

Christ Church Day School

The most significant event in the life of CCDS in 2009 was the matriculation of its first junior kindergarten class in more than two decades. This expansion of the school is consistent with the school's mission of providing a Christian education to children in the community, in the Episcopal tradition. Halfway through its first year, the junior kindergarten class is thriving and integrating well with the rest of the school, in kindergarten through sixth grades.

Also at the center of the attention of the school this year has been the upcoming renewal of the school accreditation by the Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC) in 2010. The school is in the last year of its second six-year accreditation, and has been in the thick of the self-study process, which will culminate in a visit from the WASC visiting committee in March. We anticipate the continuing quality of our mission, policies, execution and leadership will warrant a renewal of our accreditation at that time for another six years, the highest rating given by WASC.

Although the past year has been a challenge economically for the school, we expect that by the end of the school year, CCDS will nonetheless be on track to meet its five-year fiscal plan. The economy had an affect on the school's enrollment this year, and we are working hard now to fill all classes to capacity for the 2010-2011 school year. It is always a balance to keep tuition increases reasonable to make the school accessible to an economically diverse student population, while at the same time providing a quality education in the Episcopal tradition. Tuition dollars are supplemented with fundraising efforts at the annual golf tournament/dinner auction in November, and the upcoming annual giving drive in the spring. Through the careful planning and follow-through of a committed school board, vestry and staff, the school is financially sound in carrying out its educational and spiritual mission.

This year, the dedicated teaching staff from the 2009-2010 school year was joined by a new junior kindergarten teacher and aide, and was led by Headmistress Nancy Roberts, to create a strong academic environment. The hallmarks of an Episcopal education include: academic excellence, honoring diversity, spiritual nurture, and critical thinking. The school's core academic programs are supplemented with a broad curriculum that includes religious education and chapel participation, and regular classes in Spanish, technology, music, art, and physical education. CCDS's child-centered, educational mission complements the church's mission, providing the parish with a wonderful opportunity to care for the larger community and to provide a lifelong learning environment for growth in the knowledge and love of God.

The school board is committed to its role of managing the affairs of the school consistent with its mission. We worked closely with the vestry this fall to coordinate our efforts to sustain a strong school and church. In October, the school board and vestry joined together for a workshop led by Serena Beeks from the National Association of Episcopal Schools to gain better knowledge and insights into appropriate parish school governance and operations. The current School Board consists of Kathleen Ireland, Alex de la Lama, Sandi McCarthy, Don McCleary, Ken McLeod, Amanda Preston, and me, with the rector, Edward Harrison, and the head of school, Nancy Roberts, serving as ex-officio members. I know they join me in expressing our appreciation to the parishioners, parents, staff and many supporters who contribute to making CCDS the great school that it is.

**Respectfully submitted,
Karin Vogel, President**