

August 2009



Dear SYVCS Families,

It is thrilling to be stepping in as the new Director of the Santa Ynez Valley Charter School. I am looking forward to meeting all of you and collaborating with you to enhance and continue to advance our school learning environment. I am excited to be a part of a community where children's thinking is challenged and life-long learning is embraced.

I have been immersed in the educational field for over 30 years and I continue to seek opportunities where I can expand myself and work with a community where children come first and relationships are cultivated to create meaningful learning experiences for all.

I have a deep commitment to provide a safe campus for all students and families. It is important to know who is on campus volunteering, visiting, or doing work that supports our educational environment. This year all individuals who come on campus must check in at the office before they proceed on to the campus! This procedure will ensure that everyone is safe. Thank you for being mindful of this very important procedure.

A motto that has become an important part of my own family's life is, "Dream Big and Work Hard." It is important to instill in every child a sense of wonder and to guide them and teach them how to learn the skills necessary to accomplish their social, emotional, physical, and academic goals. As I look to the future, I am excited about our coming year and the opportunities we will have to learn from one another and grow together!

With the current educational financial crisis, state and federal funding are greatly reduced. Your **involvement, contributions, and support are crucial**, and it will help us to continue to offer programs that we already have in place, such as PE teacher, PE and recess equipment, Art teacher, art supplies, Music Appreciation, Arts Outreach, fieldtrips and more.

**Parent Participation is mandatory at SYVCS. If you do not see something on the volunteer form (in your school packet) that interests you, give us a call and we will find something for you to do!**



Our hot lunch program will return this year beginning on Wednesday, September 2<sup>nd</sup>. Hot lunch will be available Wednesdays and Thursdays. Be sure to check the Tuesday Folders for more information.

My first *Tea and Coffee with the Director* will be on Friday, September 4<sup>th</sup> at 8:00 A.M. in the office lounge. This is a great opportunity for us to meet and talk informally about any questions, concerns or comments you may have about SYVCS.

I look forward to our first day of school at 8:00 A.M. on Wednesday, August 26<sup>th</sup> (Tea and Coffee will be provided), and the PTSO's *No Cook Friday Taco Dinner Night*, Friday, August 28<sup>th</sup> 5-7 PM.

Sincerely,  
Colleen Million  
Director

*"You must be the change you want to see in the world."*  
Mahatma Gandhi