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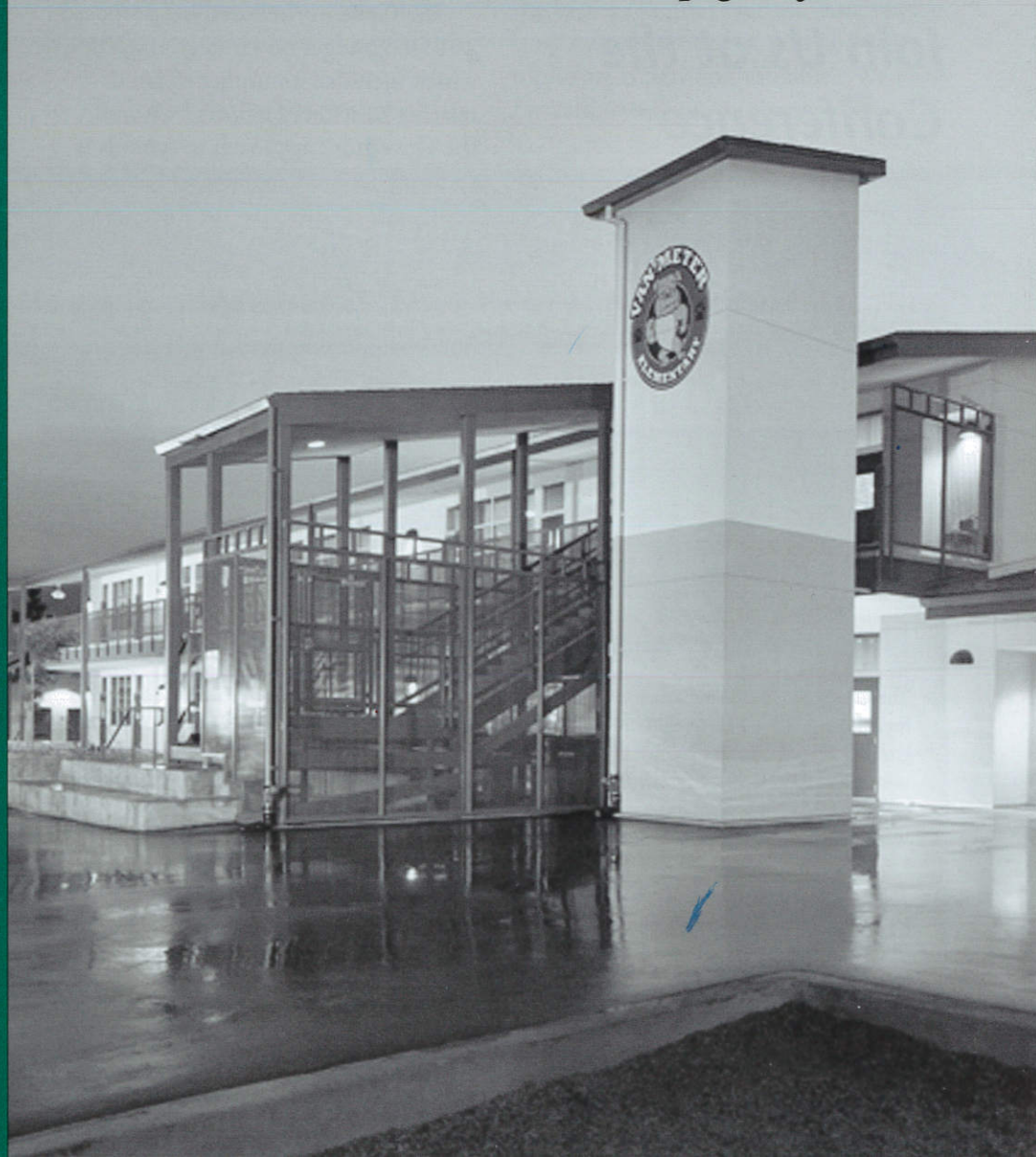
THE NEWSLETTER OF THE COALITION FOR ADEQUATE SCHOOL HOUSING

In This Issue...

- 2 ▶ Message From The Chair
- 3 ▶ Assembly Members Introduce Legislation to Limit Bond Financing Tools: Would Restrict Job Creation and the Construction and Repair of Schools
- 4 ▶ Governor's State Budget for 2013-14 Focus on School Facilities: New Program, New Bond?
- 5 ▶ Governor Issues State of the State Address
- 6 ▶ State Allocation Board Meeting Notes – January 23, 2013
- 8 ▶ C.A.S.H. Response to SPI/Treasurer Request for Moratorium on CABs
- 8 ▶ Budget Update: Legislature Begins Its Review of the Governor's Proposal
- 9 ▶ Clean Water, Clean Beaches Initiative: What are the Implications for Schools?
- 10 ▶ Protecting Your Pavement Investment: Part Three
- 11 ▶ 2013 California Building Standards Code Adopted: New Energy Code, Accessibility Standards, Green Building and Water Use Modifications
- 12 ▶ School Profile: Louise Van Meter Elementary School
- 13 ▶ C.A.S.H. Monthly Meeting Minutes, Wednesday, January 23, 2013
- 16 ▶ Upcoming Meetings, Conferences & Workshops

Louise Van Meter Elementary School

See page 12 for details



Louise Van Meter Elementary School

The Los Gatos Union School District unveiled its new ten classroom, two-story building at Louise Van Meter Elementary School this past summer. Two dozen white doves streamed skyward as the student body, teachers, superintendent, town mayor and the construction team cheered.

The school is named after Louise Van Meter who became a teacher in Los Gatos in 1893 and is considered “the mother of elementary school education in Los Gatos.” A time capsule was placed underground and is scheduled to be opened in the year 2049, the year the school marks its 100th birthday.

The 12,000 square foot 2-story modular building, constructed by Meehleis Modular Buildings, Inc. of Lodi, was prefabricated “grid neutral” with power supplied by their 160KW solar powered electrical system.

The building components were delivered in February of 2012. Six months later, the District was receiving the keys to their new 10 classroom building, which includes restrooms and storage rooms. This allowed them to realize how quickly a project can be built using the modular building approach.



The District applied for, and successfully received a DSA High Performance Incentive Grant for achieving 30 points using the CHPS criteria. Points were awarded for such things as superior energy and acoustical performance, water efficiency, use of recycled and sustainable materials and building commissioning.

Seventy-five percent of the in-plant construction waste was recycled, which largely limited landfill waste.

The new building was custom designed to match existing building features at the sixty-three year old campus. The concrete slab foundation design proved to be very challenging due to the close proximity to the Loma Prieta earthquake fault. The design team

worked closely with DSA and the geotechnical engineer to produce a sizeable mat-slab foundation system.

The interiors of the oversized 1,080 square foot classrooms feature 10' high ceilings, 16' wide sliding marker board teaching walls, complete casework with counters, interconnecting doors between the classrooms and 125 square feet of glazing for abundant day-lighting and views of the nearby Santa Cruz mountains.

Meehleis Modular Buildings, a 25+ year C.A.S.H. member, has been constructing school buildings for over 30 years and handled all of the structural, MEP, energy and fire sprinkler engineering, while the project architect, HMC Architects, coordinated the site work. 