



February 26, 2008

from the office of Superintendent Robert Collins

## "There's A Whole Lotta" Building Going On in the Grossmont Union High School District!



**Ribbon-Cutting Re-Opens Two Classroom Buildings at Granite Hills**



To borrow from Elvis Presley, any way you look at it, "***there's a whole lotta' building going on in the Grossmont Union High School District!***" Granite Hills Principal Georgette Torres led a ribbon-cutting ceremony last Friday to mark the re-opening of the 40 and 50 buildings.

This phase of construction—called 2B modernization—consists of six buildings at Granite Hills: 50, 40, 140, 70, 20 & 10, and includes the restrooms in the 160, 70, 230 and Gym buildings. The last two buildings, restrooms, site work, landscaping and Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) work will all be complete by August of 2008—***approximately two to three months ahead of schedule.*** But, what's really important is the difference we're making for our students and staff.

After abating the hazardous materials and demolition down to the building studs, the following improvements took place: (1) Installation of insulation for energy efficiency and noise-reduction purposes; (2) new roofs, flooring and ceilings; (3) new doors and hardware, allowing teachers to lock doors from the inside of the classroom—*this was a recommendation of the Lessons Commission to improve the safety of our campuses*; (4) new dual-pane, energy-efficient windows; (5) new heating, ventilation, and air conditioning systems and duct work; (6) new tack boards and casework; (7) upgrades to electrical power, allowing for new communications, security, fire alarm and technology systems to the building/classrooms—*this includes new computer connections and digital projection capabilities*; (8) new lighting; (9) new low voltage data-intercom and clocks; (9) exterior finish to the buildings and (10) removal of all barriers related to the project in accordance with the ADA.

***Proposition H is making an enormous difference*** for students and teachers throughout East County. We should focus our attention directly upon these accomplishments and commitments made and kept. ***We also have to remember that we have a distance to go.*** Inflation will not permit all original Proposition H projects to be completed. And ***there are renovations that were never envisioned in Proposition H,*** but are desperately needed including theater facilities, and band and choral rooms. In addition, renovations are needed to transform our industrial arts rooms into modern career tech centers and to modernize physical education facilities.

We've made a strong start in providing modernized educational facilities for our children and families in the East County. ***We must now consider how best to complete that job to ensure that future students have facilities and programs that we can all be proud of.***

## Challenges for the Physical Education Instructional Council



**P.E. Instructional Council**  
John Odom, Valhalla; Josh Reiderer, West Hills;  
Randy Anderson, Granite Hills; Joel Tropp,  
Grossmont; Jim Nattoli, El Cajon; Beth Hostetler, El  
Capitan; Betsy Shaw, Helix

Last Wednesday, I had the pleasure of working with the District's P.E. Instructional Council.

### Fitnessgram

Each Spring, the Fitnessgram is administered to test our students in six areas of physical fitness. Beginning this year, students will have two years to pass the exam. If they do not pass the test, they will have to take an additional year(s) of P.E. The impact on elective programs and staffing would be significant. The question then becomes why don't students pass the exam? In this area, we have a degree of control. ***We must ensure that every student takes the exam—and more than once in the areas where they were unsuccessful during the Spring—until they pass.***

### Physical Education Credit

The next challenge is the State regulations that address students taking marching band, cheerleading and other subjects and receiving physical education credit. ***The new regulations do not allow P.E. credit*** to be given in those subject areas. It's an issue that we will continue to clarify for parents and students during this spring semester.

### Facilities

We have to address the current state of P.E. facilities. I have had the opportunity to observe these facilities in schools throughout our District. These facilities are in desperate need of renovation. They are not built to last another 50 years.

The challenges we face in physical education are daunting in the coming years. Fortunately, we also have strong teacher leadership to address these issues.