



## Superintendent's E-Mail Newsletter

"Staying in touch..."



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*"Building a foundation of excellence.....  
.... one student at a time."*



"I really had a lot of dreams when I was a kid, and I think a great deal of that grew out of the fact that I had a chance to read a lot."

*-Bill Gates*



### **Welcome Back and Welcome To 2008!**

Although it is not quite mid-term for our school year, the return to a new year is often viewed as a time to reflect on the past year, while looking ahead to the opportunities of the year 2008. As a classroom teacher, the mid-year break was always a time for me to assess my own progress as an instructor as well as the progress of my students. Likewise, I hope you will take a few moments to reflect upon your role as a provider of services to our students and families. No employee is exempt from asking themselves, "How can I best serve the mission of this district?" Thank you for taking the time to reflect on service!



### **To Read Or Not To Read ... It Starts With The Adults!**

If you haven't quite noticed it, I really am a promoter of lifelong reading habits. To say that reading as a lifestyle is at risk would be an understatement. But don't just take my word for it. The National Endowment For The Arts has issued a very sobering report entitled, "*To Read Or Not To Read.*" It can be downloaded at: [www.nea.gov/research/ToRead.pdf](http://www.nea.gov/research/ToRead.pdf). The report offers statistics and observations galore, but one that jumps out at you is this one – "**An increasing number of adult Americans were not reading even one book a year.**" Think about it. When was the last time you uttered the following phrase to your children, your students, or your friends: "You wouldn't believe what I was reading last night." More often we comment to others about content we watched on TV or viewed on the internet. As a related development, Amazon.com has just released a new handheld device, called the "Kindle" for downloading and reading e-Books. It seems to be a success in initial sales, but since it also serves as a free web-browser, it isn't clear if people are really reading more eBooks or just cruising the internet. I suspect if we really want to "re-Kindle" good reading habits, it is going to happen by more of us reading in the presence of children. It does start with the adults!

*“Change your thoughts and change your world.”*

*- Earl Nightingale*



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## ***A Renewed Focus On Energy Usage At Spring Cove***

In January 2007, the price of a barrel of oil was \$50.00. In just 12 months time, the price of oil has doubled and is now hovering at \$100.00 per barrel. To think that such a dramatic increase will not affect our basic operation is wishful thinking. As a school district, we consume energy in many ways such as heating, cooling, lighting, food preparation, and computing, just to mention a few. We also pay additional energy surcharges for deliveries, and our transportation contracts have fuel price adjustment clauses. Energy savings, no matter how small, can add up in a big way. We are in the process of reviewing a number of energy conservation strategies, and we are asking for your help and your suggestions. For example, the simple act of turning off room lights in an unoccupied area can make a difference. We truly appreciate your input and concern. I welcome you to contact our office with your thoughts and suggestions. Energy savings = budgetary restraint. By working together on this issue, we can be proactive in dealing with a problem that is also on the minds of every resident of our district. Thank you for your help and responsible behavior!



## ***Don't Forget To Nominate Some Deserving "Folks"***

Finally....I would like to remind everyone that you have a great opportunity to recognize three very deserving individuals for the upcoming 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Celebration Of Excellence. The three categories of recognition are: Educator of The Year, Support Staff Employee of The Year, and Volunteer of The Year. These individuals will be recognized at the Celebration of Excellence, to be held on April 24, 2008. The Spring Cove Educational Foundation is the sponsor of this annual ceremony, and it is through your support that the Foundation is able to hold this very positive event. It should be a great evening for all and a great way to celebrate the many ways in which you build a foundation of excellence at Spring Cove. Thanks for supporting this wonderful activity. Nomination forms are available on the district's web site.