



Horizon Middle School

Principal's E-News
December 2, 2011

"The Sky's the Limit"

WE ARE CVSD!

Greetings Horizon Families— Today marks the official end of the first trimester. Report cards will be sent home with students on Friday, December 9th.

It has been another fun week with an orchestra concert on Tuesday and a band concert on Thursday. Both groups performed very well and were very appreciated by the crowd.

There are only a few competitions left for our wrestlers and volleyball players. All the teams have been very competitive, and more importantly are demonstrating sportsmanship and quality character that is important during competition.

Over the next week and a half, all of our students will be gathering gifts for local families in need. Each grade level is assigned one or two families to support by bringing in specific Christmas gifts. It is a small way to get involved and support others in our community.

At the same time our band classes have a fundraising competition that will also contribute to families who could use a little extra support this year.

This is a very generous community and people certainly help take care of one another.

Make it a great weekend!

Mr. Hardt

District Releases New 2011 Report Card

When our district involved more than 500 community members, parents, staff and students in the development of its new *2010-2014 Strategic Plan* two years ago, the result was a clear set of goals, objectives and measurable results. The new *2011 District Report Card* provides evidence of implementation and impact. It is a report to our community on our progress toward meeting the goals they set for us. Highlights include:

- Graduation Rate: 88.5% - nearly 9 out of 10 of our students graduate from high school
 - State Geometry Assessment: 84.8% of our students passed this new assessment, as compared to 73.5% statewide
 - State Audit of District Financial Records: 6 consecutive years with no findings
- State Patrol Bus Inspection: 98.8% pass (90 buses in fleet)

Central Valley is the first school district in this region to publish a report card that clearly shows our strengths as well as the areas in need of improvement. We hold ourselves accountable to our students, families and community to provide quality education and real results. The Report Card is an important publication that is now available in every school and online at www.cvsd.org.

Central Valley Levy Funds Essential Educational Programs and Activities

Central Valley voters will be asked to consider approval of a three-year School Programs and Operations Replacement Levy on the February 14, 2012 ballot. The levy renews and replaces the district's current educational operations levy which expires in December 2012. The School Programs and Operations Levy:

Maintains quality educational programs – good public schools are essential to maintain a vibrant community. High levels of student achievement across the district are directly tied to levy-funded school programs which impact every child.

Provides basic funding – represents more than 22% of the district's annual operating budget

Not a new tax – replaces the expiring \$27.3 million levy with a \$27.1 million levy

Essential educational programs and activities not funded by state and federal dollars are maintained through the local levy including textbooks and teaching materials, technology for classroom instruction, maintaining class sizes, programs for struggling and advanced students, special education programs, transportation, utilities and insurance. The levy also pays for extra- and co-curricular activities including athletics, music, drama, debate and after-school programs.

The levy amount has been set at \$27.1 million for 2013, 2014 and 2015. This amount protects against the anticipated loss of state matching funds for school levies known as "levy equalization". The impact to taxpayers is an estimated annual levy tax rate of \$4.19 per \$1,000 of assessed property valuation, an increase of 65¢ per \$1,000 above the estimated 2012 levy tax rate. If levy equalization is funded, the estimated tax rate in 2013 will remain unchanged at \$3.54 per \$1,000. For more information, visit www.cvsd.org or call 228-5405.

Noteworthy Items from our Principal Assistant

Thank you to our parents who use the east parking lot to drop off and pick up their students! The reduction in traffic in the west parking lot keeps our students safer as they walk to and from school.

Please keep in mind the absence of supervision before 7:40 in the morning. Due to our staffing limitations, students coming to school before that time are unsupervised and have the potential to find trouble.

LOST and FOUND. The pile is growing. Please remind your student to check for any items they may have misplaced. Parents are also welcome to come in to look for items that have not found their way home.

As the snow begins to fall from the sky please help us remind students to keep snow from flying out of their hands. It is a common winter game but will not be allowed at school.

Mr. Larsen



December

CARING

Showing a genuine concern
for the welfare of others
and being a kind,
supportive helper

