



August 2010

Dear Whitby Families,

Welcome back to those of you returning to Whitby and a very heartfelt welcome to those families joining us this year. It is our hope that you and your children will find our Whitby community to be warm and welcoming!

Last year, Whitby improved upon its exceptional Montessori foundations and deservedly earned the designation of IB World School for both its Primary Years and Middle Years Programs. Our children have benefitted immensely, increasing their understanding of our global community while gaining exceptional academic and social skills.

What does this mean for the Parents Association? Simply, it expands our mission to help Whitby continue to grow, excel, and provide our children with the best educational experience available. These aspirations are lofty, of course, but they are obtainable with such a vibrant, diverse, and determined parent community.

That word, community, best describes the mission of the 2010-2011 Whitby Parents Association. Our school is certainly diverse: our children, parents, teachers, and administrators represent over forty different nationalities and speak over fifteen different languages. However, we as families have chosen Whitby because of our belief in the value of our children's education, creating a community of shared focus amidst a sea of differences that enrich us.

"Building our Community" has thus become the theme for this year's Parent Association. All of the usual opportunities to become involved are still there: Benefit Committee, Book Fair, Nutrition Committee, Garden Committee, Mayfair, etc. However, this year, we have the Communications and Technology Committee, focused upon enriching our children's education by optimizing communications within and without the school. Last year's move towards paperless communication will continue, with the development of web-based classroom pages (with periodically updated information regarding classroom schedules, etc.), a Whitby blog, and an improved WOW format. We are busily working on all these changes, and we plan to have them ready by the start of the school year.

The Parents Association hopes that you will join us as we move forward, as we cannot do it without the help and devotion of our parents. We want to know what your ideas and thoughts are, and we hope you can find ways to further your involvement here at Whitby!

We can't wait to see you all as your children once again light up our halls with their smiles and laughter!

Sincerely,

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