SANDPIPER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

From the Desk of Principal McDaniel

August 19, 2011

Dear Sandpiper Families:

All around us swirls the excitement and enthusiasm of the upcoming opening of school. As one of our teachers said, "There is probably no other single day in the school year that is planned for as long as the first day of school." Everywhere we look people are preparing for the arrival of our students. Along with this preparation comes changes and the sharing of news. Some of the highlights are:

- **WELCOME BACK REGISTRATION (WBR)** will be held Monday, August 22, from 3:00-7:00 p.m. You should have all forms completed and ready to turn in. WBR really helps the office staff and teachers because all the necessary emergency forms are collected before the first day of school. If you complete WBR, your child will be able to go directly to their classroom on Wednesday, August 24. WBR would not be possible without the volunteer help from the PTA. I especially want to thank Nico White for her leadership with this event as well as all of the parents who will volunteer during the event.

- **SCHOOL PICTURES DURING WELCOME BACK REGISTRATION (WBR)**
  Our school photography company iClickSmiles is excited to return to Sandpiper School to photograph your child's school picture. This year, we will offer school photos during WBR from 3:00-7:00 p.m. A notice was sent to the email address we had on file in the office. If you did not receive the notice, please send an email to cs@iclicksmiles.com to be added to their email list.

- **FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL IS WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 24.** The kindergarten instructional day will begin at 8:25 a.m. All kindergarten children should line up at the front door of their classroom no earlier than 8:15 a.m. Parking will be limited, so I encourage you to walk or carpool to school. The instructional day for grades 1-5 begins at 8:35 a.m. Students should arrive at school no earlier than 8:25 a.m. Dismissal for all students is at 12:30 p.m. on Wednesday. Please remember to use caution when dropping off your children and to follow the directions of the staff and volunteers. It is important that you remember to be a good neighbor and not park in restricted areas. There is ***no parking*** in front of the school or on Egret Lane. Egret Lane is only for drop off in the morning and afternoon. Children should remember to practice safe behaviors when walking or riding their bikes to school.

- **TASTE NUTRITION HOT LUNCH** will begin on Monday, August 29, 2011 and end on Friday, June 1, 2012. All students – new and returning - must be registered for the new school year. Lunch will be served on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday. In order for this program to continue, we must have parent volunteers to assist us. Please contact Uli Francis at colinuli@pacbell.net if you can help.

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- **NEW STAFF:** One of the keys to sustaining a successful school is the degree to which new people are oriented and feel included in our school community. We are fortunate to be able to welcome many talented and enthusiastic people to our staff and are working very hard at helping them become part of our community. Please make a point of introducing yourself to these new staff members when you see them:

Learning Center	Stefanie Kwong	Room A
Behavioral Intern	Brooke Adams	Room 15
Psychologist	Kat Firme	Room B
Para-educators	Julie Avila, Terri Evans	Room 7
Para-educator	Clara Morales	Room 8
Para-educator	Eva Peña	Room 4

- **HOW DID MY CHILD GET IN THAT CLASS?** This question is asked every year. In the spring of each year, the classroom teachers as grade level teams, discuss each child, to make placement recommendations for the following year. Teachers examine the academic, social and emotional needs of each child prior to making their recommendations. Several other factors are taken into consideration for class placement including the following:

  - ☆ **Gender:** *Is there a balance of boys and girls in each class?*
  - ☆ **Ethnicity:** *Does each class reflect the diversity of all the children in that grade?*
  - ☆ **Learning Needs:** *Does each class reflect the range of learners, from independent to needing special support? Does each class reflect the range of academic abilities?*
  - ☆ **Individual Relationships:** *Does each child have a friend? Are there possibilities for new friendships? Will the social dynamics of the class work to foster a positive learning environment?*
  - ☆ **Classroom Environment:** *Is there a good match between the child's learning style and the classroom environment?*
  - ☆ **Parent Participation:** *Does each class have parents who are interested in and able to help with in-class activities?*

  New students are placed in classes during the summer after a review of the available information for each child. I review each class list with the staff before the class lists are posted.

- **BACK TO SCHOOL NIGHT -** will be **Thursday, September 8**, from 6:15-8:00 p.m. This event is for **adults only *(no childcare will be available)*** to provide you with an opportunity to hear about your child's curriculum, daily schedules, homework routines, etc. You will learn how you can support your child and the classroom. Parents/ Guardians with children in grades 3-5 will meet the teachers from 6:15-7:00 p.m. There will be a general session at 7:00 p.m. which will include introductions of staff, PTA leaders, and School-Force liaisons. Parents/ Guardians with children in kindergarten through grade 2 will meet the teachers from 7:15-8:00 p.m. ***Remember, Friday, September 9, will be an early release day for all students.***

I am looking forward to another successful school year and getting to know all our new students and their families!

Sincerely,

Linda McDaniel