

August 2009

Dear Valencia Families,

Welcome Back! I hope your summer was enjoyable and that you and your child are looking forward to another great school year! This year we will see a lot of changes at school. Many are improvements. Others are not. This year, more than ever, we are asking for your help.

Together We Can Make A Difference! We want your child to be happy and successful at Valencia and believe together the H&SC and you play a key role. That role is to continually show interest and support for your child. This year, our school is faced with more challenges than usual as our State is facing economic hardships. **The District budget has been reduced by \$14M and Valencia's yearly expense budget has been slashed from \$125k to just \$44k.** To add insult to injury, the District is projecting *an additional \$7.5M in budget cuts for next year.*

Great News! The Home and School Club is committed to doing what we can to help offset the effects of these budget cuts. We have allocated almost \$40,000 this year for use towards *basic necessities* like the purchase of paper and other school supplies, copying, funding for substitute teachers, professional development, etc...We may also have to consider funding the **following critical needs** as direct result of budget cuts:

- A part time *Aide* to help with increased Kinder class sizes and school Yard Duty.
- A part time *technical support position* to help ensure the continued benefits of technology on campus.

We are continuing to fund many other programs including the *SPECTRA arts program, science assemblies, school beautification efforts, the school garden, community building assemblies, and much needed teacher support.* We are also pleased to be adding a *dedicated math fund* and a scholarship fund for a newly added *After School Enrichment (ASE) program* on the Valencia campus (check www.scparks.com for ASE class selections and more details). Last, but certainly not least, we are bringing back the ever popular *Family FUN Nights at Valencia!* We look forward to a busy yet rewarding year ahead.

How YOU Can Help! Our success and continued ability to offer such a high level of support to the school is a direct reflection of your participation and support. **Our fundraising goal this year is to raise the equivalent of \$375/family over the course of the school year so that we can continue to provide the same level of support to the school and our children in the years ahead.**

Don't Stop Reading Yet! In this package you will find (1) a comprehensive school calendar that includes information about our organization, our planned fundraisers and Valencia community events, and ways you can volunteer your help; and (2) forms to complete and return to the H&SC via the office or your child's teacher. Please feel free to contact myself or any of the Home and School Board members with questions or to request additional information. We welcome your suggestions.

Together We CAN Make A Difference! I look forward to your support, participation and a great year ahead. I am confident that, even in these tough times, together we can do it!

Sincerely,
Karin Kerber-Smith
President, Valencia Elementary Home and School Club

p.s. We are going green this year...make sure to sign up for e-news in the "forms" section and do your part to help save on paper and copy costs

