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Dear Parents:

Welcome to the 2014-15 school year! I would like to take a few minutes to introduce myself to you and share some important information about our school district. I am from Kailua which is a small town on the island of Oahu in Hawaii. I attended Hawaii public schools from Kindergarten through graduation from high school and then matriculated to the University of Hawaii where I received a Bachelor of Arts degree in Speech/Communication as well as a Professional Teaching Diploma in Secondary Education with a major in English. After I moved to California, I received my California Teaching Credential and Educational Leadership Credential from San Jose State University. I have 30 years of experience as a middle and high school teacher and leader in public education. While I have no children of my own, I cherished the 150 “children” I had each day for the 13 years I was a teacher.

I am thrilled to be part of the Albany Unified School District and serve as your Superintendent. One of the most important goals I have is to get to know you, our schools and our community. I look forward to meeting and working with you this year. To kick off the new school year, I have scheduled three “Meet & Greet” events:

- Board Meeting 8/12 from 5:30 - 6:00 p.m. - 6:30 p.m. at Albany City Hall (*revised*)
- Community Dessert 8/25 at 2:00 - 3:00 p.m. at Memorial Park
- Board Meeting 8/26 from 6:00 p.m. - 6:30 p.m. at Albany City Hall

Watch for news about the Back to School Night directly from your child’s school. Back to School Nights is an important opportunity for you to meet your child’s teacher and to preview the planned program of instruction for the year. Mark your calendars now for these important Back to School Nights dates:

- Ocean View, Cornell, & Elementary Schools is September 11, 2014 from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m.;
- Albany Middle School is September 18, 2014 from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m.; and
- Albany High School is September 17, 2014 from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m.

Our focus in the Albany Unified School District is to ensure that all students are academically successful, that we support the whole child and that we communicate and lead together. This year, the focus will be:

- To continue to improve teaching and learning;
- To ensure that students are provided the necessary intervention and support programs to be academically and socially successful; and
- To ensure that our students are provided a comprehensive educational experience with expanded opportunities for engagement, enrichment and academic growth.

As parents, you are critical partners with the District in your children’s education. We know that your involvement makes a difference. Together, we can maximize the learning potential for all of our students and insure that each one is successful. We look forward to you joining us in this important partnership.

We wish you the very best as you and your family begin this new school year.

Sincerely,

Val Williams
Superintendent