



## SAN LEANDRO UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

June 5, 2009

Dear Families,

In this critical time of fiscal uncertainty and with the state's budget cuts to education, the San Leandro Unified School District Board of Trustees has been charged with making many difficult decisions regarding the District's fiscal health and the need to take strict and painful cost saving measures. Unfortunately, the biggest savings involve people and program.

We have made deep cuts to our program. This includes impacts to our summer school program (see website for more information) and a change in class size for grades K-3. On March 3, 2009, the Board approved an increase in ratio from 20:1 to 24:1. Both the Board and I hoped that pending the outcome of the May 19<sup>th</sup> Special Election—with all propositions passing—we might be able to restore class size. However, this is not the case.

California voters overwhelmingly rejected five out of the six statewide ballot propositions, which will result in additional devastating cuts to public services and education. California's projected state deficit has gone from \$15.4 billion to \$21.3 billion. **For San Leandro Unified School District, this could be up to an additional \$5 million in cuts over the next two years.**

We are committed to assuring that your students will continue to get a high quality education in a supportive learning environment. Through stringent cost-saving measures—some implemented last year—and with the anticipated **one time funds** we will receive through President Obama's stimulus package, or the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act—we will be able to withstand cuts for 2009-2010. Our K-3 students will continue in 2009-2010 to receive art, music and PE from our specialists.

However, we must weather the painful cuts for 2009-2010 and aggressively look for new budget solutions that protect our students, families and schools. I wholeheartedly agree with Superintendent of Public Instruction Jack O'Connell, who said:

*"Education is the key to our state's long-term fiscal health. Given the economic crisis we face and the gridlock we continually face in Sacramento, we must consider new ideas and be open to new ways of thinking. I have called for a majority vote budget, which will end budget standoffs and increase accountability for budget decisions [and] make it easier for local communities to pass parcel taxes for local schools. I urge policymakers to consider these and any other ideas and proposals put on the table so that out of crisis we can make needed changes to our broken budgeting system. The future of our students and of California now hangs in the balance."*

Thank you for your continued support of our students and schools. Let us work together for their betterment.

Sincerely,

Christine Lim, Superintendent

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