

A BRIEF REVIEW OF 2008 PAUSD SURVEY RESULTS

In the past, Nixon's Site Council has conducted a parent survey approximately every two years. The surveys have been designed to obtain a general sense of Nixon's well-being, as perceived by parents. The most recent Site Council survey was completed in the spring of 2006. However, during the spring of 2008 the Palo Alto Unified School District (PAUSD) administered a district-wide survey of all parents to inform the district's strategic plan. In order to avoid redundancy, this year's Site Council requested Nixon's survey results from the district rather than conduct yet another survey. Highlights from the survey results are presented below. The survey sample is significant - approximately 146 people responded to the survey, out of about 340 Nixon families.

In general, the Site Council was pleased to see a strikingly positive view of Nixon emerge from the survey results. Specifically, the level of school satisfaction, parental perceptions of school culture, and the overall view of diversity at Nixon were all very encouraging. In fact, Site Council noted that Nixon parents were more satisfied with Nixon's "culture of respect toward differences" than the rest of PAUSD elementary school parents.

Perhaps most tellingly, approximately 92% of parents strongly agreed or agreed that their children are excited about coming to school to learn, and approximately 93% of parents strongly agreed or agreed that Nixon teachers are excited about teaching.

Site Council identified two areas of potential growth for Nixon, based on the survey results. First, the transition between fifth and sixth grade - 86.7% of respondents indicated that transition as the most difficult for their child. Second, there was a certain amount of dissatisfaction with parental opportunities to give feedback to Nixon. This was a perplexing finding given that there is a Nixon parent survey that goes home every January which parents are strongly encouraged to complete. Conversely, parents believed that Nixon was doing a good job communicating with them regarding school issues.

The following is a brief overview of the survey results. For further information, please consult the PAUSD website, where you may download the complete set of survey summaries as well as other pertinent information.

Results: Overall school satisfaction

How satisfied are you with:	Nixon results (n=146) very satisfied to satisfied	All PAUSD elementary schools (n=1633) very satisfied to satisfied
The education your child has received this year	91%	89.8%
Your child's teacher this year	91%	88.4%
Your school administrators	84.2%	82.9%
How well your child's school communicates with you	94.4%	88.1%
Nixon's response to conflicts/bullying/harassment	45.2%* *The percentage of people who answered that this question was not applicable to them was 44.5% for Nixon.	51.7%** **The percentage of people who answered that this question was not applicable to them was 34.6% for PAUSD.

Results: Perceptions about School Climate

How much do you agree with the following statements:	Nixon results (n=145) strongly agree to agree	All PAUSD elementary schools (n=1600) strongly agree to agree
My child's school encourages feedback from parents and the community	83.3%	79.3%
My child's school culture is conducive to learning	94.6%	94.2%
My school has high academic expectations for <i>all</i> students	86.5%	85.7%
My child's school has a culture of respect towards differences	100%	94.7%
Students are excited about coming to school to learn	91.7%	87.6%
Teachers are excited about teaching	93.1%	90.4%