A Vote for the Future."

The reason for Teacher Tribute has always been to recognize all that teachers in this valley do on a daily basis for its students and their education. To continue in this same tradition this year each school was asked to select a teacher who is representative of what is good in all of our teachers. The nominated teacher is an exemplary teacher who has a solid understanding of curriculum, classroom management and works hard to effectively reach each of the students they come in contact with daily.

The award ceremony recognizing our Teacher Tribute honorees was held on April 17, 2008 at the Santa Clarita Valley Performing Arts Center at College of the Canyons. Students from Valencia High School created a video snapshot of each teacher being recognized that evening. Each teacher was acknowledged on stage and presented a special award and gift bag. Congratulations to the Sulphur Springs School District's 2008 honorees!



Kristina Puth
Leona Cox School



Rosarie Compton
Sulphur Springs School



Michelle Schmitt
Mitchell School



Laurie Morris-Curtis
Fair Oaks Ranch School



Penny McRea
Canyon Springs School



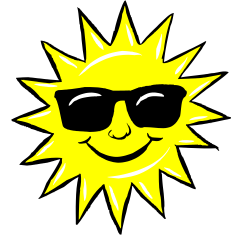
Julie Speak
Valley View School



Celeste Gardina
Pinetree School



Amy Strassner
Mint Canyon School



Fun Summer Learning Activities

Parents can play an important role in supporting out-of-school learning by involving children in fun, every-day activities such as cooking a new recipe or shopping at a local supermarket. Below are a few suggested activities that can help students practice critical academic skills during the summer months:

Reading and Writing

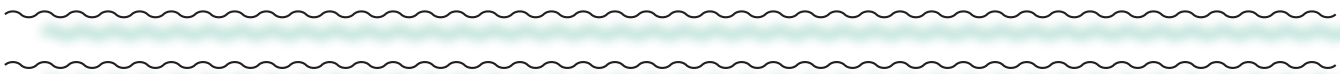
- * Share the joy of books by reading aloud to your children every day, and having them read aloud to you.
- * Let your children see you reading for pleasure.
- * Subscribe to magazines and newspapers and discuss current events with your children.
- * Praise your children for reading.
- * Make weekly visits to the local public library and participate in special reading summer programs that most libraries offer.

Math and Science

- * Encourage your children to watch educational television programs about science and nature.
- * Ask them questions about what they watch.
- * Try the experiments at home.
- * Bake cookies to practice fractions and measuring ingredients, and make homemade ice cream and other foods to show them about the properties of salt, liquids and solids, and how to measure temperature.
- * Visit a local park and observe different types of rocks, animals, insects, and leaves.
- * Use an outdoor thermometer to track weather, make predictions, and observe patterns.
- * Plant a garden to show how seeds develop into plants and how fertilizer and weather can affect growth.
- * Participate in a local recycling program.
- * Check out books from your local library that contain ideas for science experiments.

Social Studies

- * Use events such as the Olympics to explore the cultures and customs of other countries.
- * Make maps of your neighborhood and places you visit with your children.
- * Interview older community members about their lives and the history of the neighborhood.
- * Learn capitals, countries, and continents by playing games and taking virtual trips online.
- * Take field trips to museums, botanical gardens, zoos, and local history sites.
- * Write to local elected officials and newspaper editors about current issues.



Under Construction



On the left is a photo from the second floor of the new District Office being constructed at our Administrative Support Services Center located off of Weyerhaeuser Way. It is across the street from the Canyon Country Metro Link station.



Funds for construction of this facility were set aside a number of years ago and can only be used for this purpose. Our current offices are owned by the District and will be used to generate income into the future.

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The Back-Up Plan: Sales Tax Increase

At the same time, the Administration acknowledges the risks involved with this plan--it may be rejected by the voters, it may be challenged in court, or it may not generate interest among institutional lenders. As a backup- the Governor proposes that the Legislature enact a standby one-cent increase in the state sales tax to be triggered if the plan to borrow from the Lottery falls apart or other Budget assumptions fail. Once enacted by the legislature, the Department of Finance would determine if the conditions to trigger the sale tax increase had been met.

Best advice is to stay tuned. There is certainly reason for optimism but there is also the possibility that this could all fall apart.

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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 () _____