

IMPORTANT – RETURN BY FEBRUARY 28TH **\$100,000 CHALLENGE GRANT**

Dear Community Families,

Community Magnet's student body is impressively diverse. We have one of the highest school ratings in California. Our children are supported not only by their teachers, but by the aides the Parent Association has long provided for every class room. To round out their school days, our students are exposed to art, music, drama, Spanish, and PE. But, the sorry state of California's economy means we are staring at a huge budget shortfall. Much of what we have long considered essential to Community Magnet is in danger of being cut, as our school budget is reduced by at least a third next year.

To avoid cutting those services and programs that set Community apart from the rest, we are asking you to be part of the solution by giving toward the **\$100,000 Challenge Grant**.

The Challenge? Our challenge is to raise **\$100,000** between now and **February 28th** from the Community Magnet families. We are seeking at least **50 donations of \$2,000, in order to raise \$100,000 – an amount that will make a BIG difference**. If we are unable to raise the entire \$100,000 commitment, you will have the option to opt out, although every penny donated would go towards the children.

Every parent who supports Community Magnet and its annual fundraising efforts plays a critical role. Working together, we've provided our children with a school experience that rivals any in Los Angeles, including those private schools with huge price tags. We value every kind of contribution and right now we need to ask those with more to give at a level that is above and beyond the norm. If you can, please step forward and make a tax-deductible gift, so that we aren't sending our children into classes with one teacher and 35 9-year olds.

Why Now? Our state and school district are in dire financial condition. LAUSD is facing a 1.2 billion dollar deficit this year and the gap is anticipated to be even bigger next year. Here's the impact on our school:

OUR SCHOOL BUDGET THIS YEAR:	\$525,000
Community School Parents' Association (CSPA)	\$200,000
State of California – Charter Block Grant	\$200,000
Charter Implementation grant	\$125,000
ESTIMATED SCHOOL BUDGET NEXT YEAR:	\$350,000
Community School Parents' Association (CSPA)	\$200,000 (?)
State of California – Charter Block Grant	\$150,000 (?)
Charter Implementation grant	No Longer Available

The state Charter Implementation grant was a two year grant given to our school from 2008 - 2010. We are excluded from most federal grant programs because fewer than 40% of Community Magnet students are eligible for free or reduced lunch. CSPA's fundraising is down in a sagging economy. In short, the financial outlook for next year is bleak. We need your help!

How Will the Challenge Grant Money be Spent? While we don't know exactly how the Community Parents' group will vote to spend the \$100,000 Challenge Grant, we do know that this campaign must be successful or many of our "extras" will be gone. What are "extras"? **The biggest priority is to continue to provide teacher's aides in every classroom.** Other programs the challenge grant money might help save are PE, drama, music, Spanish, art and CATCH.

Can you imagine our school without:	Teachers Assistants	PE Program
	Drama Enrichment	Music & Art Program
	CATCH	Spanish Program
	Field Trips	Computer Lab
		Library Program
		Valet
		Office Support

It's hard to imagine our children's long school days without these "extras."

We need your help!!

We Are A Community. As a community we must support and help each other for everyone's benefit. We all rise together. If you are able to contribute \$2,000, please don't delay. You may be the family that makes the difference between \$100,000 to bridge the budget gap...or nothing at all.

Pam Marton

Child's Name(s) _____ **Room(s)** _____

YES – We will contribute \$2,000 to Community Magnet as follows:

Credit Card: _____ Single Payment _____ 7 payments of \$285.71 each

Name on Card: _____

Card Type: _____ Visa or _____ Mastercard

Card Number: _____

Expiration Date : _____

Check: Please enclose either one check for \$2,000 or seven checks for \$285.71 each dated February, March 1, April 1, May 1, Jun 1 and July 1, August 1. Please make checks payable to CSPA.

QUESTIONS: Please contact Pam Marton directly at 310-476-2281

