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Executive Director
Gary Bowman, M.S. Ed.

22 August 2011

Good day, CMP Learning Community, and welcome to a new school year (our eleventh year of operation). We are very excited to open our doors, and to offer students and families a tuition-free, high-quality Montessori education. We are pleased you have chosen to bring your children to our school, and we will do our best to provide an exceptional learning opportunity for every child.

This has been an amazing summer, as our CMP-Carmichael Campus and Central Office have relocated to the La Sierra Community Center (formerly 'La Sierra High School'). This facility has tremendous potential, and our staff has been working hard to prepare the campus for the first day of school. In other exciting news, CMP-Orangevale has added two additional classrooms this year, CMP-Shingle Springs has begun work on its 'Field of Dreams' project, and SJUSD completed the Measure J construction project at CMP-American River, making the front of the school safer and more accessible to students and families. I am very pleased with our network's current campus facilities, and am looking forward to constructing state-funded facilities in Elk Grove and Shingle Springs by the 2013-14 school year.

This summer has also been busy for staff: With expansion, we were able to hire 46 new employees. In addition, five of CMP's middle school teachers received out-of-state Montessori training (in Houston and Cincinnati), five teachers traveled to San Luis Obispo to participate in the highly-regarded Elementary Physical Education Workshop, and two administrators attended CSDC's Leadership Institute in Berkeley, CA. Many teachers began their Montessori training locally, while others received their age-level Montessori certification. This spring, we are looking forward to attending, en masse, the American Montessori Society National Conference, to be held in San Francisco.

This summer we received notification by the Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC) that, after 3 days of observation at each campus, followed by thorough reviews, each of our CMP schools had received the full 6-year WASC re-accreditation. This is a fantastic accomplishment, and is a direct result of the hard work and efforts provided by staff, students and parents. Further, we will be pursuing re-accreditation through the American Montessori Society during the coming year.

Another great achievement by our CMP team is the succession of exceptional, clean audit reports, as determined by external auditors. The principals, administrative assistants and central administrative team deserve recognition for their 'behind-the-scenes' efforts in this area.

And, as many of you know, five of our campuses were re-authorized by their sponsors, with the term of the Charter renewals extending through June 30, 2016. This is great news, as all of our charters have now been renewed through 2014 and beyond! Congratulations to our Principals and Education Specialists for their leadership at each of their sites.

On another note, the individual and grade level scores for the STAR California Standards Test Scores were recently released. Principals and staff are busy analyzing the scores by group and grade levels. Staff will be using this data to determine strategies for strengthening our program. Our overall scores have increased annually, and we currently have a network-wide Academic Performance Index (API) estimated at 835, which exceeds CDE's benchmark of 800.

Our budget remains sound, despite looming mid-year budget cuts. California schools are now experiencing their fourth year of budget reductions, and many districts are taking drastic measures to balance their budgets. With that said, CMP continues to be committed to small class size, high-quality instructional materials and effective teacher training. Last year, I appealed to the CMP Learning Community for revenue assistance, and you all responded in a wonderful way. Your donations were used to off-set classroom materials expenses and field trip costs. I appreciate your generosity, and I invite you, once again, to donate to your school, as you are able. I also thank you and your children for your generous support of our sister school in Haiti, La Casa dei Bambini, which had been ravaged by the earthquake. It was reported that the school lost both staff and students to the quake, as well as the destruction of the building. Thanks to you, we were able to send \$5,000 to support the rebuilding of the Montessori school, and, further, to show our unity with their community.

With a 'Decade of Excellence' behind us, we now look forward to the next ten years. As we continue our 'March to Excellence,' our dream is to prepare our students for the 21st century. I believe we have the exceptional opportunity to 'bring the dream into reality,' as we work together, with strength, wisdom and integrity.

Thanks, as always, for your support.

Sincerely,



Gary S. Boyman, M.S. Ed.
Executive Director/Superintendent