

## Bill Walters to Lead at LP

By Andrea A. Firth



Bill Walters, Principal at Los Perales Elementary School in Moraga

Photo Andrea A. Firth

After working for over twenty years in the Moraga School District and serving for several years before and after in schools in other parts of California and abroad, it would seem reasonable that an experienced school administrator like Bill Walters would have moved on to a more relaxed set up—like retirement. Walters tried it, retirement that is, but it did not last long. “It was ok,” says Walters. “I spent time with friends, but I really missed being part of a group, part of the school system.” So when his former boss, Rick Schafer, the Superintendent of the Moraga School District, approached him about working as the Interim Principal at Los Perales Elementary School (LP) last year, Walters did not hesitate.

“It’s a new adventure working in a kindergarten through 5th grade school. It’s exciting, and I really enjoy it,” says Walters, who has spent a good part of his career as a schoolteacher and administrator in the middle school setting. After serving as the interim Principal at Los Perales for the past school year, Walters was recently appointed Principal. “Bill has earned the respect and support of the staff and parents [at LP]...and he is excited to be involved in the early years of educating students,” states Superintendent Schafer. “I have come to enjoy his weekly accounts of how the young students are so excited about school and learning. I truly think Bill is enjoying school more than the kindergarteners,” adds Schafer.

When Walters took over at Los Perales, he had some big shoes to fill with the departure of Bruce Burns who went on to the top spot at Joaquin Moraga Intermediate School. “Bill came to LP at a very challenging time,” explains Chris O’Connell, the Secretary at Los Perales. “Construction on the new library was about to start. There was a lot of anxiety among the LP community, but Bill provided a calming, steady presence, while building trust and respect among students, parents and staff,” she adds.

In addition to getting accustomed to the elementary school setting, Walters has found that he has also had to get used to letting some things go. “The volunteer culture here is very strong. The parents, students, and teachers form a great team,” states Walters. “I have had to make the nice adjustment of not having to control everything.”

As for becoming part of a school group once again, Walters comment is succinct and direct, “The staff here is fantastic.” And it appears that the staff at LP feels the same way about Walters. “We are thrilled to have him become a permanent part of the LP family,” says O’Connell. “Bill has brought his own personality and leadership style to LP while continuing Bruce’s legacy of students who love to learn, staff who are encouraged and supported, and parents who feel included and valued—a long with a great sense of humor, which is essential in any workplace.”