



August 22, 2014

Dear Parents/Guardians,

As we embark on a new school year, I want you to know that PUSD's dedicated employees have been busy this summer getting ready to welcome your students to a new, exciting and engaging year of learning.

Yesterday morning, over 900 of our PUSD employees gathered together at Harvest Park to kick off the new school year. We recognized our students, celebrated successes, and were motivated by speakers who stressed the importance of making connections to engage all students.

#### Summer Learning for Our Staff

Our administrators, teachers, and classified staff were immersed in learning during the last school year and continued through the summer. Our principals worked hard over the summer to prepare for another school year. Hundreds of classified members, teachers, and our leadership team participated in staff development days. All the while, our district and site support teams continued their amazing work. Our Facilities, Maintenance and Operations Department has worked hard to prepare all schools and classrooms. Our Graphics Department and the Warehouse have been busy ordering, copying, and delivering materials. The Student Services Department has been very busy with new students registering as well as students from outside of our school district asking to attend PUSD. We are ready and excited to welcome our nearly 15,000 students!

#### Transitions and Promotions

We take pride in retaining and attracting quality educators. This year, we welcome two new principals to our District; Ms. Jan Steed at Walnut Grove and Ms. Karen Johnson at Alisal. We also congratulate Mr. Jacob Berg for his new role as the Principal at Lydiksen (to replace Ms. Mindy Bolar who was promoted to the Director of Curriculum for our district). We are fortunate to have Ms. Marla Silversmith back with us in Pleasanton as the Director of Special Education who will work with her team along with Ms. Colleen Palia, as her Assistant Director. We have been able to add additional vice principals, having promoted several of our own teachers with administrative credentials to these positions and have attracted two new vice principals with solid experience and background.

#### The Power of School-Home Partnerships

One of our district's greatest strengths is our home-school partnerships. Working together, both educators and families remind our students that education should be valued, and you will not achieve your best without giving your best effort. Together, we share a commitment to ensure that all students succeed.

As we embark on this new school year, we welcome you to stay involved in your child's education. This year, we are vigilantly focused on the importance of making connections with all students, and we hope to be engaged with all of our parents as well.

I wish you all a wonderful school year and look forward to seeing you at school and district events, celebrating the many accomplishments of our students and staff.

Cordially,

Parvin Ahmadi