Dear Walnut Valley Community,

Like school districts across the state, Walnut Valley continues to face daunting budget challenges, with another $5.8 million to cut for the 2011-2012 school year. The District has reduced teaching, administrative, and staff positions, increased class sizes, eliminated programs, and negotiated salary reductions. The District's budget has decreased from $110 million in 2007-2008 to $91 million in 2010-2011, a loss of $19 million in three years.

Throughout the course of this challenging time, the Walnut Valley community has continued to support our schools. Your financial contributions and countless hours of volunteer support in our classrooms and on school and district committees have allowed us to maintain many outstanding educational programs for our students.

Community Club fundraisers at Barnes and Noble, Chick-Fil-A, Golden Spoon, and Millie's raised thousands of dollars. Music at the Pointe and Diamond Bar High School's Evening of Performing Arts as well as Casino Night raised thousands more. Check-writing campaigns at Walnut and Diamond Bar High Schools generated over $25,000 for each school. Walnut Valley's 40th Birthday 5K fun run/1K walk netted $59,000, with principals wearing banana costumes or chicken suits, kissing pigs or engaging in water gun battles to reward support for these initiatives.

The Walnut Valley Educational Foundation's Teddy Bear Tea raised over $36,000 to fund teacher mini-grants and the School Finance Corporation contributed more than $400,000 to offset budget reductions in technology and programs at each school. Both the SFC and WVEF are sponsoring summer school programs for hundreds of students.

The Chinese American Parents Association (CAPA) and the Korean American Parents Association (KAPA) each donated more than $25,000 to our schools, with additional contributions from the Hispanic Organization of Parents and Education (HOPE), Parents from India and Neighboring Countries (PINC), the Council of African American Parents (CAAP), Booster Clubs, and Parent Partners.

As a result of November's Community Forum, parents formed the new Walnut Valley Unified School District’s Endowment Fund, with articles of incorporation and bylaws submitted by the end of November. The District put forward $10 million to build a sufficient endowment. With the goal to build a sufficient endowment to generate thousands of dollars in interest for our schools.

Business community members meet monthly to generate out-of-the-box revenue raising ideas. This “think tank” of ideas will lead to perpetual revenue streams for our schools.

Most recently, Walnut High School parent Gary Chow and Walnut resident Don Arii stepped forward to donate $168,000 to fund our elementary music program for the 2010-2011 school year. Earlier in the year, the elementary music program was slated to be cut as part of overall budget reductions necessary to address the reduction in state revenues. Mr. Chow and Mr. Arii will fund the program for three years through their Gifts After Six program. Thank you to Mr. Chow and Mr. Arii for their generous support.

The Walnut Valley community has been very generous with its time and money. So have our Walnut Valley teachers, psychologists, confidential staff, and administrators. They will take a 2.72% pay cut for the 2010-2011 school year, contributing over $1.5 million to help close the budget gap. The pay cut results in 5 furlough days, or “Budget Reduction Days.” Walnut Valley schools and the District Office will be closed on these Budget Reduction Days next school year:

- November 10 and 24, 2010
- January 18, 2011
- April 22, 2011

Thank you to each of these groups for the support they provide.

Thank you to our teachers, psychologists, confidential staff, and administrators. Their contribution of a pay cut enables Walnut Valley to maintain Kindergarten through Third Grade (K-3) class sizes averaging 24.5 students.

Thank you to each of these groups for the determination to maintain Walnut Valley's outstanding educational programs for our students. Other sections in this issue of the Outlook spotlight our students’ successes. Thanks to you, Walnut Valley students will continue to have the programs they need to support their success.

Our children are our future, California’s future, America’s future, the future of the world. By continuing to invest in Walnut Valley’s children, you are investing in our future. The return on your investment is priceless, Thank you.

Summer is here and our children are at home. Savor your time together, and enjoy the special moments. All too soon these days will pass.

Dr. Cyndy Simms

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With best wishes for your summer,

Cynthia Simms

Dr. Cyndy Simms
Stellar Profiles of Senior Superstars!

Diamond Bar High School

RAMY RASHAD - USC
Neuroscience & Middle East & Arabic Studies; International Baccalaureate Diploma
Presidential Scholarship to USC (half tuition), National Merit Scholarship Designated Commended, National Achievement Scholarship, International Baccalaureate Program (IB), 9th-12th grade Brahma Technology Program, founder of ICAN 2010 IB Project, vice-president of C.A.R.E., founder/President of Table Tennis Club. “The (IB) Theory of Knowledge class opened up new thoughts, was engaging, and involved much thoughtful interaction with colleagues.”

MIKE HE - Johns Hopkins University
Environmental Science and Music; International Baccalaureate Diploma
Most Outstanding International Baccalaureate (IB) Diploma Candidate, Brahma Booster Scholarship, AP Scholar with Distinction, Bass Performer of the Year Chamber Singers, IB Physics Student of the Year, Advanced Certificate of Merit Piano, S. Calif., Honor Choir, VP Chamber Singers, Secretary of Environmental Club. “The IB program made me balanced in time management, academics, social activities, and in efficient ways to learn higher level thinking and analysis.” One of his best classes was experimenting with liquid nitrogen!

