Dear Parents/Guardians,

Conejo Valley Unified School District is pleased to announce the establishment of an exciting new program called "Transitional Kindergarten." This program was brought about by Senate Bill 1381, which will be shifting the kindergarten entry date from December 2 to September 1 and offering Transitional Kindergarten to all children in California affected by that change.

Who is eligible for Transitional Kindergarten? The legislation of SB 1381 provides a gradual phase in of the students who are eligible for this new program. Students may participate in Transitional Kindergarten if they have their 5th birthday between:

- **November 2 and December 2** for the 2012-2013 school year
- **October 2 and December 2** for the 2013-2014 school year
- **September 2 and December 2** for the 2014-2015 school year and beyond.

What is Transitional Kindergarten? Transitional Kindergarten will be the first year of a two year kindergarten program that is intended to ensure that students have a strong foundation of readiness when they enter kindergarten. Students in a Transitional Kindergarten classroom will have the opportunity to learn important academic and social skills in a hands-on way that supports their development.

This program is important because California's kindergarten standards and curriculum have changed over the years, and many of the skills children were once taught in first grade are now expected in kindergarten. Transitional kindergarten is a wonderful new option that will allow families to give their children the gift of time to develop at their own pace and continue building the social, emotional and academic skills that will help them succeed in elementary school.

How will Transitional Kindergarten work in CVUSD? In the 2012-2013 school year, any student that turns 5 years of age between November 2 and December 2 will be assured entrance to a Transitional Kindergarten program through the CVUSD School Choice process. Families with children born in the month of November will complete school choice forms between February 1, 2012 and March 1, 2012. The Transitional Kindergarten programs will be offered on the following campuses: Acacia, Aspen, Walnut, Westlake and Westlake Hills.

We have included additional information about Transitional Kindergarten with this letter. For more information about the program you can visit www.tkcalifornia.org or contact Robert Iezza, Director of Elementary Education. We look forward to embarking on this new and exciting journey with your youngsters.