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District Administration
Valerie Williams, *Superintendent*
Allan Garde, *Chief Business Official*

Board of Education
Ronald Rosenbaum, President
Paul Black, Vice President
Patricia Low, Trustee
Charles Blanchard, Trustee
Ross Stapleton-Gray, Trustee

November 2016

AUSD Staff, Parents, Students & Community,

November is a special time of the year for giving thanks. We are fortunate to be in a community that works together to raise children to be thoughtful, caring, compassionate members of our society. I am proud to be in a district that teaches these traits in addition to providing a robust and rigorous academic education. It is important to ensure that Albany schools continue to be safe and inclusive and free from bias and discrimination. Together we must continue to model these important values that we hold as a community. I want to thank our administrators, teachers, and support staff for challenging and inspiring our students, and for teaching them to be critical thinkers, creative and innovative individuals, and to be socially & environmentally responsible. I also want to thank parents for being our partners in their children's education. It is through our collaborative efforts that our children will have a bright future ahead of them.

To our Albany students: You are an inspiration to our community. You are intelligent, you have a strong voice, and you make a difference, more than you realize. You are our future leaders, and as your Superintendent, I want you to know that we have confidence in your ability to continue to make this a better community, country, and world in which to live. We are thankful for you!

I am especially thankful for our many fundraising groups who support our students in receiving a well-rounded education. Throughout this year, we will be showcasing each fundraising group so you, our community, know what they do and how fundraised money is spent. Oh my! There are so many Acronyms, it's hard to keep track.

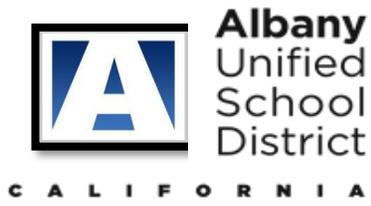
Here is a quick primer:

(click on the [hyperlinks](#) for more info)

- **AEF - Albany Education Fund**
- **AMF - Albany Music Fund**
- **SchoolCARE**
- **ACF - Albany Community Foundation**
- **PTAs** - Cornell Elementary, Marin Elementary, Ocean View Elementary, Albany Middle School, and Albany High School PTSA (the extra S is for Student Representative)
- **AAB - Albany Athletic Boosters**

This month we are showcasing the **Albany Education Foundation aka AEF**. Did you know that AEF has been around since 1996! It is the original Fundraising Group independent of the school sites.

1. They support **Field Trips** for students.
2. **New Teachers Mini Grants** to help defray the cost to set up classrooms.
3. **Mini-Grants for Teachers** to support new and innovative projects.
4. **Block Grants** which benefits a large numbers of students. For example, new instruments were funded for our 4th through 8th grades music program.
5. **Legacy Donor Grants (Donor-Advised Grants)** when an AEF donor requests that their gift be used for a specific program/school/class/teacher.
6. **Special Grants** to provide for special opportunities that arise during the year



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We are very fortunate to have the **Albany Education Foundation** as a major supporter of our school district.

Please mark your calendar for two very important fundraising events:

- **December 3, 2016 is the Barnes and Noble Book Fair:** A percentage of purchases will go to AEF.
- **February 11, 2017 is the AEF Campaign & Chocolate Gala.** This is one of my favorite events.

I am so thankful and honored to work on behalf of our Albany students, parents, and staff, and I want to wish everyone a Happy Thanksgiving!

Sincerely,

Val Williams, Superintendent
Albany Unified School District



Be Thankful...