

Fall 2009

Dear Prospective Kindergarten Parents,

Thank you for your interest in independent schools. We know that the kindergarten admissions process can be intimidating but we hope to relieve some of the stress and repetition for the children by coordinating a portion of it. Several schools have agreed to share the results of an independent developmental screening administered by Integrated Learning Solutions (ILS).

We have worked closely with the staff of ILS to ensure that they have a clear understanding of each school's admissions criteria. Our goal is that every child will find a school, which will be a good and appropriate match, where he/she will grow and thrive.

As you may know, a developmental screening is designed to assess the degree to which a child has mastered skills in areas such as language development, cognitive awareness and processing ability appropriate to his or her chronological age. The staff, executive director and principals of ILS are well qualified for this important task. The ILS staff is comprised of educators and other professionals who have many years of experience in working with independent schools and families throughout the San Gabriel Valley.

Parents are asked to schedule their child's screening appointment in accordance with the information and calendar provided in the enclosed materials. Appointments can be made online with ILS between September 21 and December 30, 2009. Please do not call the individual schools to schedule your child's screening as appointments will only be made through ILS.

Representatives from Integrated Learning Solutions and the consortium schools will be present at two parent information evenings. The first will take place at Barnhart School on Tuesday, November 17, 2009, and the second at High Point Academy on Thursday, December 3, 2009. Copies of individual screening results will be mailed to parents in February 2010.

Children will be invited to visit each of the schools to which they are applying. The emphasis placed on the developmental screening and the social readiness assessment will vary as each of the schools will have different priorities in terms of students who will be offered admission. Such factors as gender balance, diversity, sibling and alumni preferences, and number of available spaces can all weigh into the decisions made. We do, however, share a desire to discover the best educational match for each child.

We appreciate your interest in our schools and look forward to getting to know you and your children as the year unfolds.

Mary O'Neill
Barnhart School

Gretchen Lurie
Chandler School

Janna Windsor
Clairbourn School

Michele Poteet
Crestview Preparatory School

Marianne Ryan
The Gooden School

Marlyene Schwartz
High Point Academy

Averyl Thielen
Mayfield Junior School

Sally Jeanne McKenna
Polytechnic School

Christena Barnes
Walden School