SURBHI TRIVEDI - UC Berkeley
Molecular Cell Biology Research; International Baccalaureate Diploma
International Baccalaureate Program (IB), Regents Scholar UC Berkeley, National Merit Scholarship, Brahma Booster Scholarship, Dean’s List (Chemistry Honors, AP European History, Spanish II Honors), GLC’s Student of the Month, CA Scholarship Federation Gold Cord. IB has helped her “work ethic and incited study patterns that will continue through college.” Her most memorable time was the hydroponics lab which students built and ran in Biology. “I was elated that it was a successful and enriching endeavor that we did on our own.”

DIANA MAR - Harvey Mudd College
Physics – Research; International Baccalaureate Diploma
Les Orphanages of Thailand Restaurant Fundraiser Chairperson, activities’ coordinator, historian, webmaster (300+ hours of service for 3 years), President Health & Fitness Club, American Cancer Society, Building Block For the Future. The IB program’s research papers gave her “a wider perspective on the importance of the idea that life is a learning process as well as a challenge, risk-taking, and a time for reflection.”

Ron Hockwalt Academies

JAMES CALISE - Mt. San Antonio Community College
One of top two Seniors, Winner of Kiwanis Club Social Science Civics/Economics Award. Completed 2 years in 1. Interested in a Forensic Science career. He took as many classes as he could and particularly liked Photography, Animation, and Visual and Performing Arts. He is grateful to his school for its support and one-on-one relationships with staff.

Ron Hockwalt Academies (continued)

MICHAEL STOCKER - Mt. San Antonio Community College
One of top two Seniors. Winner of Kiwanis Club Award in Photography. After community college, wants to transfer to FIDM (Fashion Institute of Design and Merchandising) where he hopes to design his own clothing line. He really liked Ron Hockwalt Academies which he feels is “cool” where no one gets left out.

Walnut High School

MELISSA YEE - Boston University
Communications; International Baccalaureate Diploma
International Baccalaureate Program (IB), Regents Scholarships UC Berkeley, UC Riverside; Public Relations Officer for Key Club/American Cancer Society Youth Club, National Honor Society. She felt the IB courses had components AP classes do not. Teachers were “mentors,” and she’s become more open-minded and self-disciplined.

KARINA BALMACEDA - University of La Verne
Business Management; International Baccalaureate Diploma
International Baccalaureate Program (IB), LA University Presidential Scholarship, grants for the rest of the tuition, Key Club. “You become more accepting of cultures as you learn about them. I certainly needed IB because it made me realize that I wanted to learn to be knowledgeable; it’s not always just about being ‘the best.’ The Theory of Knowledge (TOK) course helped me strengthen what I know. In IB you share this experience with a community of students you can relate to.”

ANNA LEE - New York University
Major Undecided; International Baccalaureate Diploma
International Baccalaureate Program (IB), La Verne U Presidential Scholarship, grants for the rest of the tuition, Key Club. "You become more accepting of cultures as you learn about them. I certainly needed IB because it made me realize that I wanted to learn to be knowledgeable; it's not always just about being 'the best.' The Theory of Knowledge (TOK) course helped me strengthen what I know. In IB you share this experience with a community of students you can relate to.”

Impressive Stats from the Class of 2010

34 National Merit Finalists
87 International Baccalaureate Diploma candidates
Over 90% Attending four-year or community colleges
Over 99% Graduation rate of 1541 Seniors

 Walnut High Graduate Appointed to US Naval Academy

Lucille Lu, graduate of Walnut High, competed and passed entrance requirements that are amongst the most difficult for admission, including a tough fitness assessment for a full scholarship, to the United State’s Naval Academy. She competed against over 20,000 qualified applicants where fewer than 10% are appointed. After 4 years, she will graduate as an officer with the rank of Ensign in the U.S. Navy or second lieutenant in the Marine Corps.
Diamond Bar Receives Accreditation from WASC

Congratulations to the staff, parents, and students who received official verification on their Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC) term of accreditation: a full 6-year accreditation with a 1-day midterm review.

California Distinguished Schools

Castle Rock, Collegewood, Evergreen, Vejar, and Westhoff were 5 of 484 elementary schools recognized as 2010 California Distinguished Schools. These exemplary schools excel at meeting the standards of both the state and federal accountability systems and at closing the academic achievement gap between their subgroups of students.

California Business for Educational Excellence Award

Castle Rock, Collegewood, C. J. Morris, Evergreen, Westhoff, Maple Hill, Quail Summit, Vejar elementary schools and Diamond Bar High School received the California Business for Educational Excellence (CREE) award. All are recognized by California’s business community for demonstrating consistent high student academic achievement and significant progress toward closing academic achievement gaps among students.

Schools Receive 5-year IB Primary Years Accreditation

Castle Rock and C. J. Morris Elementary received the highest International Baccalaureate accreditation upon completing rigorous criteria in academic programs and test scores, a full 5-year certification.

