



5001 NE 50th Street Seattle Washington 98105

T 206.524.8885 F 206.523.7131

October 19, 2009

Dear Villa Academy Families,

On Thursday of last week, October 15, I served on a PNAIS school accreditation visiting team to follow up with one of the member schools of the Pacific Northwest Association of Independent Schools. I accompanied Meade Thayer, the executive director of PNAIS, to work with this school's administrators and board chair. Our task was to work with them on improvement areas subsequent to their most recent accreditation process. It was a valuable day for all of us and gave me an opportunity to reflect on our own approach to school improvement efforts.

The October 12 Monday Memo letter focused on the PNAIS Fall Educators Conference where the 23 Villa teachers attending had the opportunity to listen to and engage with nationally recognized educators on a variety of topics.

On October 24 and 25, next Saturday and Sunday, several of Villa Academy's trustees and I will attend the PNAIS' annual Institutional Leadership Conference for two days of workshops and labs on effective school governance. Again, we will have the benefit of working with some well-known and highly regarded professionals with backgrounds in finance, marketing and communication, and strategic planning. It should be a fantastic opportunity for us to learn and bring back information to our Board of Trustees and administrative team to assist us in our respective roles and responsibilities.

Many of you may already know that our accreditation is based on PNAIS' Standards and Good Practices, which are specific and exacting benchmarks for membership in the association and which ascertain member schools' excellence, viability, and sustainability.

As you can see, we are active participants in the opportunities and programs the Pacific Northwest Association of Independent Schools offers. Our motivation to be engaged members is rooted in our commitment to ongoing improvement, in an effort to be the best we can be in light of our mission.

Newsflash! We completed autumn Volunteer Training last Monday, October 12 and trained over 200 volunteers to coach, serve lunch, drive on field trips, work in the classrooms, etc. Thank you for attending one of the training sessions and thank you also for your active involvement in the school. It takes a Villa-ge!

Volunteer Training: Anyone who missed the Volunteer Training opportunities that just wrapped up, and who wants/needs to be trained, should "**Save the Sate**" - **Tuesday, January 26, 2010, at 2:00pm and 6:30pm**. These will be the final training sessions of the school year, so *please* mark your calendars.

God Bless,

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

Polly Skinner
Head of School