

## WASC Accreditation!

After completing a rigorous three year self-assessment, committee review and evaluation, Sierra School received full accreditation by WASC, the Western Association of Schools and Colleges.

Highlights from the visiting committee's formal report include these areas of strength for Sierra School:

- ◆ Teachers use a wide variety of instructional approaches and modify instructional strategies to meet individual students' learning styles, and they use assessment data to alter their lessons.
- ◆ The diverse student body demonstrates an inordinately high level of caring and support for one another.
- ◆ The principal's highly effective leadership style that empowers the faculty.
- ◆ Small class size allows for on-on-one assistance when needed, and the well qualified aides in the classrooms increase the students' opportunities for professional individualized instruction and immediate feedback.
- ◆ The ESL program on campus adds a unique atmosphere that contributes to the schools effectiveness.
- ◆ The manner in which the WASC procedure was followed brought out a sense of empowerment to the entire school community.
- ◆ The accessibility of the faculty to parents leads to a successful parent/school partnership.
- ◆ Open ended and individualized assignments allow students to interact with content in a way that is meaningful and real to them.

WASC accreditation certifies that Sierra School is a trustworthy institution of learning and validates the integrity of our school's program as it supports student learning. Accreditation also assures parents that our purposes are appropriate and being accomplished through a viable education program.

Special thanks go our to all the parents, students, board members and staff that volunteered their time and energy on focus groups to help see this three year process come to such a successful finish!