



KEEP

Keep Excellent Education Programs

2005 KEEP Campaign Endorsed by:
Loma Public Education Fund
Loma Prieta Elementary H&S Club
CT English H&S Club
Loma School Site Council
CT English School Site Council

Loma and CT English Teachers
District Employees
Superintendent Henry Castaniada
Principal Diana Hallock
Chief Business Official Don Fox

KEEP Steering Committee:
Henry Castaniada
Lydia Dobyns
Diana Hallock
Angela Keller
Pat McGrath
Leslie O'Malley
Diane Matlock
Tricia Rasmussen
Jeri Tjon
Lauri Vaughan

March 24, 2005

Dear Friends and Neighbors,

The mountain children need your help! Our students have consistently surpassed Santa Clara County and the State of California in proficiency level testing. The District has made repeated commitments to maintain small class sizes and keep excellent student programs utilizing current year funds, money raised from fundraisers and available financial reserves.

Over the past four years, the children in California public schools have had education services reduced by \$9 billion. California has slipped to 44 out of 50 states in spending per pupil. Plenty of schools have closed. The school district has faced unprecedented financial challenges as a result of steadily declining enrollment and the state's fiscal crisis.

At the conclusion of the current year all available reserves will have been spent. Superintendent Henry Castaniada convened a Budget Advisory Committee in January that began developing responses to the drastic cuts in teaching positions and programs necessary for next year.

Demonstrating an unprecedented commitment to support our wonderful teachers and to protect what makes Loma and CTE outstanding schools, we have launched the KEEP campaign to raise \$280,000. Without raising this money we will lose 5 teachers next year; CTE Electives will be reduced 50%; and developmental PE, MVP, library services and student counseling will be eliminated.

We need to reach our goal by May 1 to rescind teacher layoffs and retain program staff for next year. Money raised will be spent as follows:

1. ***Re-hire, two teachers. This will allow the district to:***
 - maintain smaller K-8 class sizes
 - offer Art in middle school
 - offer Technology in middle school
 - continue Reading Recovery at Loma
2. ***Upgrade the CT English computer lab***
3. ***Continue Developmental PE***
4. ***Maintain Library Services K-8***
5. ***Offer student counseling K-8***
6. ***Maintain Music, Visual and Performing Arts K-5***
7. ***Maintain Yard Duty at 04-05 levels***

Our community has consistently supported local schools. Recently voters approved Measure K. Measure K construction bond funds can only be used for the voter-approved project list and may not be used for any other purpose. Bids to build the new CTE middle school will be opened on March 30th.

Families are being asked to contribute \$600 if they have one child or \$900 if they have two or more children. We know that there are families who cannot afford this contribution. This is where you come in as a friend, neighbor, community member, public education supporter or child advocate.

We're asking you to help KEEP by sponsoring a child or a family. Perhaps your road association or community group could band together to make a KEEP contribution. A donation of any amount will be deeply appreciated by our teachers and most importantly, our children.

We know we can't answer all your questions in this letter so we have developed extensive information, including a Q&A document on KEEP that can be found at: www.lpef.org.

Thank you for helping us ensure that our children receive the kind of early years education that will help them be successful for life.

The KEEP Campaign Committee

Have Questions?

**Please come to the Town Hall Meeting
Tuesday, March 29
6:30 pm in the Loma Forum.**

**Join KEEP volunteers at Summit Store
Friday, April 22nd
3 pm to 7 pm for a BBQ benefiting KEEP**

**Check out www.lpef.org for detailed
information on the keep campaign**