

# REPORTER

A Newsletter for Parents and Community

September 09



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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](http://www.sssd.k12.ca.us)

## It's a Problem!

by : Dr. Robert Nolet, Superintendent

The landscape for public education in California continues to change and the Sulphur Springs School District is not immune from the tremendous pressures that public education faces. Parents, politicians, community and educators themselves want accountability. Those same groups want high student performance, safe, clean well-maintained schools, and students and staff with adequate resources in order to make our children competitive with the rest of this country as well as globally competitive.

So the challenge for all staff in the Sulphur Springs Union School District is to increase test scores—no problem! To maintain safe, orderly campuses—no problem! To provide a challenging curriculum—no problem! To provide adequate support services—no problem! To do all of these tasks with only 80% of your resources from the prior year—PROBLEM!!

These are the facts that this District faces as we look forward to the next school year. Some have said, “Why worry about next year and the \$2.5-\$3 million dollar shortfall this year?”

Well, that \$2.5-\$3 million dollar figure is more than twice our statutory reserve. We will have to meet this problem by way of cuts without any new revenues coming into the district. That means that everything we can do this year will be one less dollar for dollar reduction that will need to be made next year.

So what reductions have already occurred and what are some possible reductions that will take place in 2010-11? We have reduced our certificated staff, administrative staff, support staff, significantly reduced home to school transportation, office support, playground supervision support, new textbooks and various other reductions.

What are additional items for consideration for this year as well as 2010-11? Library support personnel, reading support personnel, class size increases, administrative support loss, elimination of all home-to-school transportation, and fewer school days.

Yes, the Sulphur Springs School District will continue to provide the very best educational programs and services that we can with the resources that we are given. That is not a problem! Severe resource reductions have been a problem for the last eighteen months and will become an even bigger problem for the 2010-11 school year.

As we continue to move forward this year it is our intention to keep all our families, staff and community informed. We may also be looking to our parents and community for some additional support into the future. We will make it through these very difficult times.

# State Testing Results for 2008/09

by : Mrs. Kathy Harris, Assistant Superintendent Instruction

Working together each and every student within the Sulphur Springs School District can achieve! Parents, guardians, students, schools, teachers, and communities all benefit when the responsibility for learning is shared. Assessment is one important piece in the learning process. In spring 2009, students throughout California participated in the California Standardized Testing and Reporting Program (STAR).

Sulphur Springs students in grades two through six took the California Standards Test (CST) in English/language arts and math answering questions that were related to the standards they were taught throughout the year. Fourth graders also took a writing assessment; while fifth graders worked on a California Standards Test in science.

In mid August, individual student results were mailed home to parents. This report informed parents how their child scored on the CST. Students could score at one of five performance 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.

We are pleased to share that students in the Sulphur Springs School District continue to make steady progress in achieving at the ‘Advanced or Proficient’ performance levels. The following tables show the percentage of students scoring at the ‘Advanced or Proficient’ level in English/language arts, math, writing and science.

**Table 1 Percent of Students Scoring at the ‘Advanced or Proficient’ Level on the English/language arts CST**

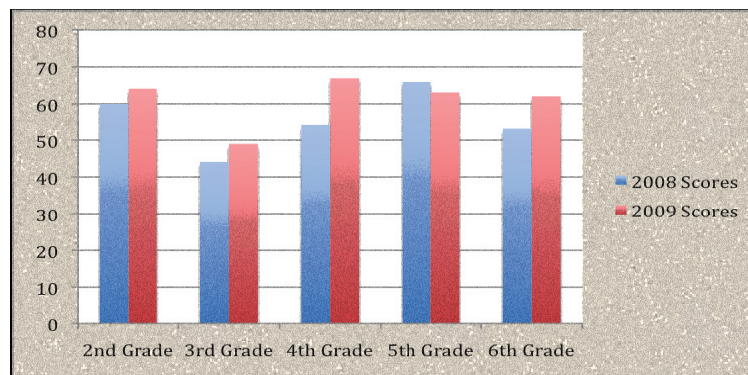


Table 1 displays the 2008 and 2009 scores in English/language arts for each grade level. For example, 53% of all sixth graders scored in the ‘Advanced or Proficient’ level in 2008 and 62% of all sixth graders scored in those levels in 2009.

**Table 2 Percent of Students Scoring at the ‘Advanced or Proficient’ Level on the Mathematics CST**



Table 2 displays the 2008 and 2009 scores in math for each grade level. Besides showing the number of students scoring in ‘Advanced or Proficient; the data also compares 2009 scores to 2008 scores. For example in 2009, 67% of the fourth graders scored ‘Advanced or Proficient,’ an increase of 11% from 2008.

