



August 20, 2007

Greetings LVCS Parents,

As we conclude a challenging summer, I would like to bring our community up to speed on the events of the past few months. The LCLC Board has taken several significant steps to ensure that the school is financially secure for 07/08 and beyond. By changing our budgeting process to be consistent with California accepted practices, we have a much higher degree of certainty that our revenues will meet our current projected expenses. There is little doubt the school can be financially stable in the near and long term as we have shifted away from a major reliance on debt to sustain our operations. We have been utilizing financial consultants appointed by the California Department of Education. The FCMAT consultants have been instrumental in helping develop best practice fiscal policy and procedures, starting with the development of the 07-08 budget. They have final approval of our expenditures for at least the remainder of the fiscal year. Both FCMAT and LCLC are working very cooperatively and we believe this experience will have long lasting benefits for our school(s).

In the past, in our desire to provide every possible experience for our children, we've spent beyond our means. These past expenditures were funded primarily by long-term loans and leases which have begun to impact the overall finances of the school. Therefore, we have determined we must no longer utilize long-term loans and most leases to operate the school. Our financial recovery plan, as overseen by FCMAT, allowing LCLC to spend only our currently available dollars and those guaranteed to us by state law, has resulted in some change. We have been able to maintain our overall core program and our extended hours of instruction. While the bell schedule has been modified from that of the past, the instructional minutes have been maintained virtually equal to previous years. Our Kindergarteners exceed state minimums by 28%, Elementary by 25% and Middle School by 16%. For example, our middle school students get 146 hours of additional instruction over a 180 day schedule. That's about an extra 50 minutes a day. Unfortunately, some cuts had to be made including library staff, reading intervention, yard duty, and campus security.

CCEF has agreed to fund these cuts as well as some capital investments including computers, based upon the willingness of the parents to support the Annual Fundraising Drive. The items CCEF will fund are based upon the LCLC Board identified areas that we would like to protect, and guided by the input we received from our recent stakeholder town hall meetings. If our LVCS families are willing to contribute to the AFD at a level equal to or greater to last years donations, there should be no problem restoring all the significant areas we have been forced to cut from our operating budget.

Our teachers are eagerly awaiting the start of the school year, and our interim Principal, Tara Aderman, is aggressively working to ensure that this year will be the best year yet for our children. We enter a new school year with the confidence that our fiscal recovery plan provides for the long term health of our school.

Please join with LCLC and CCEF in assuring that the school's priorities are provided to our children by supporting the Annual Fundraising Drive.

Regards,

Bill Batchelor, Board President
LCLC