

Pacific Elementary School, IS 3rd/4th/5th/6th, 2018-2019

Dear New and Returning Parents,

Welcome to our Independent Study/ Collaborative Teaching and Learning Program's 15th year! The goal is to teach and learn together, creating another unique and dynamic school year for your families.

For those who are new, I am Terra Barsanti. This will be my 20th year teaching at Pacific Elementary and my 15th year coordinating and teaching the I.S. program. I received my teaching credential from San Francisco State University and my Bachelor's in Theater Arts with a Dance emphasis from UCSC. Before getting my credential, I specialized in teaching Creative Movement and Dance Theater with and for children, and worked in the schools through the SPECTRA arts in education program.

It gives me great pleasure to offer an alternative program for those families wanting something between the traditional 5-day classroom and traditional homeschooling. It is an honor for me to work with those of you who are dedicated to being more involved in your student's classroom education and are willing to collaborate with other families.

With a Math and Writing focus, we also add as many learning experiences as can possibly fit into our three classroom days. I normally focus on teaching Writer's Workshop, helping your children learn to love to write, as well as building their organizational skills and strategies. If you are new to our program, or have detailed questions, **please make sure and read our I.S. Handbook and Frequently Asked Questions on our school website, www.pacificesd.org**, in order to be informed and make our meetings run more efficiently.

Please schedule and attend the following two important meetings in August.

Let me know as soon as possible if these are not going to work for your family.

1) On or between **Thursday, August 16th and Tuesday, August 28th**, please schedule a half- hour to an hour-long meeting (new families mtgs. may take longer) in our classroom (**contact me by email or phone to schedule**). **This is your Individual Family Meeting:** We (student, parent/caregiver, and teacher) will sign contracts, select textbooks/curriculum, discuss your volunteering and our tentative classroom M, T, & Th daily agenda.

2) NEW DATE: On **Thursday, August 30th, at 5:30pm: IS/CTL Community Meeting in our classroom.** As a whole group (K-6th grades), we will meet to set the M, T, Th daily schedule that has been formulated so far in the Individual Family Meetings. **POTLUCK!**

Other Very Important Dates and Information

- **Wednesday, August 21:** PLAN TO HAVE COMPLETED AND SUBMITTED ALL 2018-2019 SCHOOL REGISTRATION PAPERWORK. Forms are available on our school website and the emailed *Back-to-School Registration Paperwork* memo. Remember to complete the online required [Field Trip Driver Form](#) to simplify our field trip planning. You will need your driver's license, registration, and insurance information.
- **Wednesday, August 22nd:** First official homeschooling date.
- **Tuesday, September 4th:** First official I.S. classroom day. **School begins at 8:40am.**
- Finally, a reminder to **pay ahead for lunches, BEFORE SCHOOL STARTS;** you may use your online banking to set up auto-pay for lunches, September 1 – April 1 (as well as for preschool tuition, after care, and Rec bills.) \$72 monthly for 20 student lunches @ \$3.60 each, \$43.20 monthly for 12 student lunches @ \$3.60 each (I.S.) and \$5.65 for each guest/adult lunch. Contact the school office for more information.

I'm looking forward to teaching and learning with you and your children in the 2018-2019 school year.

Sincerely,

Terra Barsanti, *aka* Ms.B.