**Assessment Results : from page 2**

**Table 3 Percent of 4th Graders in Writing CST and 5th Graders in Science CST Scoring at the ‘Advanced or Proficient’ Level**

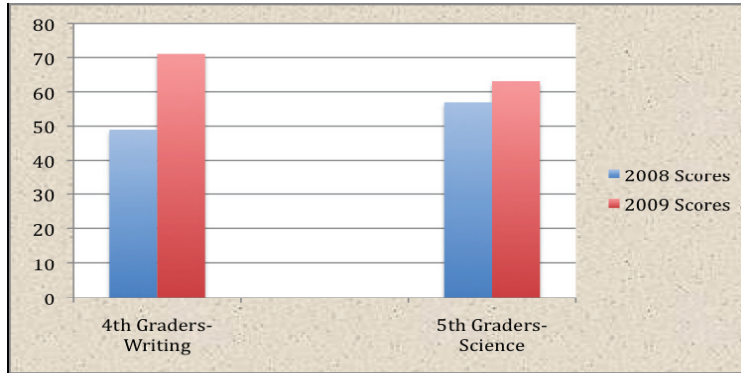


Table 3 shows that across the district the percentage of students scoring in the ‘Advanced or Proficient’ levels in both writing and science continues to soar. The fourth graders raised their writing scores; while students in fifth grade achieved higher marks in science.

Students with significant learning disabilities either took the California Modified Assessment (CMA) or the California Alternate Performance Assessment (CAPA). CMA results informing parents of their child’s performance levels in English language arts and math were also mailed home. CAPA results will be mailed out to parents as soon as the district receives them.

Congratulations to all of our students, parents, and staff on their hard work and commitment to student learning! As this new school year begins, let’s continue to work together and expect and support every Sulphur Springs student in achieving the state standards in each curricular area. We welcome parents to visit a new web site, <http://starsamplequestions.org>, that provides additional information about the STAR Program, sample test questions from the different performance levels for each subject area, and other important links related to education today.

*Focus : " Because we have outstanding teachers, administrators, parents and students we were able to improve our test results last year and all are to be congratulated. We can and we will continue to improve our results in reading comprehension. Our students deserve it. "*  
*Dr. Nolet, Superintendent of Schools*

## **Upcoming Events**

<b>September 21st</b>	<b>Board of Education Meeting at Mint Canyon School</b>	<b>7:30 p.m.</b>
<b>September 28th to</b>		
<b>October 2nd</b>	<b>Fall Break - No School</b>	
<b>October 7th</b>	<b>Board of Education Meeting at District Office</b>	<b>7:30 p.m.</b>
<b>October 21st</b>	<b>Board of Education Meeting at Fair Oaks Ranch School</b>	<b>7:30 p.m.</b>
<b>November 4th</b>	<b>Board of Education Meeting at District Office</b>	<b>7:30 p.m.</b>
<b>November 11th</b>	<b>Veterans Day Holiday - No School</b>	
<b>November 18th</b>	<b>Board of Education Meeting at Canyon Springs School</b>	<b>7:30 p.m.</b>
<b>November 19th &amp; 20th</b>	<b>Parent Conferences at all schools</b>	



After 11 years of service as Assistant Superintendent of Instructional Services, we would like to wish the very best to **Dr. Kathy Wright**, during her **retirement**.

**Mrs. Kathy Harris** accepted the position of **Assistant Superintendent of Instructional Services**, after serving 21 years as a teacher, Assistant Principal, and Director of Personnel/Pupil Services.

**Mrs. Kim Lytle** accepted the position of **Director of Personnel/Pupil Services**, after serving 2 years as Principal at Pinetree Community School. Before coming to Sulphur Springs School District, Kim served as a teacher and Assistant Principal with the Santee School District.

by : Mrs. Kim Lytle,  
Director of Personnel/Pupil Services

the Santee School District.

**Ms. Jane D'Anna** became our new **Principal** at **Pinetree Community School**. She was Assistant Principal at Canyon Springs for 2 years, and served as a teacher and Assistant Principal with the Hawthorne School District.

Well wishes also go to **Mrs. Judy Veale** who **retired** after serving 37 years, as a teacher, Assistant Principal at Fair Oaks Ranch and Principal at Sulphur Springs.

**Mr. Josh Randall** has taken over as **Principal** at **Sulphur Springs Community School**. He served 4 years as a teacher and Assistant Principal at Valley View School. Before coming to Sulphur Springs School District, he served as a teacher in the Panama Buena Vista School District.

After 22 years of service as a Bus Driver and 8 years as Transportation Manager, we wish the very best to **Ms. Annette Uthe**, who **retired**.

We would like to welcome, **Mr. Johnny Trevino**, as our new **Transportation Manager**. He was a bus driver for Los Angeles Unified School District for 15 years, a teacher at Calvary Chapel for 6 years, and a Bus Driver/Trainer at Whittier Christian High School and ABC Unified School District for 3 years.

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Mrs. Kim Lytle, Dir. Personnel/Pupil Sr.



## Comment Card

Please mail this comment card to our District Office or simply fax to (661) 252-6849

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.

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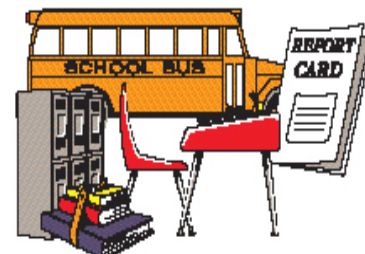
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