

## **PRESS RELEASE**

**For Immediate Release**

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### **Fairlands Elementary is a 2012 California Distinguished School**

**Pleasanton, California**– On March 29, 2012, State Superintendent of Public Instruction Tom Torlakson announced the 2012 California Distinguished Schools. Among them was PUSD's Fairlands Elementary School, recognized for their innovative education programs that encourage students to learn and help close the achievement gap.

"We are so proud! To be selected for California Distinguished School in 2012 is a special honor," said Kimberley Michels, Principal at Fairlands Elementary. "This award is a validation of my staff, students and the community for their dedication to ensuring that EVERY student is capable and can learn and grow towards meeting or exceeding standards! Above and Beyond, the sky's the limit at Fairlands School!"

The 2012 California Distinguished Schools Program focuses on California's students and their entitlement to an equitable and rigorous education. The program identifies and honors those schools that have demonstrated educational excellence for all students and progress in narrowing the achievement gap.

To be invited to apply for Distinguished School honors, schools must meet a variety of eligibility criteria including designated federal and state accountability measures based on the Elementary and Secondary Education Act and the Academic Performance Index requirements.

"The Fairlands Elementary School Community is to be commended for being selected as a Distinguished School," said Parvin Ahmadi, PUSD Superintendent. "The selection criteria are more rigorous than ever before, focusing on signature practices and how schools are closing the achievement gap. We are extremely proud of the students, staff, and the parent community at Fairlands Elementary School."

Elementary and secondary schools (middle and high schools) are recognized in alternate years. This year focuses on elementary schools.

Schools selected for recognition will be honored as Distinguished Schools at award ceremonies where Torlakson will present each school with a 2012 Distinguished School plaque and flag.

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