



## GRAVENSTEIN UNION SCHOOL DISTRICT

**Linda J. LaMarre, Superintendent**

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**Board of Trustees**

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Dear Parents and Community Members,

I am very excited for the 2011-12 school year to begin. Our enrollment has grown and as a result we have some new buildings and people. I am pleased to announce that we will have students in school a full 180 school days and are continuing with class size reduction in grades kindergarten through 3rd grade. We are also continuing our before and after school daycare program with new Daycare Director, Stephanie Stevenson and assistant Jennifer Crawford. Both of these new daycare providers are credentialed teachers.

Over the summer we welcomed some new staff and we said good-bye to Spanish teacher, Erin Saunders, Preschool Director, Rene Slay and one of our teachers of 37 years, Ms. Paula Cole, among others. One of our long-time teaching assistants, Mrs. Sue Insko, also retired.

We had some Gravenstein and Hillcrest staff move in their assignments, so the “new to our district” (but not new to education) teachers welcomed are Heidi Doughty, Beth Kelley and Serena Radford. Mr. Fichera (new principal at Hillcrest Middle School) is still the Performing Arts Director, and we welcomed music/band teacher, Mr. Nick Pulley. We also welcomed experienced Spanish teachers Martina Canela and Isolde Geis to our staff. Our new 2nd grade teachers are Ms. Megan Gruner and Ms. Jolene Johnson.

**More news**—we now offer a **Transitional Kindergarten** class for students who are age-appropriate for Kindergarten but a little young, or socially or academically not ready for the regular kindergarten class. **Transitional Kindergarten is a new, tuition-free early childhood education program that builds a bridge between the preschool years and the traditional kindergarten curriculum.** Our Preschool program is continuing in addition to our Transitional Kindergarten. The new Preschool Director/Transitional Kindergarten teacher is Mrs. Susie Clark. Mrs. Clark has experience as a Kindergarten and 1st grade teacher as well as a Preschool Director. Her assistant, Ms. Brittany Buttner, is also a California credentialed teacher.

The first day of school is Wednesday, August 24th. A welcome back coffee and doughnut reception will be held in the Gravenstein Multipurpose room.

Linda J. LaMarre