

March 2, 2011

Dear Parents,

One of our goals as a school is to be on the cutting edge of all that is happening in the area of technology. Because of this, we have initiated a SMART Board project and started a Fundraising and Technology Committee. SMART Board is a *brand* of interactive whiteboard or chalkboard that will allow our students to immerse themselves in computer-based activities as never before. Not only can they see the information on the whiteboard, but they can interact with it, opening up a new and exciting world of learning for them.

Many of you have asked, "What is a SMART Board?" Attached is an information sheet on SMART Boards and a link to the SMART Technologies website. We hope to give you an opportunity to see a SMART Board in action at upcoming events this spring, so that you will more fully understand the educational impact it will have on instruction and learning in our classrooms.

As you know, technology is an investment. Each unit is projected to cost \$5,200. The project will be implemented in three phases, eventually having boards installed in every classroom. The PTA made and passed a motion to start the overall project and fund Phase 1. Phase 1 will give every student, in every grade, access to a SMART board and includes purchasing five units. The timeline to complete Phase 1 is August 2011 so that we can begin the 2011-2012 school year with this technology.

Funding can be a challenge, and thanks to the support of our families through fundraising activities we have been able to fund numerous instructional requests. We want to develop new ways to support projects and develop more funding from outside sources, including grants and businesses. Our new Fundraising and Technology Committee will guide our plans to meet this goal.

Thank you so much for everything you do. There is more information to come on this project from the Fundraising and Technology Committee, but in the mean time, if you have any questions, please contact me.

Sincerely,

Jan Hughes