

August 1, 2009

Greetings Parents and Caregivers,

I trust that you and your children have been enjoying the delightful summer weather. It was a wonderful experience to meet and work with so many involved and supportive families last year. I am still amazed by the dynamic leadership of our parent organizations--the IDEA, the Foundation and the School Council. It is quite remarkable to see how fast the year flew. As the beginning of the school year approaches, it is my pleasure to welcome you and your children to the 2009-2010 academic year. There is an air of exciting change as we prepare to open the school to eager students.

As you may be aware, there is a significant renovation and remodeling project underway this summer. Funds from a state construction grant were used to replace the floors in the main floor of the school and remodel the media center. As often is the case, change also brings us opportunities for improvement. In the course of moving every single item out of the building, we were able to revisit prior reorganization plans that address space issues and classroom locations. You will be pleased with the changes we have made which includes new shelving and design for the media center, placement of all K – 4 classes on the main floor, and the beginning of a shift to place the 5/6 classrooms on the bottom level. I am also very pleased to share that our art room will now have a kiln! These are all changes that will enhance student learning.

This year, our school community welcomes the new families that will join us at Integrated Day. We also welcome the following teachers and college interns.

- Terri-Ann Woronecki will be joining our faculty as a full time vocal and instrumental music teacher.
- Corinne McOmbler will join our faculty as a 1 / 2 teacher.
- Debby Allard is returning from her maternity leave and will be teaching the 3 / 4 class.
- Julia Cronin will be our new middle school teacher for the year as Jason Deeble has requested a year's leave of absence.
- Laurie Gervasini will be our Special Education teacher until January 2010 while Kristen Maletz is on maternity leave.
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There will be two new Sacred Heart University interns, Maria Estrella and Rebecca Ann Bourque who will be with us for the year. Ms. Sengvilay will continue with us as a Sacred Heart intern through the fall semester. We anticipate that we will have at least two student teachers from Connecticut College in the spring of 2010.

The Integrated Day Charter School is the epitome of team work. Throughout the year I came to understand that it takes profound commitment and dedication to have this educational dream continue. This is a true learning community that genuinely strives to maintain high educational standards based on a philosophy of student engagement and empowerment. I would like to acknowledge and

thank our dedicated teaching faculty, June Morrone, our Assistant Director and 5-6 Teacher, the invaluable support of Sandy Quarto, who is our Support Services Manager and Carl Davis our Business Manager who keeps us solvent. In addition, I would like to recognize the many contributions by Myron Huntley and his team who kept us on target with building deadlines.

Integrated Day is a gem in the world of education; your support and involvement is essential. In this world of NCLB, many educators and families have lost sight of the real important aspects of education. Throughout the year we will continue to create opportunities to discuss those aspects, such as creativity, arts integration, social curriculum and the meaning of engaged learners.

The first day of school will be Wednesday, September 2<sup>nd</sup> with a 1:00 PM dismissal. Pre-School students will start on Thursday, September 3<sup>rd</sup>. Please provide a bag lunch for your child for the first two weeks of school through September 11<sup>th</sup>. There will be a half day schedule for every first Friday of the month. I am quite excited about the new academic year and very much look forward to meeting all the members of our school community. Enjoy the last month of summer and remember to encourage your children to explore and more importantly, ask questions.

See you soon,

*Anna B. James*

Anna B. James  
Director

