



# CUSD

CARMEL UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

## BOND UPDATE

Carmel Unified School District

Vol. 5, Number 1

Spring 2005

***D**ear Community Residents: We know you have an interest in the progress of Carmel Unified School District. It was certainly evident in May 2000, when Carmel voters overwhelmingly approved a landmark bond issue that empowered us to make significant and long overdue facilities improvements across the District. The bond produced \$20 million, augmented by \$6 million from the state and an additional \$4 million from our own capital outlay fund.*

*In this progress report, with all bond-designated improvements now complete, we want to reiterate our gratitude for your support and tell you just how we used the money. We also want to explain the District's vision for the next stage of necessary development.*

### **WHAT WE ACCOMPLISHED**

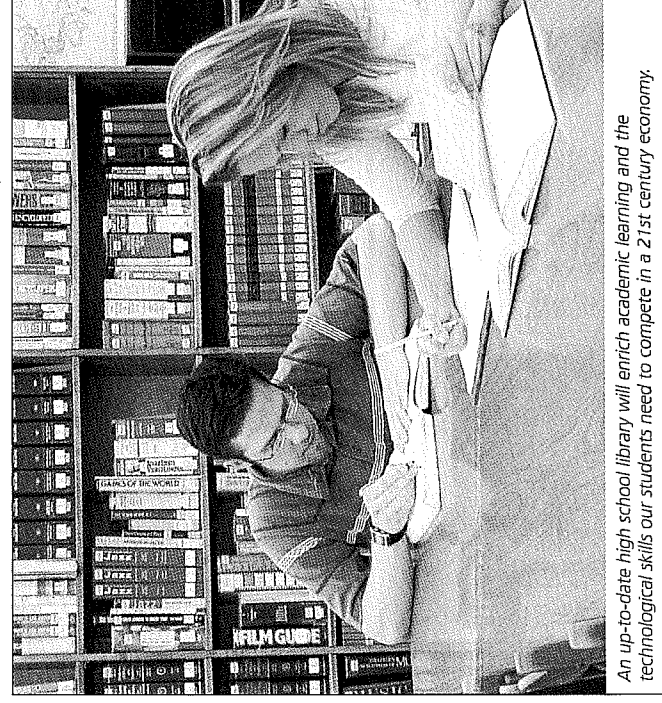
The bond measure's passage ensured that we could execute our top priority at the time: modernizing classrooms. Throughout the District, classrooms received new doors and cabinets, fresh paint, added storage for teachers, and other structural benefits. Heating, ventilation, plumbing and lighting systems were all upgraded to accommodate the technological demands of the 21st century classroom. Grounds improvements were made at each site, with walkways repaved and landscaping refined. Modernization of our middle and elementary school libraries provided dramatically brighter, better organized spaces. All in all, the \$30 million bond project involved six different contractors and, importantly, built in a preventive maintenance plan. Visit our schools and you'll see what a greatly improved environment they now offer students and staff.

Even with the bond's passage, the Carmel Unified School District Board of Trustees and our administration were aware that the available revenue would not accomplish everything we needed. So, while we've spent the past five years carefully directing and monitoring the expenditure of bond proceeds, we have also been planning. The Board charged the administration with developing a master plan that would identify the facilities we still need and where they best fit. That work is nearing completion, and here we share our key findings regarding the master plan.

### **A NEW LIBRARY FOR CARMEL HIGH**

First of all, the library at Carmel High is too small and outmoded to meet the growing needs of students. A school library establishes the academic expectations for a school and is its defining facility. The library at Carmel High must be its informational and technological center, readying current and future students for the demands of higher education and the business world.

Specifically, a library is needed which offers students real access to the many electronic, video and computer-based research tools they must learn to master. A modern library needs to include an instructional computer lab, a project production area, a listening/viewing area and a teacher planning area. Our current library is only 4,542 square feet and was originally designed and constructed as a lecture hall. California School Library Association Standards tell us that we need at least 7,000 square feet for an up-to-date facility.



*An up-to-date high school library will enrich academic learning and the technological skills our students need to compete in a 21st century economy.*

### **ADVANCING THE PERFORMING ARTS**

Comprehensive education is multi-dimensional, demanding a proper match of facilities and programs. At Carmel High, one of our proudest accomplishments is our performing arts program. Many students take classes in instrumental and vocal music, dance and drama, but need adequate rehearsal and performance space to develop and showcase their talents. In our District, a teaching theater would directly answer that need. It would also support vocational training by allowing students to study stagecraft, including lighting, sound and set design.

### **A NOVEL THOUGHT: LUNCH IN THE CAFETERIA**

Space constraints have forced our popular dance program, along with wrestling classes, into the high school cafeteria. We need to restore the cafeteria's intended purpose – as a place to eat. Expanding the gymnasium would provide a permanent home for dance and wrestling. Plans to add an outdoor patio with seating would reestablish the cafeteria as a lunchroom and student center, promoting school attachment as well as good nutrition.

