



Website Use Soars

One of our four school-wide action plans addresses expanded use of Technology, and another focuses on increasing Access for students and staff to information and services. Obviously technology is one way of increasing access for our community. Aligned with these long-range goals, we set as one important objective for this year to use email and the website much more. We are using email more, although the planned change to Gmail has hit the digital brick wall. The website has seen a huge increase in use, however. The addition of online registration has exceeded expectations. With still some glitches to be addressed for some classes (space in classes, waiting lists, fess paid) the ABE/HS program is having new students register online. That, along with advertising the website heavily as an alternative to our catalog, is a reason the chart above shows the huge increase in "hits" to our website. This is a tangible difference as a result of our action plans for school improvement. Remember there is a special place on the website for staff resources, including a searchable copy of the school handbook. This will be a continuing project in the months to come: what would be helpful to you to include on this staff page?

Nominated by the Administration as "Group of the Year": *You*

We will announce our annual Recognition Awards the last day of the Salinas Adult School Week on Friday, May 22. But I wanted to nominate for the "Group of the Year Award all of you. I know, that kind of recognition may make such recognition less meaningful. It's like those soccer leagues for kids where "everyone wins." I never quite got that. But this has been a year of incredible and unexpected change. Through all the vicissitudes of changing administration, coordinators, and the initial budget challenges last summer that quickly deepened into the largest challenge for adult schools in recent memory, the staff, both teachers and support staff, have worked to keep the school running and serving our students. Our attendance has soared past last year and we are facing a year that is still unknown in terms of programs we offer and resources we have. And almost without exception our whole staff has accepted the challenge, continued to focus on students, and kept our classes running as a positive force for our community. Our community has faced a serious economic crisis and high unemployment, home foreclosures, reduction in social services and alarming spikes in violence. At the same time our community needs us more than ever, we have been hit with changes that reduce our resources and take time and energy to adapt to. Our whole staff has risen to the occasion with skill, equanimity, and hard work. You are all deserving of recognition in my book.

Board meeting on Tuesday: A short report summarizing how we plan to adjust to our \$1,000,000 cut for next year will be given to our Board of Trustees this Tuesday evening. After this "information" item is heard on Tuesday the plan may be on the board agenda again on May 28. At that point we hope we can begin giving our assignments for next year.