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Executive Director

Gary Bowman, M.S. Ed.

July 1, 2011

Dear Carmichael Campus Families,

The excitement of our facility move continues, and we now have more information to share with you. Gary has been negotiating all year with the owner of our current building regarding our lease. With the decision to split the campus, Gary requested a one year extension with the landlord to serve those students that were to remain at 4718 Engle Road.

Last week Gary received communication from Bryco, Inc. that we would be charged a rate equivalent to 150% of the current rate. This would equate to approximately \$40,000 per month for the 200 students remaining at 4718 Engle, not including utilities and other expenses. This amount is excessive, and, of course, greatly exceeds the current market rate.

Accordingly, the decision to move our entire campus to La Sierra was an easy one, even though the timing will be tight. Since we were able to obtain classrooms that were not previously available, allowing adequate space for all students, we realized this move would now be possible. The La Sierra lease per square foot will cost approximately half the amount of the 4718 Engle lease, leaving those funds to further develop our educational program and the facility for the children, where it should be used.

Carmichael Parks and Recreation is on board with us and is already moving forward preparing additional classrooms. As rooms are ready, we will move materials and furnishings over so the teachers may begin preparing the rooms for their students. The lower elementary rooms will not be ready by the first day of school, however, so these classes will be housed in temporary classroom space for a few weeks. We have offers from many CMP teachers from other campuses to assist our teachers in setting up their rooms. Several of these CMP teachers have experienced schoolwide moves, so they know it can be done effectively on a short timeline. Parent assistance in moving materials will also be greatly appreciated at that time.

As communicated previously, plans have been made to ensure separation of our school from other programs on the site. An additional locked gate with a privacy screen is being installed across the central hallway, and the remaining entrances are already fenced and gated.

The drop-off / pick-up areas are separated, and the use of the fields and gymnasium will be scheduled so we will have exclusive use during our PE and lunch/recess times. I will be hiring a staff person to monitor the hallways at all times to have oversight of our students when they leave their classrooms, and Gary has authorized me to schedule support staff for additional hours to provide more coverage on the field areas during lunch/recess times.

The CMP Governing Board will be approving a new Bell Schedule at their meeting in early August, although I expect they will approve the schedule as we have had at 4718. Since the split times will no longer be necessary, we will go back to an 8:30 start time for everyone and the dismissals at 2:00 for Kindergarten, 3:00 of Lower Elementary, and 3:15 for Upper Elementary and Middle School.

The staff and I are so pleased to know we will be together after all. As a team we can accomplish so much, and not only maintain, but develop further, the wonderful family community-feel we have come to appreciate at the Carmichael Campus.

We know not everything will be in place for the first days of school, but with everyone's assistance, we will turn this new site into another beautiful CMP campus that we will call "home" for many years to come.

Sincerely,

Kim Aldridge
Principal ~ Carmichael Campus
California Montessori Project