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Superintendent: Eileen Rohan Board of Trustees: Annelise Bauer - Chris Carlucci, M.D. - Conn Hickey - Sharon Sagar - Heidi Kritscher Weller

Dear Parents/Guardians,

November 20, 2011

We are pleased to announce that the Ross Valley School District is now piloting a standards-based report card aligned to our district's Essential Standards for all elementary students. This report card is an exciting step for our school and district as we work towards making sure that all students are successful at meeting grade level standards. All teachers, K-5, at our school and throughout the district will be piloting this report card this year.

Standards describe what a student should know and be able to do at each grade level in all subjects. The California State Board of Education adopted academic content standards for each grade level and subject area. Our district's Essential Standards are the key "big ideas" in these standards and the building blocks for future learning. This report card is designed to give you better information about how your student is progressing. The report card will tell you if your child is (M) meeting standards; (I) in progress of meeting standards; or (N) not meeting standards. It will also indicate the standards that have not yet been taught. In addition to providing feedback for music, art and PE, the report card also provides information on your child's work habits.

The standards-based report card is helpful in many ways. First, it helps to make sure there is more consistency of expectations from teacher to teacher. It helps teachers and students focus on the standards from the very beginning of the school year, giving students the opportunity to get help earlier if they are not making adequate progress. Finally, and perhaps most importantly, you will know exactly how your child is doing based on the standards. You will learn which big ideas and concepts your child has learned and also what work still needs to be done to make sure your child is ready for the next grade level. This pilot report card is also part of our first steps in the process to move to the use of the Common Core Standards that include the attainment of 21st century skills.

Parent teacher conferences are an opportunity for you to communicate with teachers about your child's progress and the report card itself. Typically, a parent-teacher conference will take 20-30 minutes, so it is advisable to prepare questions ahead of time. During this time, the teacher will show samples of your child's work so that you will have a better understanding of your child's specific strengths and area of need.

We hope you find the new pilot report card system helpful. Please feel free to contact your school principal if you have questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

Eileen Rohan, Superintendent
Ross Valley School District

For more information about California Standards: <http://www.cde.ca.gov/index.asp>