

## Sue Rusk To Lead Burton Valley Elementary

By **Andrea A. Firth**

**S**ue Rusk is looking forward to “going back home” when she takes on her new role as Principal of Burton Valley Elementary School in Lafayette the summer. Raised in the Burton Valley neighborhood where she attended St. Perpetua School, Rusk worked as a third grade teacher at Burton Valley Elementary for seven years and as Assistant Principal at the site for another nine years. Now after four years as the Assistant Principal at Stanley Middle School, Rusk will return to lead the elementary school of over 700 students.

“I’m really looking forward to reconnecting with everyone there,” says Rusk.

Rusk’s appointment as Burton Valley’s Principal was greeted with a round of applause from the room full of supporters who gathered at the recent Lafayette School District Governing Board meeting in anticipation of the announcement. “We feel like we selected the

best candidate,” stated School Board President Stephenie Teichman. “She was just the right fit.”

When asked about managing a school in the turmoil of today’s school budget crisis, Rusk notes that good communication is essential. “Our

parent community is great, and these partnerships are crucial,” she explains. “We have to partner with the community, and let people know why the decisions are being made,” she adds.

A self-described multi-tasker, Rusk plans to bring her organiza-

tional and listening skills to her new position. She smiles broadly when asked about returning to her old school and the elementary-age setting. “I love working with kids. Elementary school is such an exciting time for kids. They are learning to read. Everything is fresh and new.”



Sue Rusk at her desk

Photo Andrea A. Firth