

November 29, 2016

Dear Parents, Guardians and Friends of Katherine Michiels School,

There is a buzz here at KMS as we are all enjoying the holiday season and the last month of the 2016 calendar year. Each day brings more joy, growth, learning, exploring and shared educational experiences with all the students at KMS. We invite you to visit our [website and blog](#) to see what the children and their teachers are doing today. Each year we invite you to come and visit us to see us and your children in action with our exciting school projects.

**Some of which are:**

- KMS is celebrating its 40<sup>th</sup> year of providing high quality and innovative education in San Francisco. *Where did the time go...?*
- Our ever growing garden and grass area, with our new Espalier Apple Tree (growing six different kinds of apples!).
- Annually KMS celebrates:
  - Elementary **De Colores Spanish Language and Culture** program Día de los Muertos altar. Come and see it in the month of November and December.
  - Thanksgiving **International Feast Day** where all our families gather and share their heritage.
  - **KMS Café, Art Fest and Graduation**. Watch for your invitations in the beginning of 2017.
- KMS teachers' classroom projects:
  - **The Peaches/Infant-Toddlers teachers** and their daily music, song, books, art and Spanish activities with our tiniest of students.
  - **Carlota Arteaga** and Pumpkins/Preschool are exploring building and engineering, with the children learning about the many different types of buildings there are in our city.
  - **Yolanda Ancheta and Andrea Quimson** have developed and enhanced the KMS Preschool science station with new, expanded materials and experiments.
  - **Gaydean Valdez, Stephanie Espinoza and the Summer Pumberries** worked on preparing for the new back deck/sand area in August. During the process they shoveled mountains of sand and unearthed some hidden treasures.
  - KMS celebrated our official 40th anniversary on October 18th, 2016 with a special ceremony in the KMS garden led by our elementary students. You can see our special messages to KMS and the garden hanging in the back yard. This project was led by KMS Atelerista and alum, **Alden Fletcher**.
  - **Charlotte Mosher** has been working with our Upper Elementary students the last year to incorporate more mathematics into their daily routine. She hopes to inspire students to love mathematics as much as she does.
  - **Randall Johnson** and special Engineering Teacher (and alum) **Sol McKinney** worked with Elementary to build their very own pinball machines. During this 3 week project, students learned about engineering, science and had fun! We hope to work more with Sol in the coming year.
- KMS celebrated our 17<sup>th</sup> consecutive year working with Reggio Consultant **Dr. Naama Zoran**. 2016/17 Naama will be visiting in December and again in the spring to continue to develop our engagement with the [Reggio Emilia approach](#). Naama continues to consult and provide weekly mentoring to the directors of the school.
- KMS participated for the 3<sup>rd</sup> year as a corporate sponsor of the Cristo Rey Project with Immaculate Conception Academy (ICA). This year, High school students work as interns in our Elementary and After School Programs.
- Under the leadership of Director **Vincent Arroyo**, KMS's **After School and Summer Programs** have all expanded to incorporate more art, theater, music, and movement. We look forward to more exciting programming with **Little Rivers Theater** this summer.
- **KMS Enrichment Classes** continue to grow and expand to our greater community and **Music Lessons** are coming in Spring 2017.

Each year we look forward to bringing in new ideas and gifts for our students and community. We continue to offer in house professional development, our great medical benefits and IRA Pension Program for all employees. These improvements are at the heart of our commitment to our long term employees and administrators. Your contributions have helped to make these goals possible.

KMS Directors, KMS Fundraising Committee, Open Mind and KMS Staff are writing you now as it is that time of year where we solicit contributions to our Annual Fund. We hope that you will be able to give to this year's campaign. No amount is too small. Please drop off a payment in your annual fund envelope or use the **DONATE TO KMS ANNUAL FUND** link below. We are aiming for 100% participation for Katherine Michiels School. Your participation will allow us to continue providing the highest quality in education, staff retention and appreciation.

**Our Annual Fund contributions are our main source of funding for an annual bonus given to all staff.** Members of the administration are not recipients of the benefits of this fund.

We are grateful to continue to have you as a member of our community and we hope that you and your family have much to be thankful for during this season of giving. Working together, with all of your help and support, we make a difference in building a strong school community. Please join us with whatever amount you are able to give.

[Donate to KMS Annual Fund](#)

Thank you in advance for your continued support of KMS.

Katherine Michiels, President  
Adriana Finnie, Vice President

Randall Johnson, Treasurer  
Jennifer Atristain, Secretary

Marisa González, Member  
Steven H. Bovarnick, Member