

SAN LORENZO VALLEY UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: July 14, 2010

The San Lorenzo Valley Unified School District is pleased to announce the hiring of a new principal for San Lorenzo Valley Elementary School, Ms. Shannon Calden. Long time Principal Michelle McKinney left the District after twenty-seven years as she accepted a Superintendent / Principal position in Happy Valley School District. Ms. Calden was formerly the Director of Technology at Scotts Valley Unified School District. She previously served as the Assistant Principal at Scotts Valley Middle School for five years and prior to that position, taught English Language Arts and History for ten years.

Ms. Calden has a Master of Arts in Education, which she received from San Jose State University in 2003. She received her teaching credentials from San Francisco State University in 1993, and holds a Bachelor of Arts Degree in English, which she received from Santa Clara University in 1991.

"Shannon's references all commented on her keen understanding of her teaching and learning, and outstanding communication skills. We are really excited to have Shannon join our team," stated Ms. Haff, Superintendent.

Ms. Calden expressed her overwhelming desire to get back to making a difference for student learning on a regular basis. "Although I have enjoyed my past four years as Director of Technology, I want to get back on a campus and work with teachers and children every day. I began a career in education because I believe that all children are capable of learning in their own way, and I relish the opportunity to bring that philosophy into everyday practice," Shannon stated in a letter to the District.

Ms. Calden lives in the San Lorenzo Valley, along with her husband, Mr. Jeff Calden, our San Lorenzo Valley Middle School Principal, and their oldest child attends San Lorenzo Valley Elementary School.

There have been other changes in the District as well...

The District has hired one new teacher at Boulder Creek Elementary School, Ms. Amanda Calhoun, and six new teachers, most of them replacing retiring teachers, at San Lorenzo Valley Elementary School. They are Ms. Gabrielle Brick, Ms. Lauren Hofmayer, Ms. Lauren LaFollette, Ms. Julia Ordahl, Mr. Bridgette O'Shea, and Ms. Kim Ponza. One of these new teachers is a replacement for Ms. Lisa Abel-Benavidez. Ms. Abel-Benavidez is leaving the classroom for two years to become a Cotsen Mentor to the teachers at the SLE site. Boulder Creek Elementary School just completed a two year Cotsen grant and BCE Mentor, Ms. Lisa Muirhead, is now returning to the classroom. The District welcomes all of our fabulous new teaching staff, and is excited to welcome back our amazing teaching staff that will be returning!