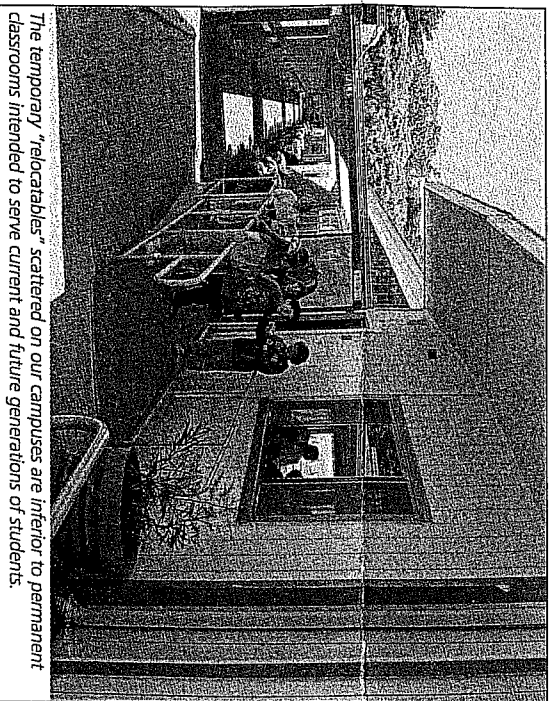
## NATURE HABITAT EXPANSION

A remarkable District addition has been the Hilton Bialek Biological Sciences Habitat at Carmel Middle School, bringing the academic learning process outdoors. The Habitat is one of the most highly regarded environmental education centers in the country. It has become a defining experience for our students, presenting the biological and physical sciences in a hands-on manner. Through a variety of programs, students study the environment and develop an understanding of how to protect our ecosystem.

But the District has only touched upon the Habitat's potential. An additional classroom would give more students applied learning experiences, so valuable for absorbing and retaining science. In keeping with the vision for the Habitat, this classroom would be designed as a "green," environmentally sustainable building, in itself a powerful teaching tool.

## OTHER IMPROVEMENTS

River Elementary School lacks sufficient indoor space to bring together its entire student body. It needs a room large enough so that all students can eat indoors, when desired, and can gather for an assembly. Therefore, the school's small multi-purpose room should be expanded not only for the daily lunchtime comfort of young students, but also for elementary instructional programs.

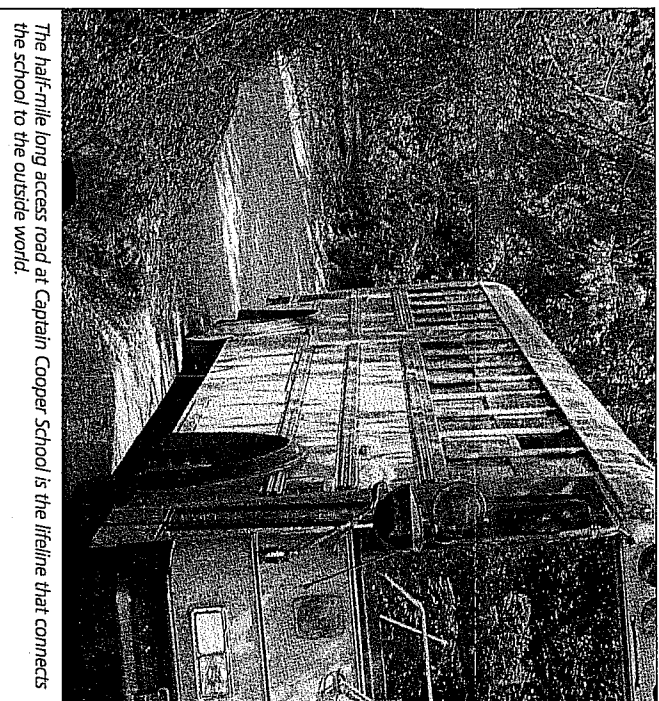


*The temporary "relocatables" scattered on our campuses are inferior to permanent classrooms intended to serve current and future generations of students.*

For many years the District has made use of temporary "relocatable" classrooms on several of our campuses. Though filling basic needs, they have inherent problems. Often detached from the main part of campus, relocatables are generally darker, noisier and less conducive to learning than regular classrooms. We need to replace these structures

at Tularcitos Elementary School, River School and Carmel High. Furthermore, we're conducting a demographic study to determine the specific number of classrooms and schools to properly serve our student population in the foreseeable future.

Other improvements across the District include repair of the access road leading from Highway 1 to Captain Cooper Elementary School in Big Sur.



*The half-mile long access road at Captain Cooper School is the lifeline that connects the school to the outside world.*

## SCHOOL BOARD TO CONSIDER A SECOND BOND MEASURE

On June 13, 2005, the Board will consider whether to place on the ballot for November 8, 2005 a new bond measure to address the remaining construction and renovation projects described in this newsletter. You are invited to attend the meeting, or email us at: [bondinfo@monterey.k12.ca.us](mailto:bondinfo@monterey.k12.ca.us) in order to express your views on whether the Board should authorize placing the new bond measure on the November ballot. The meeting will be held at 5:00 p.m., Carmel Middle School Library, 4380 Carmel Valley Road.

Again, we want to express our gratitude for your past support. We hope that this report has provided you with useful information about the progress we have made over the last five years and facts to assist you in reaching an informed judgment regarding any future ballot measure.

Thank you for your continued interest in the Carmel Unified School District.

*MARVIN BIASCOTTI, SUPERINTENDENT*

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