

July, 2011

Dear Parents,

It is with great excitement that I welcome you back to another year of collaboration, innovation, growth and celebration. We extend a warm welcome to those of you who are joining our school family, and we assure you that you've selected an institution that merits itself on high standards, academic rigor, and student inquiry. We intend to meet the needs of all of our students by using our constructivist approach to exploration and intellect. We will continue to foster a learning environment that is child centered, enriching and filled with lots of discovery.

We are committed to utilizing various partnerships in an effort to provide our students with a strong research based instructional model. This year we are please to inform you that our curriculum will be aligned with the **Depth of Knowledge** and the **Habits of Mind** frameworks, which will provide our students with a deeper level of understanding, and higher order thinking skills. Overall these frameworks will enhance our School-Wide Enrichment model (**Partnership with the University of Connecticut**) as students in grades Pre-Kindergarten through Grade 5 engage in their self select courses through our Renzulli Learning Systems, and their IIM research projects. Students will also engage in compact learning since it empowers them as they work independently and collaboratively. Our social studies and science curricula will be the "Vehicles" used to align and spiral our curriculum as we continue to adapt to the new Common Core Standards. We will maintain our partnership with Teachers College (**Columbia University**) Reading/Writing Project, in order to continue studying the best way children learn to read, write and communicate. We will also continue our partnership with AUSSIE in an effort to enrich our math curriculum. Our various arts consultants will be used to support and enhance our social studies curriculum on each grade level.

NEW SCHOOL SCHEDULE:

* Our school day for Pre-Kindergarten and Kindergarten classes will commence at 8:20am and will end promptly at 2:40pm, Monday thru Friday. All Pre-K and Kindergarten students **MUST** be picked up on time since their teachers have been assigned to other classrooms for our Extended/ Enrichment Day Program in Grades 1-5.

* Our school day for students in grades 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5 will commence at 8:20am and will end promptly at 3:18pm on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday (**on these days ALL students in Grades 1-5 will be a part of our school's Extended/Enrichment Day Program. More information will be shared during our Parents Orientation**) On Thursday and Friday the day will end promptly at 2:40pm for ALL students. Student must be picked up on time daily.

Afterschool Services

This year our Afterschool programs will begin as early as 2:40pm to accommodate our Pre-kindergarten and Kindergarten dismissal. Applications for our PTO and Kids Orbit programs will be available during the first day of school. We are requesting that you make arrangements for your children to be picked up promptly until you have selected your Afterschool Program.

More information will be available to you during our **First Day Orientation** which will be held at 9:30am in the auditorium. During the orientation you will receive a welcome letter from your child's teacher, a grade specific supply list, two blue emergency contact cards, and a lunch form. Within the second week of school, you will receive a curriculum letter outlining the instructional focus for your child's grade for the months of September and October. We look forward to working collaboratively with you this school year.

Your Partner In Education,

Sandra D'Avilar
Principal

Sandra D'Avilar, *Principal*
Deborah Smith, *Assistant Principal*

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