



August 1, 2012

Welcome Back to the 2012-2013 School Year!

On August 28th we will once again welcome our returning student and families as well as those new to our school district. We embark on this school year with a newly revised Strategic Plan which was developed with input from numerous groups including students, staff, parents, the business community, local government and other community members. Our vision is for our students to be empowered to become resourceful, resilient, responsible and engaged world citizens. We are dedicated to the goal of having our students fulfill rigorous academic standards in preparation for future success.

I hope that our new mission statement "*Our students will make a better world,*" resonates with you as it does with me. Our mission of making a better world starts with each one of us making responsible choices each day. Our students have proven that they are capable, willing, and committed to this mission. They continue to work hard and excel academically, respect their peers and adults, are involved in a myriad of school and community events, and go above and beyond to do community service. The sense of responsibility that our students constantly display starts at home through the support of their families, reinforced by our dedicated staff. We believe that with guidance and support all students can reach their greatest potential.

The PUSD employees have been working hard to prepare for the coming year. This will undoubtedly be a very busy year as our teachers begin to develop and design units of study based on the Common Core Standards, which are based on 21st Century skills such as collaboration, creativity, and problem solving. They are excited about the potential and new uses of technology in the classroom to enhance learning. Our teachers continue to enhance their knowledge and expertise by attending workshops year around in order to continue the level of excellence to which our community has grown accustomed to. As always our classified staff has been working diligently during the summer preparing our schools for another exciting year.

The budget cuts we have endured the last five years have impacted programs in every school district in California. We have been fortunate to have the support of our employees and the community as we have tried to tackle these unprecedented budget challenges while we wait for the results of the Governor's Tax Initiative. Despite all efforts, due to budget cuts we have more students in classrooms, fewer counselors, reading specialists, custodians and maintenance workers this coming school year. Our Trustees continue to advocate for public education by reaching out to local and state government and take every decision about budget cuts seriously.

As your Superintendent, I am joined by a dedicated staff committed to serving all of our students and providing them the best learning opportunities. We look forward to seeing you on August 28th. Please check your particular school's website for information on bell schedules and other relevant information.

Sincerely,

Parvin Ahmadi
Superintendent