

SPOTLIGHT ON NEW COLUMBIA STAFF MEMBERS

In our last Prospector we neglected to mention two of our new staff members who were hired right after school let out last June.

In this issue we want to spotlight both of those teachers as a way of introduction them to our community.

Our new first grade teacher, Stacy Laios (pronounced Li-ose) joins us after working the last few years in the Tracy Unified District. She has taught both first and second grade and filled in as a long-term sub in third and fifth grade.

Stacy is a Columbia graduate and remembers some of our long time staff members as her teachers. She also graduated from Sonora High School before entering into college in preparation to become a teacher.

Ms. Laios: I feel very fortunate to be teaching at the elementary school I attended. The staff has been very welcoming and helpful. I am looking forward to a great school year with an awesome group of students!

WELCOME MS. LAIOS !

Debbie Gardiner was hired to fill the vacancy created in our Special Education program when Charlie Stoddard retired at the end of the 2010-11 school year.

Debbie may already be known to several parents because she served as the county speech teacher assigned to Columbia School last year.

Debbie has many years of experience serving as a Special Education teacher in the Bay Area in addition to her work as a speech teacher with the County Office of Education.

Mrs. Gardiner: I am happy to be at Columbia as the resource teacher. I enjoy working with the students and collaborating with the teachers. Everyone has been so friendly and helpful my first few weeks of school. The students are wonderful and appreciate the extra help. I look forward to the school year and all it has to offer.

WELCOME MRS. GARDINER

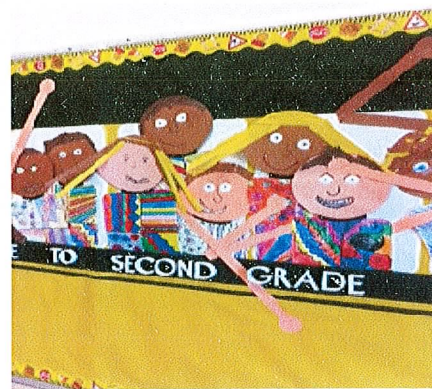
We are excited to have these two professionals join the Columbia team and look forward to great success in the future.

Art Continues under Selander's guidance

Three years ago Kathy Selander and Don Foster undertook the task of improving art instruction for all staff at Columbia School. Kathy is recognized as a talented artist and over the years has found many creative ways to inject art into the curriculum.

We decided to use her expertise so that all staff members could benefit. The district developed an ongoing training program whereby staff who participated received credit for advancement on the salary schedule. More importantly, the teachers created at least three standards based art lessons that could be used in their classroom immediately, modified for future use and shared with other staff members to improve art instruction at every grade level.

Many teachers participated in this



year-long effort and the results have been phenomenal. Classroom art instruction has improved, teachers are more confident in their knowledge and understanding of arts and students now experience many different art venues.

One of the most impressive outcomes is our All School Art Show

held in the spring. Students K-8 put on a display at open house that truly is amazing.

This year Kindergarten will work with Louise MacPeeters in music, a program that includes integrating rhythm and learning. First, second, fifth and sixth grades will have guest artist/teacher, Patty Larrick, come into their classroom and present model lessons. Third and fourth grades will participate in theatre arts with Cynthia Restivo, which involves creating and performing historical readers theatre. This is part of a matching grant program with the Sierra Arts Council.

And once again K-8 will participate in the County Art Show and the Columbia All School Art Show during Open House in the spring.