

Dear Parents,

In our effort to improve communication, we are adding new sections to our Website. You have already had the pleasure of regular information from Peter Simms, our music educator and community development director's, Community Pages. We are also updating the After School Program pages to keep you in the know! In addition to my blog, you will find Dr. Czaja's musings in a separate section - coming soon.

We are making other changes to our communications systems throughout the school. At the beginning of this year, our staff created a strategic vision, which is to have "a breakthrough in creating and reflecting a common, cohesive, institutional vision." With so many moving parts to organize a school community, this strategic intent is quite a challenge. I will be explaining more as we go.

Communication Goals for 2010-2011:

- Community Pages to keep you updated on school wide events, fundraisers and activities, as well as community partnerships such as the Venice Symphony Music Camp that will be held at IVMS again next summer, progress toward building a small performing arts center on our campus, volunteering opportunities, school store updates, and other worthy projects
- After School Pages to keep you updated on all after school activities
- Director's Notes to keep you informed of new directions for our school
- Dr. Czaja's Musings to keep you reminded of the Montessori philosophy at work
- Revised Program Description on the IVMS Website to update descriptions of all IVMS programs
- Specifically targeting more parents on our Email list - this is crucial for you to "be in the know" as we have been transitioning to Email correspondence. Of course, we will always be there for anyone who does not have access to computers. Just let us know.
- Detailed Parent Section with events and lunch calendars - to keep you up-to-date on lunch choices, field trips, fundraisers, and other related special events
- Classroom pages that are updated at least on a monthly basis (every three weeks at the middle school) to keep you current specifically on your child's learning environment
- Regular reporting of student progress to insure that there are no surprises and that every child has a unified team working on his/her behalf
- Web-based technology options for students to integrate school and home more effectively
- Revised policies such as technology, discipline, nutrition, etc.
- Staff section of the IVMS Website to keep you informed of current IVMS staff and faculty
- 24-hour response time to all Email correspondence
- Trouble tickets on our Website for technical support
- Revised school handbook, parent and student contracts, quarterly reports, etc.

This is, as they say, "the tip of the iceberg." We hope that our efforts will help deepen relationships between home and school. The more I work with children, the more I am sure that a good working relationship is critical for every child's success.

Thanks for being part of our school community!

Kym Elder