



# *Mattole Valley Charter School Newsletter*

*To Share and Celebrate our Vision  
September 2008*

**Welcome** to a new school year all you **Wonderful Teachers, Students, Parents, and Support Staff!** Another school year has started with all the many challenges and rewards that come with it.

## *In-service*

MVCS started the year with the SECOND annual all school in-service which was HUGE! Over ninety staff members attended both days, and old and new acquaintances and friendships were renewed and revived.

Dave Bollwinkle returned this year to further our work in the team building process. A very useful work session disaggregating test data led to a Professional Development Plan (more on that later), as well as gathering information for the Academic Improvement Plan for this year. The Break-Out Sessions were a great hit! Thanks everyone who participated.

Of course the food was also wonderful 😊



*10<sup>th</sup> Year Celebration!*

*Please join us for a Picnic Potluck  
Party Saturday September 27<sup>th</sup>  
from 1 PM until 4 PM at Halvorsen  
Park in Eureka.*

Mattole Valley Charter School is having its 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary! To celebrate we're having a picnic at Halvorsen Park on Humboldt Bay (Next to the Adorni Center –call Cathy for directions 445-2660 x13). The school will provide drinks and a cake, as well as plates and utensils. Bring a blanket/tablecloth and some food to share. We suggest that if your last name starts with A–H you bring a main dish, I–Q bring sides, veggies, or chips, and R–Z bring salads. If that doesn't suit you just bring some food and come have fun!

We have games planned and some musical entertainment. Also, please bring instruments if you wish, including your voice, and we might all make a little music together(?)

The T-Shirts that you ordered will be handed out there. A few extra were ordered so you may still be able to get one.

Thanks to Erin Roseberry who volunteered to put this celebration in motion. Hope to see you all there for a fun day with family and friends.



*Looking at test data*

## **Academic Improvement Plan**

I know you're all just happily waiting for AIP meetings to start ☺.

Seriously, with all the stresses and problems associated with the start of school, it's hard to think about more meetings, but the truth is that we've actually had some great successes with the AIP process last year. There are still some serious problems that we all need to address. We are continually trying to improve the process and make it more useful...So with those ideas in mind, here are a few proposed changes and the process for AIP meetings this fall:

\*The process is the same as last year, except now we are targeting all students Below Basic on STAR tests. All the AIP forms are online at the website [www.mattolevalley.com](http://www.mattolevalley.com). We tried to revamp some of the forms to make them easier to use. Please give us feedback.

\*We will be having a Pre- AIP meeting with staff at the centers so that we can discuss the educational options available and get input from the teachers about curriculum and interventions already in use so as not to have to re-hash information during the meeting with parents. For many centers we can do this before the meeting; for some of the more remote centers, we would like to try for an after-school afternoon pre-meeting and then schedule the AIP mtgs. the next day (Three Rivers for instance).

\* We have new, and hopefully useful, information about intervention programs and

ideas to help you fill the gaps for your students, so we are really looking forward to helping you in any way that we can.

\* Some people are worried that the NWEA isn't up and running yet...It will be soon, but we need to get the AIP process under way, and so if you have continuing students who've taken the STAR and last spring or (even winter) NWEA then we will go ahead and have the AIP meetings. We will schedule new students as soon as we can.

\*We have just begun scheduling our meetings, so call us now for the best chance at getting your AIP meetings done during the next several weeks. Call Cathy Wright 707.445.2660 x13 or email Teresa at [teresacreech@mattolevalley.com](mailto:teresacreech@mattolevalley.com) to set up the meetings.

\*After you've scheduled your meetings be sure to fax us the AIP Cover Sheet Referral Form well before the meeting, so that we can access NWEA scores and other information we need to be well prepared to bring useful intervention ideas for your students.

\*Remember, we are trying to make success a possibility for all our students and We're looking forward to working with you to make progress toward that goal a reality.

## ***NWEA News***

After an unforeseen delay, the new rosters are ready and the laptops are almost all upgraded for the latest version of NWEA.

It is recommended that all students take the full version in the fall so that we can compare progress year to year. That will ease the testing frenzy in the spring. Also all new incoming students should take the full version after they enroll. During winter and spring the short version can be given. Students who are proficient do not need to take the winter test.

Sometimes it feels as though there isn't enough time to get the NWEA testing done, but the 'worth' of this particular assessment is that it is a more useful tool to see student achievement and drive ongoing curriculum choices. Knowing exactly where your student will line up with a sample group of a 100 students in the same grade level, can indeed help you choose a specific intervention for a behind the 50 percentile student and further help you determine accelerated options for the student above the line. This assessment really breaks down where your students are successful and where they are not.

