



August 2009

Dear Mirman School Family:

Every school year opens with the allure of the new, but this academic year promises to generate the excitement of adventure, exploration, and innovation as each of us encounters new dimensions of our school. What an invigorating time for all of us as we embark on the 47th year of Mirman School's history! The summer hiatus has been a productive period of institutional and professional development. The administrative and construction teams have worked to refine, refresh and sometimes reshape our school's physical and pedagogical environments; its technological and administrative supports. We set sail mindful of the powerful wake the school continues to cut in the waters of gifted education as it navigates the waves of the future and charts new gifted educational territories.

Our commitment to 21st century educational goals continues to be realized through the completion of our Promethean Board installations, the readying of the student laptops and the ongoing enhanced lesson preparations of our teachers. On the scientific, social, character, and global education fronts, the school has also realized some significant advances. As the result of their professional collaborations on our PSL Global Buddies trip to South Africa, Mrs. Simmons, Dr. Garrard and Ms. Maullin will strengthen and enrich the program's impact on the science, social studies, and community service curricula. They have visited wild life reserves, made new connections with a technologically compatible independent school in South Africa, and sustained the ecological and humanitarian work of our school-wide recycling program. Students can look forward to new dimensions in Lower School Science and, through the wonders of technology, have direct communication with and understanding of the global community to which they belong. Many of the artifacts of the trip will be shared throughout the year as the school embraces a study of the African continent and its varied cultures and histories this year.

We benefit from the longevity of our tenured teachers. We have, however, some new faces on campus. As always, please make them feel welcome to their new institutional family here at Mirman School. The names and short biographies of these new members are included in this mailing.

Welcome back to campus! We look forward to seeing you on your first day of official campus activity. The fall will present various opportunities to engage each other and celebrate even more innovations and developments for our students and our school. Enjoy the end of summer and remain energized for the opening of a great academic year. See you soon!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John Thomas West". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent initial "J".

John Thomas West
Headmaster

NEW PROFESSIONAL MEMBERS AND PROFESSIONAL SHIFTS AT MIRMAN SCHOOL

Please join me in welcoming new faculty and administrative members and in appreciating the professional renewal of others for the 2009-2010 school year:

Diane Baca [Room 1]: Ms. Diane Baca, an honors Cum Laude graduate from both Loyola Marymount University where she earned her B.A. in Liberal Studies and California State University Los Angeles where she earned her M.A. in Curriculum and Instruction, will add her five years of teaching experience to the well of professional Mirman School teaching resources. Having served as a GATE Co-Director and elementary school teacher in the Antelope Valley and as Science Director and Advanced Math Teacher for grades 1, 2, 3, and 5 at Carlthorpe, Ms. Baca will complement the educational expertise of Julie Clarke Hansen as her partner in Rooms 1. The opportunity to bring Ms. Baca into our community comes as the lamentable result of Mrs. Dana Taylor's necessary relocation with her husband to New York.

Bonnie Muler and Ryan-Marie Preuss [Rooms 3 MP]: Two beloved members of our teaching community return to the classroom and join forces after achieving some family goals they had set with communal blessing. Mrs. Muler will be teaching Monday and Tuesday (and will do any Monday/Tuesday field days). Mrs. Preuss will teach Thursday and Friday (and will do any Thursday/Friday field trips). They will rotate Wednesdays. Both teachers will be there all day the first week. They will both be there on the first few Wednesdays in order to let the kids get accustomed to the schedule. They will be together at Curriculum Night and all important school events for the rest of the year. The students and families of Rooms 3 will benefit greatly from the combined energies, expertise and care of Muler, Preuss and Walker of the combined Rooms 3.

Joe Norton [Room 2N]: Children have long benefited from the broad teaching expertise and experience of Mr. Norton. While most of our current families know Mr. Norton for his unique teaching dynamics and expertise in Rooms 1, many alumni parents can remark his work at other grade levels and as the LS Science Teacher. He will renew his professional batteries and produce exciting educational synergies with his long time colleague and friend Ms. Brown.

Grant Olds [Director of Technology]: A degree in Logic and Technology from Carnegie Mellon University and 7 years of technology experience in New York independent schools have preceded Mr. Olds' appointment as Director of Technology here at Mirman School. As we move forward in our 1-1 laptop program throughout the school and in the broadening technologies of our fully equipped Promethean Board classrooms, Mr. Olds' background as Apple Laptop Support Technician and Network Administrator at Packer Collegiate in Brooklyn and as Manager of Technology Systems at The Spence School in Manhattan provide new levels of confidence in our ability to implement and sustain our new educational technology. He becomes the competing member of the senior administrative leadership team.