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***Executive Director***

Gary Bowman, M.S. Ed.

6 May 2011

Dear Members of the CMP-Carmichael Learning Community,

It is with great excitement I share the news about the relocation of the upper elementary/middle school program (grades 4-8) to La Sierra Community Center, located at 5325 Engle Road, effective August 1<sup>st</sup>, 2011. Students in grades K-3 will remain at the current location at 4718 Engle Road for a year or two, pending the availability and preparation of additional classrooms at La Sierra. While there are still details to be worked out, the Carmichael Recreation and Parks Department (CRPD) approved a 5-year lease (concurrent with our Charter Renewal with SJUSD), with the option of an additional 5-year extension. The facility provides many amenities for our upper elementary/middle school students which are not available at our current site, or at any other commercial sites we considered. Those amenities include expansive outdoor play areas, as well as access to a gymnasium and multi-purpose room. La Sierra also features an extensive parking lot, and safe and efficient drop-off and pick-up loops.

While we fully anticipate that the lower elementary students (grades K-3) will join the older students (in either 2012-13 or 2013-14), we appreciate the benefits for those students and families who remain at 4718 Engle. Specifically, fewer students at the site will result in: less congestion at drop-off and pick-up, improved parking conditions, improved lunch schedule, and the creation of an 'exclusive-use' Club M room. Please note that campus bell schedules will be arranged to accommodate those families who have students at both schools.

The move to La Sierra Community Center represents the sixth campus move I have been involved in since coming to CMP in June, 2004. Every move has its share of challenges, and this will be no different. There is much work which will need to be done in order to create an incredible and unique Montessori learning environment. Principal Kim Aldridge will be assembling a team of parent volunteers to support the successful relocation of the upper elementary/middle school students: there will be boxes to pack and unpack, furniture to be moved and walls to paint. Kim is busy organizing team members and responsibilities.

There are many details associated with the move and terms of the lease. I am aware of concerns related to the sharing of the facility with other programs, including two other schools. Kim is working with CRPD and the other schools to provide an environment which is safe and secure and independent of the other programs. CMP has also accepted CRPD's offer to provide full-time personnel to monitor the hallways and fields during the school day. Related to budget, there will be an initial impact related to classroom set-ups and moving expenses. However, most of those expenses will be offset by the addition of

approximately 60 students to our program. During the coming weeks, Kim will be providing important information to everyone, including schedules for parents who will have children at both campuses. We also welcome your ideas on how we can maintain our sense of community until the schools are joined again.

As we look toward the future, we envision a campus which can fully serve all of our CMP-Carmichael students, as well as a center that will provide for all the needs of our greater CMP Learning Community. In the mean time, we respectfully request that families not visit the site, or otherwise disrupt the current programs offered at La Sierra. We will be scheduling a community meeting in the near future to give families more details and to answer questions.

Please, contact me if you have any questions or comments.

Thanks, as always, for your support!

Sincerely,

*Gary*

Gary S. Bowman, M.S.Ed.  
Superintendent/Executive Director,  
California Montessori Project