

June 2011

Dear Families:

Here we are at the start of the last month of our school year. I want to share some important information as we get ready to close down for the summer.

As most of you are aware, our state Legislature has been dealing with a large budget deficit for next year. The proposed joint budget released by the state will result in \$5.1 million less for Lake Washington School District's instructional programs for each of the next two years. The proposed state budget cuts the remaining funding for kindergarten through fourth-grade class-size enhancements designed to keep classes in those grades smaller. Two million dollars of this revenue was cut midyear, and the remaining \$600,000 will be cut in 2011-12 for a total reduction of \$2.6 million.

How will these budget cuts affect our school? At this point it is difficult to say, but as a staff we are preparing for larger class sizes in K-3 grades. Normally, at this point in a school year we would have already planned for class placements and teacher assignments, but because of the uncertainty, we need to wait until we get final budget numbers for our district. Our hope is to have staffing complete by the end of the school year.

As we do our planning for next year, you have the opportunity to provide us with information regarding your child. Parent input forms are available in the front office if you wish to fill one out. Teachers will be guided by the following criteria as they assign students in a manner that will meet individual needs and result in balanced classes: total number of students per class; ratio of boys/girls; new students to Keller; academic achievement; behavior concerns; past placements; social/emotional maturity; special needs; and students who need to be separated from each other.

Here is the update on our new building. We are moving forward with permitting and choosing a contractor. After our last day of the school on June 22, the contractor will start construction. Fencing will be going up and we will be losing most of our play area for next year. Three of our four portables will be removed, and as a result we will be very crowded in our building during the construction phase.

Our staff is working on plans for changes that will impact everyone, and we will be sending home a packet on the last day of school that will provide you all with information that will help ensure a smooth transition as we enter our new building project. Lastly, you will want to stay connected to our school webpage at <http://www.lwsd.org/School/keller/Pages/default.aspx> during the summer for updates.

Thank you all for a great school year, and I look forward to an exciting time with the planning of our new building next year.

Tim Stonich
Principal