

March 23, 2009

First, a big Bronco cheer to all the students and parents who participated in **Saturday's Clean-Up Day** at Northgate. It was truly an amazing sight as almost 600 students and their parents painted, cleaned, hoed, raked, scrubbed, mulched, planted, weeded, de-gummed, and shined-up our school. **Donna Warnken-Brill, Patti Proctor, Shawn Miller and Spalding Ashley** put tremendous time and energy into this huge day - it was very well organized and supplied. Thank you teachers for encouraging your students to attend by awarding extra credit! If you did not get to join in the fun this time, watch out for the next Clean-Up Day in the fall!

Last week, the PFC unanimously voted to **endorse Measure D, the parcel tax initiative** on the May ballot. This measure will be much needed funds to our district and our school. Visit the campaign website at www.protectourlocalschools.org. You can find many of the answers to your questions and sign up to donate, volunteer, or help spread the word. Our Northgate site captains are **Linda Loza and Carla Ludwig**, so you can also contact them to help. I urge you all to vote for Measure D and convince your neighbors to support the parcel tax. Seniors can be exempted from the additional \$99 tax. With the State of California and national budget crises, our local schools are not going to be able to fund the necessary programs to give our children the quality education they deserve; librarians, athletic programs, 4th grade music, custodians, and Vice Principals are potential cutbacks.

Our school has come together this year with amazing fortitude and energy. Staff, students, parents and local businesses have illustrated that this is a community that is dedicated to our school. Through the fall survey, our community indicated that they wanted more fundraising efforts and more ways for the community to come together. On April 4th, we are doing BOTH by having our **first Spring Fling**, because it is time to make a change! If you have not purchased tickets yet, it is not too late. We have kept the ticket prices low at \$30 to encourage everyone to attend. We have entertainment from the **String Quartet and Madrigals**; exciting auction items; and a wonderful opportunity to mingle and meet other members of our Northgate family. If you cannot attend, please consider making a donation of an auction item (how about some of those **gift cards**?) or a monetary contribution. All proceeds from this event will fund academic programs at our school. My thanks to **Cindy Lentz, Margot Chavetz, and Jenny Crosthwaite** for organizing this great evening.

Bronco Cheers to: Jazz Band for making the Monterey Jazz Festival; the **Robotics Club** for Making the World Championships; our **women's and men's basketball teams** for finishing second place; our **seniors** for working hard on Senior Projects; **Lynda Hayes** for organizing a great 8th Grade Schedule Information Night; **Sherri Zach** and her committee for their tireless work organizing Every 15 Minutes; and Teacher Appreciation Chairs **Lisa Whittington, Danielle Voorhees, and Nancy Freitas** for amazing lunches and treats for our staff!

I hope to see you April 4th at the Marriott! Let's celebrate our community.

Best regards,
Monica Fitzgerald **PFC Website**

P.S. March is Women's History Month so I offer up Eleanor Roosevelt, "The purpose of life is to live it, to taste experience to the utmost, to reach out eagerly and without fear for newer and richer experience." Let's make sure our children have the opportunity to live their lives to the fullest! Working together, we can do it.