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## Bullis Charter School Wins California State Distinguished School Award

**Los Altos, California, April 9, 2008:** Bullis Charter School (BCS) announced today that it received the prestigious honor of being a California Distinguished School. The program was put in place to honor the state's exemplary and inspiring schools. State Superintendent of Education, Mr. Jack O'Connell, called BCS to deliver the news.

"I was honored to be able to join in the excitement as these dedicated educators learned their schools earned this coveted title," said O'Connell. "From their stories, it became clear that they share a school-wide vision of excellence where every student can succeed and achieve at the very highest levels of performance."

“This award is a testament to the incredible talents, dedication, and sheer hard work of the entire BCS community”, stated Wanny Hersey, BCS principal and superintendant. “Four years ago we set out to implement our vision and are thrilled to be recognized as a California Distinguished School”.

Students cheered wildly as they heard the news at a special school assembly. “I think our school is the best school there could be”, stated Neel Gupta, a second grade class representative.

Parents were on-hand to applaud the school administration, staff members and students. “This is such a great way to honor the hard work of our entire community” stated parent Nadja Jackson. “BCS delivers on a top-notch educational program while creating an atmosphere of leadership, positive school spirit and pride”, she added.

This year, the selection criteria for the Distinguished School program were more stringent than ever. A visitation team from the California Department of Education spent a day at BCS evaluating its mission, implementation and award-winning academic programs. Their review committee offered the following observations to the BCS community.

*“In the site team’s combined 65+ years of experience we have seldom experienced the power of a vision so fully implemented. On a daily basis, the whole child is nurtured. Students participate in project-based learning using curriculum that emphasizes problem-solving, inquiry-based instruction and cooperative learning as well as curricular and extracurricular units that highlight the arts.*

*Most importantly, the signature practice of the school – individual learning plans for each student – sets the foundation upon which the instructional program is developed. The staff works closely with students and parents to set academic, social and emotional goals. Students fully understand and freely discussed their strategies for meeting these goals and it is clear that they are richly supported in these efforts.*

*This unique learning environment would not be possible without the superior leadership of the principal, the BCS board, the sustained personal and financial commitment of the founding families and the unique constellation of professional expertise by staff and parents.”*

In addition to the California Distinguished School Award, BCS has received WASC accreditation and has been recognized as one of the leading charter schools in the state of California. Its API scores place BCS in the top 1% of all California elementary schools. The school has become extremely sought-after by parents in Los Altos, Los Altos Hills and the surrounding areas. Its open-enrollment period recently ended with a record number of enrollment requests.

**About Bullis Charter School:**

Bullis Charter School is a K-6 elementary school located in Los Altos, California. BCS offers a collaborative, experiential learning environment that emphasizes individual student achievement and inspires children, faculty and staff to reach beyond themselves to achieve their full potential. Using a global perspective to teach about the interconnectedness of communities and their environments, the BCS program nurtures mutual respect, civic responsibility and a lifelong love of learning.

**End**

