



Summer, Vol. X, No. 2

Greetings from Bill Magnotta....
President, Magnet Schools of America

Dear MSA Members,

“Where did the summer go?” Seems we just left! The new school year is upon us, with new students and parents, staff, and, perhaps, even a new curriculum. I encourage each of you to be involved in the mission and goals of your school as a magnet educator and make your work a year-long commitment! As each school year begins, our work involves not just teaching or administering programs, but being involved in staff development, writing and revising curriculum, meetings with parents and community, or in preparing for an advanced degree. Hopefully, however you spent your summer, you were able to find relaxation, and are now ready for a new, exciting, and challenging new year!

Magnet Schools of America had an extremely busy summer--beginning with a very successful Summer Training and Leadership Conference hosted by the San Jose Unified School District, July 11-14. At the conference, we honored our long time friend, board member, and a Past President, Norris Hill. Norris paved the way not only for MSA but also for federal magnet school funding—known today as the Magnet Schools Assistance Program (MSAP).

What’s on the agenda for MSA this year? In November, the Board will meet and continue to establish priorities for the year consistent with the organizational mission and guiding principles, and our Strategic Plan. We will be promoting our professional development conferences and our Awards Programs to recognized exemplary Magnet Schools across the country and outstanding principals and teachers. Visit our website at www.magnet.edu for the specifics of how to apply. We also want you to plan for National Magnet School Month in January 2011 and participate in our very popular Poster Contest. The theme this year is, “Building Bright Futures.....The Magnet Way.”

NEW for 2011 is the opportunity for magnet teachers to apply for a “Mini Action Research Grant.” MSA will award up to ten (10) \$1,000 mini grants to help teachers try out new ideas and expand on “choices” of delivering the magnet curriculum to students. We expect this to be a very popular and competitive program. This is a new member

benefit and the details are available beginning September 1, 2010 at www.magnet.edu. The grant period is from January 1 to June 30, 2011.

Finally, what is a magnet moment? Sometimes, these moments (or visions) are staring us in the face. Other times, we need to seek out these moments. As President of MSA, I urge you as magnet leaders to look for these special opportunities for your students and staff—they come in all directions--and celebrate the events and your students' academic accomplishments and cultural diversity. As magnet schools, make that special moment a real choice for students and parents.

I HOPE YOU HAVE A MOST SUCCESSFUL YEAR! We at MSA are looking forward to seeing you at the National Conference on Magnet Schools in Indianapolis, IN, May 15-18, 2011. For more information or how to be a presenter, call the National Office or email executive.director@magnet.edu.