



### ***Fall Update from Marcia Lee***

Summers are always fun for our staff as we have the opportunity to plan and create for the upcoming year.

One of the projects we have been finishing is a data-based program listing all of the AIMS Standards and where they are covered in our Textbook curriculum, our Montessori lessons, and our Hands-On Program. As each one of those are mastered they will be entered into the student file and you will be able to have a Progress Report each month at your conference indicating skills learned, as well as those needing focus.

We have now successfully licensed the back area and will be expanding the programs into that huge back room. In addition to the learning programs that will operate out of there, you will see an Art/Music Room develop, a Computer Lab and Graphics Program, a Photography Dark Room, Dance, Theater and Martial Arts, a digital Piano Lab for Piano Lessons, and Classes in Music Theory/Ear Training/Voice/Composition. The Science Lab will also take over part of that space during Focus Week along with the Living Language Conversational Spanish Program

Performances will now move into the Main Room, as we have outgrown the back area. A Holiday Performance, 2 Musicals, 2 Award Ceremonies, and an encore of the fabulous Talent Show have already been scheduled.

Our Focus Weeks are always a fun 'create'. We will send you a complete outline in August, but the opportunities promise to be so great you will want to take off work to join us. Art and Music will be expanding to offer more Field Trips to the Art Museum and Symphony Concerts. Our Science Lab will be set up all week for hypothesis and discovery as the children move from experiment to experiment in their new white lab coats. I can't wait to get pictures for our yearbook of that.

In our History/Social Studies Focus we will be combining with some other Valley schools to develop a sense of community and understanding of the power of a combined effort toward global change. Students and families will also have the opportunity to get involved in some community action projects as we learn to put in our exchange to our environment and the world. One entire Focus Week is devoted to Going Green – both in saving the planet as well as eating raw and taking a closer look at nutrition.



For the afternoon program, we are bringing in programs that will help cut down your driving time as you will be able to have Music Lessons, Dance, Theater, Art, .....etc....all right here at the school. Our new Gifted Program will have our 'Mini-Mensas' not just learning outside the box, but working with people and programs that will help them see the life application and opportunities that intellectual curiosity affords them. You will also begin to see our Adult Community Program expand into some Computer, Life Planning, Art, Music and Theater opportunities for adults. They will all be showcased in our Community Arts Bulletins.

YES! , we are expanding the grade levels up to the 4<sup>th</sup> grade next year, moving up each year until we reach the 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Program. Be sure and tell your friends. They do not have to have gone here through 3<sup>rd</sup> grade to enroll. Our individualized curriculum tests them to find out what skills they have missed, programs them to clean up those areas along with mastering the basics in the programs unique to just us, and then allows them to move ahead on their own toward certainty.....and it's FREE. You can't beat that!

Staffing update:

Every year we offer our staff the opportunity to evolve into areas of interest. It is only natural, also, that people move and evaluate their life and family needs. What is wonderful about the Horizon Schools is that the program and the teaching approach remains the same year after year and is not contingent upon the school management or staffing. It is a well-defined product that is carried out by an ever evolving wonderful group of people. What is nice is that you don't have to worry from year to year, as in other schools, who your teacher will be, as they all follow the same procedure and curriculum. That is how we achieve our valuable final product.

You will see changes and many new wonderful faces coming onboard. They will be in and out this Summer as they plan and prep for their new adventure, so we will all begin wearing nametags identifying our teaching area to assist you in passing on that warm Montage welcome.



Staff decisions are still being made, but here is the latest information.

Michelle has an opportunity to not work and put her full attention toward her family. She has decided not to return in the Director capacity, but will be assisting where needed in training the Special Ed Program Coordinator. In her place we have decided to have some of the behind the scene Administrators step into the role to ensure the quality of product continues and the program takes off successfully in all its new directions. I look forward to getting to meet all of the wonderful parents that go with these children that I have come to love and adore. Please don't be shy about coming up to say HI, even if we have met briefly at concerts. We will have a closer opportunity to meet at the Parent Orientations at the beginning of the year. Michelle has been a tremendous force behind the success this past year, and we are all forever indebted to her for her magic, fabulous sense of organization, and all the warm and endearing smiles she brought into our world each day.

Anna's husband has completed the Recording Arts School that brought them to Arizona. His business partner remains back East, and at this point it appears that that is the direction they will be heading. We will miss her enthusiasm and Montessori expertise, but wish her well.

Esperanza, Eileen, Kelli, Lindsay, Jill, and Renee all are on-board with the great plans for next year. What a fabulous team they all are. I can't wait to be working more directly with them day to day.

Pamela Azizi, whom you have seen all year volunteering, will now become a full-time staff member. She will guide and direct the Outside Learning Environment. We can't wait! Welcome Aboard!

Amy Zak-Urban will be taking over the morning greeting and front desk area, handling accounting, answering phones, setting up appointments, scheduling Events and Activities, After-School and Community Arts Programs, and directing the Focus Week opportunities.



Andrea Ward will also join her in making sure all our wonderful children get a great start each morning, organizing the healthy snack program where children will cut-spread-and mix their way through the day, as well as the healthy sit-down lunch Life Skill program. She will also be a part of the team planning and implementing the fabulous Focus Week Program, as well as taking over much of the Art Program while I continue with Music, Theater and Public Speaking. Several parents have voiced an interest in being a part of the Focus Week activities. Please be sure and check that box when we send out the G.I.F.T.E.D. (Getting InvolFored For Their Educational Development Survey) parent survey coming out in you Welcome Back Packet in July.

Liz Jovanovich will continue to monitor the Individualized Horizons Curriculum/Individualized Computer Lesson Plan Data Entry and Design, as well as the AIMS Testing coordination.

Chris Brown will continue to head our Computer Tech and Government Compliance Division. What a full time job it is reading all the government communications and submitting all those reports. We are so grateful for his passion and purpose toward that end so that we can put our focus toward the children and the program.

Beth Eliason will graciously continue heading the Accounting/Personnel Department. Now that's a challenge! Keeping us organized financially and legally ready for audits is a challenge beyond compare. This is her 11<sup>th</sup> year with our organization. THANK YOU BETH! We love you, and we love getting those paychecks!

WHEW! That's it for now. What a GREAT year full of memories we will all have together. I will keep you updated, but please call if this doesn't answer all of your questions.

Lovingly,

*Marcia Lee*

*Founder and Program Administrator for the Horizon Schools*