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Executive Director
Gary Bowman, M.S. Ed.

August 16, 2011

Dear CMP American River Families,

The beginning of the new school year is upon us and all the staff at CMP American River are excited to see old and new friends on campus again. The teaching and administrative staff is looking forward to getting back into the school routine and catching up with each and every one of you.

We had an eventful summer filled with construction and beautification of our Leighton Little John/ American River campus, thanks to the San Juan Unified School District and Innovative Construction Services. The contractors and landscapers are putting the final touches on the project, so please be patient awaiting the final product. Not only will it be esthetically pleasing, but will result in a safer and more accessible place for our students and families.

I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself to our new families and share with you my excitement for the upcoming school year as principal. I am now entering my eleventh year at CMP and nineteenth year in Montessori education. I have taught ages two through twelve in the private and public sector, taught grades 1st through 6th at CMP, and have been serving in administration for three years now. I had the great privilege of being mentored by Deanna Gardner, our former principal and founder of CMP, for ten years (eight years as a teacher and two years as Vice Principal) and look forward to carrying out her vision for excellence in Montessori education.

I appreciate all of the support the CMP American River community lent to my transition from Education Specialist (Vice Principal) to Principal last year. I am very proud to announce that during that time, the WASC Visiting Committee granted our school a six year accreditation! This was due in large part to the three CMP San Juan Campus communities working in partnership to really demonstrate to the visiting team and accrediting board, how special our school really is! I continue to feel honored to serve the students and families of CMP and to work with such an amazing team of teachers, paraprofessionals, administrative assistants, special education staff, and newly promoted Education Specialist, Debbie Williams.

I plan to continue with the notable work that has been done to increase student learning and provide a quality tuition-free Montessori education for all students. I believe my strength is building bridges with families and fostering a strong community feel on campus. I look forward to another wonderful year at CMP American River!

Sincerely,
Julie Miller
Principal