

Dear Las Lomas Families,

I hope everyone had a wonderful Thanksgiving vacation filled with family and friends. The two days prior to break were very productive for our teachers. Every minute was filled with learning and planning!

In addition to our certificated classroom and support teachers, we have many **paraeducators** here at Las Lomas working in a variety of capacities. Formerly known as classroom aides, paraeducators instruct and inspire students. Las Lomas paraeducators provide instructional support in the Language Lab, library, Computer Lab, Math Lab, physical education classes and regular classrooms, as well as on the playground. These remarkable employees work under the direction of, and in collaboration with, classroom teachers and administrators to meet students' needs. Mary Anne Nielsen, Director of the Diagnostic Center at the California Department of Education wrote: "They (paraeducators) are our link to the community, role models for our students, job coaches, academic and/or technology tutors, disciplinarians, surrogate parents, playground supervisors, translators and mediators. They are key members of the teaching team." We are very fortunate to have such talented paraeducators as part of the teaching team at Las Lomas. Hats off to them!

Until next time,  
Sue