

# Menlo Park City School District Superintendent Update

October 2, 2007

Dear School Community,

Today Principal Allison Liner and I received outstanding news. **Encinal School has been selected as a National Blue Ribbon School** and will be awarded the honor in Washington, DC this upcoming November.



The National Blue Ribbon Schools Program honors public and private schools that are either academically superior or that demonstrate dramatic gains in student achievement. The application process involves a great level of data analysis, which includes an examination of multi-year trends of student testing data. STAR, the California State Test, and ERB, a nationally normed writing assessment program, were used to demonstrate that the student body as a whole is academically superior and that various subgroups of students made dramatic improvement. Other criteria for the award include outstanding core academic programs and the high quality of professional development opportunities for the faculty.

State Superintendent Jack O'Connell recommended that Encinal School apply for the National Award following Encinal's receipt of the California State Distinguished School Award in the spring of 2006. Superintendent O'Connell recommended Encinal and 34 other schools in the State because they had achieved the maximum score on the State Distinguished School Application.

Encinal was among 24 public schools in California that received the National Blue Ribbon Award and among 237 public schools nationally. Another 50 private schools in the United States earned the award.

Former Principal Stacy Marshall was the primary author of the application beginning last fall and completing the application when on maternity leave almost a year ago. Many faculty and staff members and parents provided necessary input into the application process.

Encinal School is the second District school to earn this national distinction. Hillview Middle School was awarded the National Blue Ribbon Award in 2000.

Congratulations to the Encinal School staff and the entire Encinal School Community. With this national recognition, the entire country now recognizes what we locally already know about the outstanding educational program at Encinal

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## Menlo Park Elementary School District

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