



August 11, 2011

Dear Parents, Students and Community Members,

On behalf of the Board of Trustees and staff, we extend a **warm welcome to the 2011-12 school year!** We look forward to our continued collaboration with you and community organizations in offering an excellent educational program for all Sonoma Valley Unified School District students.

The **Vision** of the Sonoma Valley Unified School District focuses on all students being college and career ready upon graduation from Sonoma Valley High School. We spent a great deal of time this past year focused on the college ready aspect of this vision and we look forward to spending time this coming year focused on all students moving towards career readiness as well.

Schools start on August 17th, and staff is eagerly waiting to see familiar faces as well as meet new students and families. Parents at our middle schools and high school will have already received our annual parent notifications handbook and elementary students will receive handbooks on the first day of school to bring home to parents. If you need additional assistance please contact your school office or call the district office (935-4246). You may also reach the district office via e-mail at ljuricich@sonomavly.k12.ca.us.

The summer months provided us with an opportunity to offer numerous activities for students and staff, including:

- Our specialized **Summer School Program** focused on students needing additional learning time which was funded in part by the generous donations from our community coordinated through **The Youth Initiative of The Sonoma Valley Fund** – thank you!
- An **Algebra Boot Camp** for any interested incoming 9th grade student, which was well attended.
- A myriad of valuable professional development opportunities, offered throughout the summer for staff at all levels of our organization – most notably a three-day training with the **San Francisco Exploratorium** focused on the integration of science and language. We are fortunate to have such dedicated professionals teaching our children.

This summer we also spent significant time on installing solar panels at all school sites. We are still in the depths of construction but look forward to the completion of this project in the fall. We thank our families, staff and neighbors for their patience as this important project moves forward.

Our **Board's agendas and minutes** can be found on our website at www.svusdca.org and we encourage you to give us input and attend Board meetings. **Regular Board meetings** are scheduled for the second Tuesday of each month at 6:30 PM at the Community Meeting Room located at 177 First Street West with the exception of the January and February 2012 meetings which will be held at the District Office (17850 Railroad Avenue). The Board of Trustees and I always welcome phone calls, letters and e-mails.

We always look for ways to **increase communication** with you and any suggestions you have are more than welcomed. Parents and guardians have access to our PowerSchool database to review their child's grades, attendance, assignments, etc. from any computer with Internet access. Additionally, The Boys

and Girls Club also has computers available to members and parents to access PowerSchool while at the club.

As we begin this school year, we start out by knowing that we are planning on \$2.1 million in **budget reductions** for the 2012-13 school year. The most recent budget information can be found on our district website (noted above). Board members will revisit the overall fiscal situation in September and we will develop a process, similar to previous years, in making recommendations regarding possible budget reductions by January 2012 for the 2012-13 school year. As the process is finalized a calendar of budget meetings and proposed timelines will be published on our website.

The district continues to focus on our **valued community partnerships and relationships** in bringing the best possible educational opportunities to our students.

- The **Boys and Girls Club of Sonoma Valley** continues to implement their \$100,000 *Impact 100* grant which focuses on increasing the number of students in our community who apply to and gain entrance into college.
- The **Sonoma Valley Mentoring Alliance** is currently supporting over 450 students with mentors.
- **Valley of the Moon Teen Services** (2011 *Impact 100* grant recipients) continues to work closely with our high school staff as they move forward with designing and developing programs and opportunities which focus on students becoming career ready upon graduation.
- The **Sonoma Valley Education Foundation** is providing tremendous support to our schools with a variety of effective programs including:
 - **Teacher Support Network** (community members supporting high school students and teachers by volunteering in classrooms)
 - **Sonoma Schools Garden Project** (gardens at all schools) which look simply beautiful.
 - Implementing the **Exploratorium** integrated Science and language project at all elementary schools

We are extremely fortunate to have continued strong relationships with **CommonBond Foundation, La Luz Center, Nuestra Voz, Plein Air, Sonoma Community Center, Sonoma Ecology Center, Sonoma Valley Museum of Art, The Sonoma Valley High School Development Trust and WillMar Family Grief and Healing Center**. We are also excited about the opportunities which our service organizations have provided to the school district and are incredibly thankful for our **Kiwanis Club of Sonoma Valley, Rotary Club of Sonoma Valley, and Soroptimist Club of Sonoma Valley**, all whom donate generously to programs in our school district.

Please join us in the work ahead. We have dedicated staff, talented administrators, and a special community that supports our schools. Please remember that your individual and collective contributions to your school make an enormous difference!

Sincerely,



Louann Carlomagno
Superintendent



Nicole Abaté Ducarroz
SVUSD Board President