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October 1, 2015

Dear SBPSD Families,

What a beautiful fall we are having! The **school events put on by parent clubs** have been wonderful ways to usher in fall, and the **Education Foundation's Obstacle Course and Family Potluck** was yet another wonderful opportunity to gather together from across the district to have fun, eat, and fellowship! This is SUCH a great district. We are excited about what is going on.

We know there are many ways of communicating effectively, so we are striving to do so in a variety of ways to hopefully reach each of you. Most recently you have access to our District Newsletter, **THE CONNECTION**, on the district webpage, Facebook, and the site webpages. It includes current news from our major departments, such as business services, instructional services, special education, technology, human resources, food services, early childhood development, and the office of the superintendent. It is meant to keep you in the loop with what is going on currently in our district. You will also be receiving in the mail the first of four **"State of the District" reports**. These documents will be mailed to every home in San Bruno. The purpose is to share the great things going on in our district with community members, business owners, and all other stakeholders in our city. We want to improve our relationship with our community and show what awesome schools, staffs, and families we have. Be watching your mailbox for the fall report to arrive! This letter is your **October parent letter**, as yet another form of communication. I would also like to invite interested parents to attend **monthly coffee chats** with me that will be generously sponsored by the Chamber of Commerce from **10:30-11:30 am at the Entrepreneur Center on San Mateo Ave. The first one is October 14**. We will hold evening chats as well, to accommodate those who work during the day.

I want to let you know that the community's **Coats for Kids** drive begins October 1 and runs through October 30<sup>th</sup>. Drop off locations will be at various places in our community as well as at each of our sites. Please bring outgrown coats or hoodies to your child's school as a donation to those in our community who desperately need them. The coat give away will be the third week of November. Let's support our kids and community by donating!

The **San Bruno Library has a HOMEWORK CENTER!** This is a free, drop in program for students K-8! The hours are Mondays through Wednesdays from 3:00-6:00 pm, and Thursdays from 1:30-6:00 pm. If your child needs a quiet place to work and receive help, check this option out! They are also sponsoring Legos on Saturdays! What fun! This activity is from 10-11:15 on October 17, November 21, and December 19. It is for children ages 5 and up.

**Running Club** is in full swing! Every school has had one Tuesday for **Running to College!** We have a number of students who have already earned their AA degree by running three miles! We will post their names and pictures at the sites! The goal by the end of the year is for K-2 students to run to Skyline, or the equivalent of 5 miles in 9 sessions. 3-5 grade students have the goal of running 15 miles over 9 sessions, or the equivalent of running to San Francisco State. Every three miles they run, they earn a higher college degree. Those who make it to the college also earn a free college shirt! We start the 50 minute session with 5 minutes of stretching and we end it with 10 minutes of cooling down by playing a game sitting in the shade. We also strongly encourage students to WALK, and not run the entire time. We encourage students to wear comfortable clothes on their day as well as tennis shoes.

Bringing a water bottle is also encouraged, although each school has water fountains on the running paths, so they can get a drink whenever they need one.

We want to invite the public to **Belle Air School, Monday evening, October 12, from 7:00-8:30**, to listen to the four candidates running for the two open positions on the San Bruno Park School District Governing Board. The candidates will provide a **panel discussion** during which questions for them to answer will be generated from the audience. The League of Women Voters is structuring the evening as well as supplying a moderator and timer. San Bruno Cable is video-taping the evening and will air it for those to see who cannot attend.

Last, but certainly not least, I want to make sure our families are informed about our **Strategic Planning Day!** September 22 was an incredible day. 27 people came together from across our community and district (students, teachers, classified personnel, Union leadership, administrators, community members, & parents) to collaborate, under the guidance of facilitator Marilyn Snider, to craft our Mission Statement and develop a three year Strategic Plan which will be our umbrella encompassing our LCAP, site Single Plans and goals.

The day began by brainstorming a list of GREAT strengths and accomplishments of our district in the past year and then brainstorming and sharing current internal weaknesses and challenges from the past year. When those two pieces were complete, we discussed external factors and trends (political, educational, technological, social, demographic, and environmental) that could have an impact on our district over the next three years both positively and negatively. The group then went through a powerful process to develop a draft Mission Statement that is one sentence stating WHY San Bruno Park School District exists, and FOR WHOM! What was particularly powerful was to see how EACH person present had a voice in the process, including our students from Parkside.

**The mission statement draft is as follows:**

*“San Bruno Park School District educates and empowers all students to thrive academically, socially and emotionally and be contributing members of society.”*

Following that portion, the group identified a list of possible goals in small groups. Each person then identified their top four priorities for district goals. We put them together to see which four rose to the top as group priorities. Four were easily identified as top priority for the group, and subsequently, our district! Again, it was very powerful for each member present to have a voice in the process. We then were broken into 4 small groups, each group being tasked with creating three objectives/action steps for one goal. We came back together to share with the whole group the objectives/action steps each group developed. The next step was to look at the LCAP goals to see if our goals and objectives fit with the LCAP and they all DID! Lastly, we determined our next steps and set a date for our update session (March 9).

Over the next six months we will keep track of our progress toward our four goals to continue moving our district forward and upward! Each board meeting will include an update on each goal, as will parent letters and district newsletters. **We also invite feedback from staff and community members who were not able to participate so that we can take that information to our next meeting in March.**

*SBPSD goals are as follows, in no priority order:*

- *Attract, develop and retain highly qualified staff*
- *Implement 21<sup>st</sup> century learning strategies and methodologies*
  - *Become fiscally solvent*
- *Develop, expand and implement quality programs and courses to enable academic success for all students*

We thank the team of individuals who participated in the process and we look forward to our continuous work to meet and exceed our goals.

Have a WONDERFUL October! Thank you for your participation in our district as we serve together as a team to educate our students and your children. I appreciate and value each family and staff member represented by our district.

Most Sincerely,

*Cheryl Olson*

