

January 11, 2010

Dear Villa Academy Families,

Happy New Year and welcome back from the holiday break! By now the students and staff have traversed the re-entry process and are back to the classroom and learning/teaching process. We look forward to a sustained period of time for engaging in the wonder of exploration and learning in the weeks ahead, building lifelong skills for the future!

A perusal of the school calendar and today's newsletter provides ample evidence that the admission season is in full throttle. Last Friday's Open House, the second of the year, was a fantastic opportunity for visitors and prospective families to see us in action by visiting classes, touring our building, and meeting our talented staff members. Of course, the students were the major "stars" of the day as evidenced in their enthusiasm for learning and positive manner of interacting with each other and their teachers.

Please encourage your friends, neighbors, and family members to think about a "Villa education" for their sons and daughters. We are looking for goodwill ambassadors to get the word out about what is going on here at the school, to encourage visitors and prospective families. We are well aware of the reality that "word of mouth" encouragement from parent-to-parent or family-to-family is a most powerful influencer.

Facilities Update: Over the Christmas break our facilities staff addressed several projects that require a window of time with minimal foot traffic, which the normal school day and/or week do not afford. The following list gives you a sense of time that was well managed and efficiently used:

- The Villa Parent Association Gift to School – The foundation for the new light was dug and poured at the top of the stairs leading to the back patio. The foundation was reinforced with steel. The conduit for the wiring was pulled through the foundation. The foundation is currently covered to keep it dry and allow the cement to cure. The light pole has been prepped for installation.
- The 2009 Fund-A-Need project – The new security alarm system for all buildings was installed. The fire alarm panel has been replaced. New fire detection heads were installed in all buildings. Testing has been conducted and the system is working. The burglary alarm segment of the project is still underway and should be finalized within the next week or so. The project is an extensive one, and Precision Alarm/Fire Systems West has done a great job on the installation of the new system.
- Chapel maintenance and repairs – The floor was refinished. New light bulbs were installed. Painting was completed.
- Work orders for repairs were completed in the classrooms and common areas in anticipation of the return of the students in January 2010.

Although our facilities staff is lean, Kevin Wright, Matt Piro, and Anh Nguyen are working hard to make our school a great environment for the children and staff. I hope that you will give them a good word for all they do to make Villa Academy a great school!

All my best in the New Year!

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Polly Skinner".

Polly Skinner
Head of School

