

## Glorietta Names New Principal—Wendy Sparks

By Andrea A. Firth

Orinda Union School District (OUSD) recently announced that Wendy Sparks has been selected as the new principal for Glorietta Elementary School. Sparks joins the OUSD from San Ramon, where she most recently served as principal for Coyote Creek Elementary School.

“We are delighted to welcome Ms. Sparks to the Orinda community,” states OUSD Governing Board President Pat Rudebusch. “She clearly brings a wealth of professional experience to the job, including a solid background in curriculum development, literacy, and special education. Equally important, I believe that her interpersonal skills and student-centered focus will be an excellent match for Glorietta

School and the District's leadership team,” she adds.

Sparks spent fourteen years with the San Ramon School District and prior to her career in school administration worked as a classroom teacher and a resource specialist. While working in the fast-growing San Ramon District, Sparks was involved with the district's affiliation with the Columbia University Teachers College Writing Project which is also used in Orinda's K through 8 schools in the English Language Arts curriculum.

“Literacy has been a primary focus of our district for the past several years, and many of our teachers have been trained in the Columbia University's Teachers College writing curriculum,” states

Rudebusch. “The San Ramon schools have been leaders in implementing the Columbia program and our two districts have partnered on staff development opportunities. Having someone with Ms. Sparks' depth of experience in the Columbia methods is a real plus.”

“Glorietta is clearly a special school with an outstanding staff, parents, and students,” says Glorietta's new Principal Sparks. “I look forward to working in a smaller, more intimate school environment at Glorietta and continuing to support the high standards that have been established on this campus,” she adds. In the fall, Sparks plans to hold a series of morning coffee sessions for parents to have an opportunity to meet her personally.