

6/3/09

Dear Northgate Community,

Congratulations to all of our graduating seniors and their families. We hope you go out into the world and become the people you want to be, making this a better world for all of us! To the parents, thank you for your many years of support!

This has been an amazing year, filled with hope, change, and heartache. Our thoughts and prayers go out to Michael Gaines's family. His Northgate family will honor his memory by encouraging our students to be kind, loving, strong and compassionate, like Michael. Please stop by the Memorial Garden to see the beautiful memory stone in his name.

While many of us are deeply disappointed that Measure D did not pass, we need to keep our eye on the prize and continue to fight for a parcel tax for our district and adequate funding for schools throughout the state of California. Nothing less than our future is at stake.

This has also been a year filled with great promise. Our new principal, Mr. John McMorris has provided excellent leadership and great enthusiasm to help move Northgate forward. Our community has rallied behind him this year, providing incredible support of time, energy, money and commitment. All of our parent clubs, Music Boosters, Northgate Pride, Athletic Boosters, and the PFC have come together to collaborate and develop ways to bring our entire community together. Next year, I look forward to continuing this work. We formed a Climate Committee to survey all the stakeholders in our community, and began to implement ways to address their concerns. Our parents helped fund ten additional class sections, and next year, through your support, we will fund a master teacher program to offer continuing help and professional development to our teachers. Faced with severe budget cuts, our community came together to raise an additional \$35,000 at our first Spring Fling. Our campus has undergone a huge transformation thanks to the Campus Beautification Committee and our two clean up days, where 500 people volunteered each day to paint, scrub, plant, rake, and elbow grease our way to a better campus! Challenge Days and Every 15 Minutes provided incredible experiences for our kids to think about what kind of person they want to be, and what kind of choices they need to make.

It has been a pleasure to serve as your PFC president this year. I was honored to work with a great executive board: Donna Warnken-Brill, Kathy Frattini, Dianne Urhausen, Cindy Lentz and Ann Sussman. Many thanks to Jenny Crosthwaite for all of her work with the Climate Committee and her dedication to Northgate. Thank you to all the volunteers to gave their time and energy to Northgate this year. I don't think people realize exactly how many hours people dedicate in a myriad of ways...office help, Teacher Appreciation, book-keeping, chaperones, grad night.....it is truly inspiring how much our families give to this school.

We are especially grateful to our Crisis Counseling program this year. Lance, Jane and Michelle work critical to Challenge Days, Every 15 Minutes, and helped our kids through the grief of losing Michael Gaines. Each and every day, they work with our students who are struggling with important issues. Our children are greatly affected by the world around them, and our counselors saw more children than ever this year. Economic problems, colleges cutting back enrollment, and increased pressures add a lot of stress on our students. We need our counselors more than ever. I urge you to please support this program by donating to the Parent Action Team.

As the world around us continues to face hard challenges, economically and socially, it is more important than ever that our community come together to support one another so our kids get the best education possible and become the adults and citizens our country needs to create a bright future. In the coming months, we expect more cuts to education. I will keep you informed and thank you in advance for your continued support of Northgate.

Have a wonderful summer. Let's continue to foster that Bronco spirit! And, for those of you graduating, go out and make your life everything you want it to be (and take some Bronco spirit along for the ride)!

And, of course, I leave you with a quotation....

"Hope begins in the dark, the stubborn hope that if you just show up and try to do the right thing, the dawn will come. You wait and watch and work: You don't give up." - Anne Lamott

Broncos never give up!

Best regards,

[Monica Fitzgerald](#)