

## How can you support our site funding?

As you know, we are going to experience more significant cuts to our education system in the next few months. While it is still early, and we do not know what the final picture will be, the news is not positive. Our school board and district leadership have the tough task of deciding which cuts to make based on the monies we anticipate receiving.

At Willett, our PTA and Site Council have already begun the conversation of how to best support our school community for the 2010-2011 school year (and probably for years to come). We are so grateful for their dedication to our school!

There are a few upcoming events which fund programs specific to Willett Elementary School.

- **Friends of OWL** – donate directly to our school library to update and increase our current collection of books.
- **Willett Family Food Nights** – Please join our community for evenings out at which a portion of your payment for your meal goes directly to our PTA. The next Food Night is February 9<sup>th</sup> at the North Davis Dos Coyotes!
- **Casino Night** – this is our biggest fundraiser of the school year. Please plan to attend and spend! We will have a silent auction, casino, music and food! Last year's event was such a great community builder! This year, Alan and Crystal at CDC have offered child care for a donation of \$5. More information will be forthcoming about this fun event! Please put April 24<sup>th</sup> on your calendar now!

In looking at funding sources for next year, we will likely be able to fund some cut positions through our PTA. Your support of PTA can make changes that directly affect our students!

Another area where we can increase our funding is through daily, on-time attendance of our students. Our district receives Average Daily Attendance (ADA) monies each day of each student's enrollment to the amount of \$40. This is the main source of funding for our district. Multiplying the daily amount by the number of students is one way we anticipate our funding. When students are absent from school, regardless of whether they are ill (excused) or out for a family trip, etc. (unexcused), we do not receive funding. We appreciate families keeping their children home when they are ill and/or have a fever of 100 degrees or higher. However, we would like to ask that you plan trips during school vacations. At Willett, we have lost about \$56,000 in ADA funding through absences so far this school year (1,400 absences). If your child is out of school for five or more consecutive days, you may go on independent study. Please pick up a form two weeks in advance of the absence from our school office to set this up. The teacher prepares lessons for the work missed, the student completes the work, and we receive the funding. The teacher receives a daily stipend for the independent study. To date, Willett Elementary School has had 365 days of independent study allocations. 54 of these days were not counted as ADA due to the assigned work not being completed.

Did you know?...

- One day of full attendance in our district (every child in school) = \$340,000
- That funds five teachers!
- Our average absence rates at Willett on a daily basis are 3 to 4%.

As always, we are so appreciative of the amazing community that encircles Willett Elementary School, and we appreciate your support!