

August 1, 2011

Greetings Parents and Caregivers,

As we look forward to the new academic year, I am happy to share that the State Bond Commission released previously approved funds for mortgage debt repayment. You may recall that we were facing rather dire fiscal cuts and this amount will certainly help our school. While we would like to be in a position to reinstate all of the cuts, we will need to be fiscally prudent and plan for anticipated future cuts. We would like to sincerely thank all of our parents and community members who took the time to call or write to our local representatives. Please be sure to specifically thank Senator Edith Prague for her support and advocacy. I am sure that our Bond Commission funds would not have been released without her advocacy.

As we plan for the opening of school, it is delightful to see the involvement and commitment of our school community. Recently a committee of teachers met to revise and update our Parent Handbook. Please be sure to reread it as it has some modifications. I enthusiastically look forward to the new academic year and await our continued work with our many parent organizations. We will need to continue our work to proactively support our unique school. There are many opportunities for involvement, please consider participating in one of our parent organizations: our IDEA, the Foundation, the School Council or as a room parent.

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. I am very happy to announce that:

- Jessica Doro will join the third and fourth grade team. She has previously been an enrichment reading teacher and has a background in drama.
- Jude Maragliano will join the fifth and sixth grade team. He has been involved with hands-on science explorations at the American Museum of Natural History.
- With Beth Troeger's retirement, Melissa Dearborn will teach middle school language arts and will also be an instructional coach.

There will be two new Sacred Heart University interns, Andrew Burnett and Maryann Martin who will be with us for the 2011-2012 academic year. Ms. Maria Flynn 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 Mitchell College and three student teachers from Connecticut College in the fall.

The Integrated Day Charter School continues to be the epitome of team work. It takes profound commitment and dedication to have this educational dream continue. This is a true professional 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.

The first day of school will be Wednesday, August 31st with a 1:00 PM dismissal. Pre-School students will start on Thursday, September 1st. Lunch will be available for purchase on the first day. We are requesting that if your child plans to buy lunch for an entire week that you pay one week in advance. Please take notice of the school calendar, there is a scheduled half day schedule for most first Fridays of the month with the exception of September and April.

I am quite excited about the new academic year and very much look forward to meeting all the new members of our school community. Enjoy the last month of summer and remember to encourage your children to explore and more importantly, ask questions. As the beginning of the school year approaches, it is my absolute pleasure to welcome you and your children to the 2012-2012 academic year.

See you soon,

Anna B. James
Director