

## **“No More Door-to-Door”**

By Mimi Hennessy, Superintendent of Arcadia Schools

If you are old enough, you recall the Fuller brush man and Avon calling at your door. In more recent times, children come to the door selling cookies, tickets, magazines and so forth as fundraisers for many worthy causes. Among these have been Arcadia school students raising money for their teams, clubs, competitions and extra-curricular activities. But this is a practice that Arcadia schools no longer allow. Why not? First, student safety. We simply don't want to encourage something that could put students in an unsafe situation. Second, to protect community confidence and credibility. It has been reported to us that young people who don't attend our schools have been going door-to-door raising money, allegedly to support Arcadia student activities. This practice defrauds citizens and also violates city ordinances on door-to-door solicitation. So our Board of Education supports a “no door-to-door” policy for student fundraisers. Third, it is sad but true that it can be anxiety-producing to have strangers at your door.

The purposes for fundraisers haven't disappeared. Arcadia is indeed fortunate to have so many outstanding opportunities for kids to be involved in *positive* activities and hone skills which will serve them well along with their academic education. While the District is able to support the basics, there are often additional costs that enable our students to compete with great success at the local state and even national levels. It is great that students are proactive in doing their part to support their activities; and we hope Arcadians will continue to be generous in supporting youth activities when asked by friends and neighbors. But if a stranger comes to your door claiming to be raising money for Arcadia student activities, tell them you know better!

