

For last year's words belong to last year's language and next year's words await another voice. – T.S. Eliot

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The "Lunar New Year" Issue

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Summer School



At this point, if you are waiting to make plans for summer depending on news about summer school, don't wait.

I cannot conceive any series of events where any normal summer school will happen at SAS in summer 2010. There may be an ACE class in June and a CAHSEE prep class. There may be a few teachers (see below) working on a distance learning course (online, not materials check out). There also may be a few activities which are funded and required by special grant funding.

But there will *not* be a regular summer session.

It is still undecided if the offices will be open when there are no classes. In addition, the district calendar for the regular 2010-2011 is being negotiated with potentially an earlier start to the school year than usual. If any teacher is interested in creating, delivering and evaluating true online classes, submit your name to me. We've shared at the Leadership Team about this; teachers who have skills and interests using computers, would contribute some of the work needed in spring before the classes begin, have taken classes online themselves, went to the Moodle training, and can use computers themselves for long periods of time, are welcome to submit a letter of interest to me. Kathleen Slattery will take the lead in this project, although we are still very unclear about the how, when, and how much compensation for building online instruction. We are, truly, reinventing something. Twenty dollars for the first person who can tell me the origin of the word Moodle.

School Calendar Online

Now when you check your district email (which I am sure everyone does at least weekly, right?) you will see a folder that says "SAS Events Calendar." Open this and you will see a current version of all that is happening at SAS. If you have any items to post on it, submit them to Cecilia.

Calendar

Jan. 20—SUHSD Budget Taskforce

Jan. 20—CSEA meeting, 1:00 pm

Jan. 27—California Endowment—Community Meeting—5:00 pm

Jan. 30—Parent University

Feb. 8—Holiday

Feb. 9—SUHSD Board

Feb. 11—Leadership Team Meeting—All Welcome

Feb. 15—Holiday

Feb. 20—All District Parent Conference

Copying: The Last Frontier

As you know Virginia Salazar has retired and in the current budget climate her position is not being filled. The copy room will be organized for an all-staff workroom, but only teachers and staff who have been trained to safely and correctly operate the machines will be given access codes to those machines.

The Governor's Budget

It is indicative of the current crisis that hearing that the Governor proposes cutting the state education budget by 1.4 billion is greeted with some sense of relief. Exactly how and where that cut would be made is unclear in his proposal. And the reality is that the budget proposed a couple of weeks ago is based on so many variables (like a \$6-8 billion bailout from the federal government) that we will watch as the players continue to play throughout the spring and see what happens. ***But let's not diminish what good news there is.*** It appears that a substantial mid-year cut will not be asked for (although that pushes deficits into next year) and, from my perspective, the best news is that in the details of the governor's proposal is that *there is a line item funding public adult education.* The amount budgeted is less than we have this year, but we are there. At this point our larger challenge may come from the extreme pressures the crisis puts on our local school districts. As local districts face more reductions they will be motivated to find resources where they can; remember adult education's funding can now be swept by the districts to use for other purposes. Our advocacy for the importance of what we do now needs to focus on our local community and district. We need to make it very clear why Salinas needs our classes and we need to connect with established partners in the community, and new allies, to make the case effectively. One last thought, our ability to tighten our belts, to adapt to reduced funding, and still provide critical educational services, in a sense has itself been very valuable advocacy. Stay tuned for more of the saga from both the state, and even more immediately, from our local leaders.

