

Dear Newgrange Families,

We hope that this letter finds you well and that you've been enjoying your summer vacation. We hope too, that you've found the opportunity to spend some time with your children, family and friends having fun together. The days and weeks seem to have passed by much too quickly since our final day of classes last June and in less than a month, we'll be entering a new school year. Please try to enjoy the remainder of your summer break as we ready ourselves for what is certain to be the best year possible.

I wanted to take this opportunity to share some news about activities, events and happenings that have taken place here at Newgrange during the past six weeks. Beginning with our Extended School Year (ESY) program, we continue to see incredible amounts of growth in both size as well as scope of our children's learning opportunities. The ESY program has always been the cornerstone of our summer initiatives and this year has been no different. A concerted emphasis was placed on reading, writing, and math with an added focus on science, history and social skills. We also planned a number of special assemblies for the children, including the Mad Scientist, Eyes Wild Exotic Animals and the National Guard outdoor physical training events. And what would summer be like if we didn't go on a field trip to the Hamilton Bowling Lanes! A special thank you to all of the students and teachers who participated in our ESY in preparation for the new school year.

Staff Changes for 2019-2020!

Jeannie Cruz, one of our extremely talented job coaches, will be taking on the role of Transition Coordinator. Nicole Scheller, who was responsible for developing our extraordinary transition program will be leaving Newgrange at the end of October to pursue a career change. Ronelle Favocci, who taught a variety of subjects last year, will now play an integral part of our Transition Intensive Program (TIP). Lisa Anastasi has returned from her maternity leave and will be assuming her previous teaching position. Tara Ruggiero, who had been the long term sub last year in Mrs. Anastasi's class, has become a full time teacher assistant for next year. In addition, Sarah Casamaluapa, is returning to Newgrange as a full time teacher assistant, after having worked at Laurel School for several months. Two of our related service providers were married recently and have change their last names – Marissa Grossman is now Marissa Haley and Jovi Joe is now Jovi George. Lastly, as many of you are already aware, I will be leaving Newgrange School, most likely after the winter break and our new principal, Elisa Di Lolle, will

take on this leadership position. Ms. Di Lolle and I will be working together to assume a smooth and seamless transition as Newgrange continues to grow, expand and flourish in the months and years ahead.

Save the Date!

Our annual “Back to School Night” has been scheduled for Thursday, September 19th from 6:30-8:30pm. We hope that all of our families can join with us for this truly important event. You’ll be given an opportunity to meet with each of your child’s teachers as you begin to share and talk about goals and expectations for the months ahead. As we are all aware, parents and teachers working together as equal partners, will help to ensure that your child will experience a year filled with incredible amounts of success.

Enclosed, please find several attachments including our 2019-2020 academic calendar and important health and permission forms. Please note that the first day of classes for the students will occur on Wednesday, September 4th and we will be following an early dismissal schedule for the students on that day. On Thursday, September 5th and Friday, September 6th we will follow a full day schedule. Also please be aware that the calendar for September includes an early dismissal day on Wednesday, September 18th and a school closure on Monday, September 30th in celebration of Rosh Hashanah.

In closing, we want to express our most sincere thanks and gratitude for your enduring support of our school and our staff. We are truly looking forward to the start of classes in September 4th, knowing full well that your child will receive the best education possible. As always, we welcome your comments, questions, and concerns and we will be available throughout the upcoming weeks to speak with you if you do have any immediate questions.

Enjoy and have fun during the remainder of your summer and vacation!

Best Regards,

Bob Hegedus

