



'THE GARDNER'
Friday, June 18th 2010
www.gardnerschool.org

Dear Gardner Families,

This is the final newsletter of what was another exciting and action packed year. Please keep a lookout for the usual summer mailing which will include important back to school information and calendar details. Please also check our school website and Facebook periodically over the summer. You will be able to access all important updates via both of these sites.

HELLO, GOODBYE!

As you all know, today we are saying goodbye to Tracy Arensberg and Ana Elena Sada. We will miss them both greatly and thank them for their commitment to our school, their energy and their dedication to teaching. Their love of our school has been apparent day in and day out during their time here. We wish them both the very best as they move on to new and challenging adventures.

At the same time we welcome our new Wy'East teacher – Leah Mocsy. Leah has a Masters in Education and seven years of teaching experience. She taught for four years in California and, most recently, for three years at Catlin Gable as a third grade teacher. Leah brings a great passion for teaching and a deep love of children to her work. I am very happy that we were able to find a teacher of such experience, quality and dedication to replace Tracy and I am confident that she will be able to build on and extend the great work that Tracy has done here at school. Leah's son, Owen, will also join our community, as part of the Kalama class.

We will also, of course, be replacing Ana Elena! Our goal is to extend the teaching of Spanish across the school, building on the amazing work that Ana Elena has done to consolidate the Spanish program during her time with us. We will strengthen the delivery of Spanish in the Early Years and hire additional staff to teach Spanish in the different sections of the school. Hiring for Spanish will be finalized over the summer and the new program will be ready to begin in September.

GARDNER MARKET FUNDS RAISED

The National Wildlife Federation's Gulf Oil Spill Restoration Fund will receive a grand total of **\$1,187.91** from Our Gardner Market! Congratulations to everyone for raising such a significant amount this year!

GARDNER 8th GRADE GRADUATION

A wonderful and heart warming ceremony was held to celebrate the graduation of our two eighth grade students on Wednesday. Thank you to everyone who contributed in any way to making this a special event for both Jill and Erin. Your support of and participation in our school is never taken for granted and is always deeply appreciated. We wish our graduates

all the very best as they move into their post-Gardner world!

CURRICULUM UPDATE

I wanted to take this opportunity to share a few highlights from the curriculum coordination work that teachers have been engaged in over the course of the year.

Math:

In math we committed to using the terminology for mathematics used by the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics and you will see this appearing on all progress reports next year.

NCTM uses the following terminology to define **content areas**:

Number and Operations

Algebra

Geometry

Measurement

Data Analysis and Probability

It uses the following terminology to define mathematical **process areas**: problem solving, reasoning, communication, making connections, and designing and analyzing representations.

We also invested over \$2000 in the Bridges math program for Kalama thru Wy'East and adopted this as the primary mathematics resource in these grades.

Writing:

In writing we further developed our writing expectations in line with the 6+1 Traits® of Writing and incorporated these revisions into the progress reports for this school year. Using 6 Traits has allowed us to consolidate our current good practice and bring a stronger whole school approach and consistent terminology to the teaching of writing. We also conducted two formal writing assessments – one in Fall and one in late Spring. The latter included all of our Kalama students. The information we gather from these assessments will allow us to see trends in writing across the school and set goals for the new school year.

Continuing to seek a more consistent approach to our work we also adopted the following terminology for the writing process across the school

Prewriting

Drafting

Revising

Editing

Publishing

Reading:

Reading Expectations from Loowit thru Tahoma were aligned under 8 key comprehension strategies and additional supporting skills. These revisions will be incorporated into progress reports next school year.

Both reading and writing expectations will soon be available to download from our website.

Music/PE/Spanish/Art

All of the grade level expectations for music, art, Spanish and PE were also revised during the course of the year.

The Wednesday release time has provided us with a great opportunity to work and plan collaboratively for learning across the school. It has allowed us to reflect on current practice, preserving what is so special about the education we offer our students and, in the spirit of continuous improvement, seeking ways to further develop and enhance the Gardner experience.

And finally...

Once again, I would like to thank everyone for the wonderful support that you have given our school this year. Your help is crucial to our work and we cannot thank you enough for what you do!

For those of you who are leaving us, we wish you all the very best in the future. We hope that you will be able to come back and say hello from time to time. For those returning, please note that the **first day of school next year is Tuesday, September 7th. Families are welcome to come and visit us before then, on Friday, September 3rd from 1.00 to 2.00pm. Sweat Equity Day has been changed for next year. It will now take place on the first Friday of the school year – from 12.45pm on Friday, September 10th.** Look out for more information about this day and try to keep your afternoon free so you can join us to celebrate the start of the new school year with some hard work. **The Welcome Back Picnic** will follow on from the Sweat Equity Party!

Remember, the school calendar is on the website and will be updated shortly with all key events for next year.

Have a wonderful, safe and relaxing summer holiday!

Mark McGough
Head of School

COMING UP IN JUNE!

June 18: Last Day – 11.30am dismissal and potluck picnic

June 25: Reports available for parents

COMING UP IN SEPTEMBER!

Friday, September 3: Family visitation day 1.00pm-2.00pm

Tuesday, September 7: First day of school

Friday, September 10: Sweat Equity Day 12.45 – 5.30pm/Potluck Picnic 5.30pm