If you have questions or concerns see contact info below, or to ask to be emailed a copy of *NWEA for Dummies*, call Teresa. Please use the *NWEA For Dummies* pamphlet for many questions and please contact Team members for help in specific areas: Tim Mueller – [tmueller@mattolevalley.com](mailto:tmueller@mattolevalley.com) for all Hardware issues. Gwen Neu – [neucardoza@sbcglobal.net](mailto:neucardoza@sbcglobal.net) for all report/result understanding issues. Teresa Creech – [teresacreech@mattolevalley.com](mailto:teresacreech@mattolevalley.com) to schedule time in the Math Center, to reserve Laptops, or for any question not associated by Gwen or Tim's NWEA Area.

**2008/09 NWEA Testing Windows at a glance:**

	<b>Fall Testing Window</b>	<b>Winter Testing Window</b>	<b>Spring Testing Window</b>
<b>2<sup>nd</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> Grades - All Areas</b>	September 25 – November 30, 2008	December 1st – February 28, 2009	March 1 – June 15, 2009

This year we have a new NWEA team ready to make NWEA Testing more workable for all of us.

**Tim Mueller** – our Technology Coordinator will be handling all the hardware issues. He will make certain that all the laptops are ready to utilize for testing as well as make certain that all sites have their systems upgraded with the latest version of TestTaker and that the 'behind the scenes' settings are exactly where they need to be. Don Howell will be assisting Tim in the Siskiyou area for all of these tasks.

**Gwen Neu** – our Curriculum Director will be available to answer any questions regarding interpreting your student or class reports. Gwen has a lot of background with these reports and really knows her topics. Please contact her after your test results have been uploaded to assist you in reading your reports.

**Teresa Creech** – well... if it isn't a hardware issue, and if it isn't how to read or interpret your reports, then it's my responsibility.

**Some Important Dates**

CAHSEE – Seniors –October 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup>  
 CAHSEE – 11<sup>th</sup> & 12<sup>th</sup> grades Nov. 4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup>  
 ES Meetings:  
 Humboldt - October 10<sup>th</sup> @ NCLA 2:00 PM  
 Siskiyou – November 7<sup>th</sup> @Yreka North 10 AM  
 Humboldt – November 14<sup>th</sup> @NCLA 2:00 PM

**Professional Development**



**Thank you all for participating in the test data analysis activity at the back-to-school in-service.**

A ten-member Professional Development team met and used your data to determine critical areas of need school wide. That data was used to create a professional development plan.

The Charter Council approved the plan, so MVCS is set to move forward with this important part of our WASC Action Plan.



MVCS has now targeted specific strands of

Language Arts: Comprehension, Word Analysis, Literary Response, Writing Strategies, and Grammar/Sentence Structure

Math: Number Sense, Math Reasoning, Measurement and Geometry, and Algebra and Functions

MVCS will assist you specifically in finding and financing inservices, workshops, and conferences that correlate to these targeted areas. (Of course, you are always encouraged to seek out learning opportunities that appeal to your personal interests.)

What assistance can you expect?

You will receive information about inservices, workshops, and conferences via email, snail mail, ES meetings, and/or word-of-mouth.

If you hear of something, you can share information with Gwen, and she will spread the word.

Gwen will work individually with Education Specialists to help them develop a plan specific to their needs. She will also assist with paperwork as needed. More on this assistance to come in a future communication.

Now, for the first conference announcements:

1. The California Reading Association's 42nd Annual Conference: October, 16 - 18, 2008 at the Sacramento Convention Center. For more information -- [www.californiareads.org](http://www.californiareads.org) If you wish to attend, complete a Travel and Conference form and get it signed by Pam Lane before registering for the conference. Registration deadline is Oct. 7, 2008. You can submit a PO request for a check to be sent in lieu of reimbursement, but you better get the request in ASAP to meet the deadline.

"Meeting the Demands of On-Demand Writing - Coaching Students for the CAHSEE and SAT 1 Essays": Tuesday, Sept. 30 at the Sonoma County Office of Education; on-line registration is preferred. Go to [http://www.scoe.org/pub/htdocs/class.html?class\\_id=2904](http://www.scoe.org/pub/htdocs/class.html?class_id=2904) for more information. Remember to have a Travel and Conference form signed before you register.

There are more new workshops and professional development opportunities coming up every day. Be sure to contact Gwen and look for fliers in your mailbox.

