



April 2015

Dear Emeryville Resident:

Thank you for your continued support of our local Emeryville public schools. We deeply appreciate the parcel tax funding that the entire Emeryville community has been providing since 1997, and that 85% of voters recently extended.

This funding, which is independent of the economic swings of the state school budget, makes up approximately 25% of our school district budget and enables us to do many important things for our students. Here are some of the things your parcel tax dollars support:

The school funding provided by Emeryville's voters keep class sizes small. Anna Yates Elementary School continues to have small class sizes particularly when compared to other school districts. Many California school district have K-3 class sizes of about 30 students. Thanks to your parcel tax support, our Kinder, 1st, 2nd and 3rd grade classrooms have about 20 students in each classroom.

Art and Music continue to be a priority. We will be adding a new music position at Anna Yates for the upcoming year, and we continue to have one of the best music (and art) programs in the Bay Area. We are also very pleased to announce a new art and science program for all 6th graders for the upcoming year provided by the KALA Art Institute with support from Wareham Development, and we plan on continuing a new after school science program for girls that was instituted just this year.

We have a full time elementary science teacher and librarian. Similar to our small class sizes, we are unique to have these full time positions in our elementary school. Most schools in San Francisco for example have only part time librarians. In addition, we have a dedicated science teacher who runs a science lab that most of our elementary classrooms rotate through every week.

We continue to improve our Emeryville Schools. Measure J, our local construction bond, and the city of Emeryville (through previous Redevelopment money), are supporting the construction of our new Emeryville Center for Community Life (ECCL). We anticipate providing all Emeryville children with a new facility that is equipped with a strong technology infrastructure for learning, and the best trained teachers in the area. Our high school students will begin at the new facility on January 1st 2016, and the K-8 students will be able to move after next spring.

In addition, our seniors and all community residents will benefit from the new gym, pool, and community room. We look forward to this new full service community center and school on San Pablo Avenue, and we appreciate your patience and support during the construction phase of this work.

On behalf of all of our staff, teachers and our school board, we thank you for your support of our schools and of our continuing efforts to improve the quality of education for the students we serve.

Please do not hesitate to contact us at 510-601-4906 with any questions.

Sincerely,

John Rubio, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools
Emery Unified School District