Winners in International Music K-8 Cover Contest

Grace Moon of Evergreen Elementary was the 4th runner-up out of over 2,020 international contestants, and Emily Chen of Westhoff Elementary was the 8th runner-up in the national Plank Road Publishing’s Music K8 Magazine 2010 cover contest.

Walnut High’s Championships

The Girls’ Water Polo Team won the CIF Championship and the Walnut High Mustang ladies brought home their first Girls Swim CIF Division II Championship since 1994. Congratulations to Coach Lani Ruh for her championship teams and for her being chosen “Coach of the Year” for the CIF Southern Section.

Chaparral Middle School’s Orchestras

The 8th Grade Orchestra placed 3rd at the National Orchestra Festival and was the highest placing orchestra from California. At the SCSBOA Festival, the 6th Grade Orchestra received a Unanimous Superior rating, the 7th Grade Orchestra a Superior rating, and the 8th Grade Orchestra a Unanimous Superior rating. The 8th grade Orchestra violinist/pianist performed at Carnegie Hall with the chamber ensemble.

Walnut valley seeks solutions to the budget crises

The Walnut Valley Unified School District owns approximately 30 acres of undeveloped property within the city limits of Diamond Bar. Located on the corner of Brea Canyon Road and the south end of Diamond Bar Boulevard, “Site D” is in the entitlement stage with upcoming hearings before the Diamond Bar City Council. Upon completion of these hearings, the property is expected to be marketed for commercial and residential uses. Revenue-generating scenarios from proceeds of the land sale are being studied to secure long-term benefits for the District’s educational programs. For information regarding purchase of the “Site D” property, please contact Mark Rogers of TRG Land, Inc., at 949-722-0634.
5K RunWalk and Birthday Fundraiser Huge Success!

Over 2,100 supporters attended the Walnut Valley Unified School District’s 40th birthday celebration fundraiser on May 2. The celebration was a team effort. Janet Green, BTSA Director, Jean Chung, Assistant Principal at South Pointe Middle School, Jean Hicks, Elementary Coordinator of Special Education, Ronnie Hee, Teacher at Suzanne Middle School, and Gabriel Aguilar, Instructional Dean at Diamond Bar High School along with 17 others organized the event. As a kick-off to celebrating past accomplishments, the event’s coordinators were thrilled with the day’s success, a net of over $59,000 was raised.

The race included adult experienced runners, student trained racers, parents pushing strollers or running dogs, and those who wanted to walk. Medals were awarded in many categories. The top 3 Men 5K winners were James McCready, Scott Margiotta, and Alex Harvey. The top 3 Women 5K winners were Denise Ripley, Taylor Butler, and Annemarie Branks.

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Over 2,100 supporters attended the Walnut Valley Unified School District’s 40th birthday celebration fundraiser on May 2. The Board of Trustees, administrators, teachers, retirees, students, district employees, parents, friends of the district, local government officials, and volunteers came together showing the spirit of our community. As a kick-off to celebrating past accomplishments, the event’s coordinators were thrilled with the day’s success, a net of over $59,000 was raised.

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The student and adult volunteers made the event possible along with donations of many kinds, including food. Janet Green said, “Instead of talking about problems, we are celebrating our accomplishments and talking about possibilities!” She said the number of people who made the event a success and deserve thanks is great, and the community is so special. Over 2,100 participants made the WVUSD 40th birthday celebration a new community tradition.

Amazing WVUSD FACTS

1. Congratulations to 81 District retirees honored in June. Thank you for years of service to 42 certificated teachers, 13 classified, and 6 administrators, dedication and commitment, quality of work, and benefits to students. Best wishes to all!

2. Diamond Bar High School
   • First WVUSD high school student to qualify for the United States Math Olympiad Team
   • World’s Best High School for AP Calculus for the past 4 years
   • Semi-finalist Siemens Foundation Award in Math, Science, and Technology
   • Rated one of the best International Baccalaureate High Schools in America by U.S. World and News Report, ranked #7 in California

3. Walnut High School
   • Only student to be appointed to the California State Board of Education for the 2009-2010 school year
   • Semi-finalist Siemens Foundation Award in Math, Science and Technology
   • Rated one of the best International Baccalaureate High Schools in America by U.S. World and News Report, ranked #5 in California

4. Chaparral Middle School
   • Inland Valley Regional Spelling Bee Champion Mickey Shi prevailed over 54 schools (1st round) and 30 finalists (2nd round) to compete in the Scripps National Spelling Bee in Washington, D.C.
   • Winner of the California Lion’s Club “Power of Peace” poster contest, 7th grader Rena Jiang

5. Walnut Valley Unified School District
   • Food Services Director Elizabeth Brown-Smith is President-elect of the Southern California School Nutrition Association for 2010-2011
   • 1 of only 40 districts in the United States to be awarded the Foreign Language Assistance Program (FLAP) grant funding Mandarin Chinese Language instruction at Chaparral, South Pointe, and Suzanne Middle Schools