



LA LUMIERE SCHOOL

Character • Scholarship • Faith

February 1, 2008

Dear Parents,

I spent the end of last week with a group of Headmasters at the Independent Schools of the Central States (ISACS) Annual Conference in Chicago. As many of you already know, ISACS is our accrediting organization, and hosts several conferences throughout the year. We spent considerable time talking about working to better our respective schools; we listened to a presentation by a professor from Duke University on how parent and student-athletes can maintain a proper perspective; we participated in a group discussion with Harvard professor James Honan about strategic leadership; we were enlightened and a little astounded by Jim Steyer's presentation on educating our kids in a digital age (a program I will have more to share on later); and finally we explored different financial models as well as group insurance options that could provide more comprehensive services for our employees. This was a rewarding conference as I too continue my life-long learning and professional development.

I came away from the conference having had the opportunity to reflect on where La Lumiere is now and where we want to be in the next few years. While proud of the students' and faculty hard work and our overall accomplishments, I am also mindful of *our* continued challenges. One ongoing challenge is to continue to provide both cultural and real life experiences for all students where they are introduced to something new, different, enlightening or inspirational.

A recent program accomplished the aforementioned goals for our students and faculty alike. On Martin Luther King Day, we had a moving tribute to Dr. King. After hearing from Dr. Mariam Nasidi and Mr. Delray Brooks, the students "marched" to Marsch Gym with candles, first in silence then in song. Singing hymns of unity, of change and of community moved and inspired our students and faculty. Forty years after his death, we continue to be influenced by the work, teachings, and efforts of Dr. King.

Many of you may already know that Dr. King was inspired by the work and writings of Mahatma Gandhi. These two political and spiritual leaders serve as inspirational models of how we can serve others. King wrote: *Everybody can be great, because anybody can serve... You only need a heart full of grace. A soul generated by love.* At La Lumiere, I am constantly and pleasantly surprised by the amount of service we do as a community. Gandhi said: *We must become the change we want to see.* Our students are becoming change agents and are making a difference locally *and* globally as we plan another service trip to Nicaragua over Spring Break, plan to do work for the local chapter of Habitat for Humanity, and host an on-campus blood drive in March.

On a separate but similar note, we hope more parents feel welcome to learn how they can become more involved in campus-wide activities and volunteer opportunities at the School by attending our monthly Parents Association meetings. The School-Parent partnership continues to be critical to our success in educating the whole child.

As we look ahead to February, I hope everyone has a safe and restful Winter Weekend. Attached I would like to offer you some opportunities for partnership as well as volunteer activities for you to consider.

Sincerely,

Michael Kennedy
Headmaster

Looking Ahead

****PLEASE NOTE THE DATE OF THIS OPPORTUNITY****

Learning Bridge Seminar: *Raising Resilient Children and Adolescents*

Being an ISACS School offers an array of resources and support. One such resource for parents and faculty is a program called the Learning Bridge Audio Seminars. These online and telephone seminars are accessible and affordable forms of professional development.

On February 4, from 12:00pm – 1:00 pm, the School will host a teleconference seminar on campus conducted by Dr. Robert Brooks.

Dr. Brooks will describe factors that help children and adolescents to deal more effectively with stress and pressure and become resilient. He will discuss (a) the importance of empathy in understanding and responding to children, (b) why some children from birth have more of a difficult time developing a positive self-image and resilience than other children, (c) the importance of identifying and reinforcing each child or adolescent's "islands of competence," and (d) specific strategies for nurturing self-discipline, self-esteem, responsibility, caring, hope, and resilience in our children.

****Please RSVP by February 4 (by 9:00am) to Beth Thompson if you plan on attending. ****

Valentines Day Dance

On Valentines Day we will host a student Mixer on campus. More details will be available on Edline in the week leading up to the dance.

Open House: Presidents' Day

February 18, 2008 11:00AM – 3:00PM

The greatest compliment that we as a school can receive is to have our parents recommend La Lumiere to other parents. While we have experienced wonderful growth, we continue to hope to attract as many strong candidates as possible for the limited available spaces. Our second Open House of the year will take place February 18. Please recommend La Lumiere to a friend or colleague.

Blood Drive sponsored by SADD

Our SADD Chapter has been busy organizing our annual Blood Drive in conjunction with the Red Cross. This year it will be held on March 26, but we need to assure the Red Cross of a certain amount of donors. Please contact Kasey Ryan if you can help us help the Red Cross.

Run for the Roses: Spring Fundraising Event

On May 3, 2008 please plan to join us for a *Run for the Roses: A Night at the Races for La Lumiere School*. This Kentucky Derby themed evening will include a silent and live auction, some real "horse" racing, and the opportunity to purchase/sponsor one of the "thoroughbreds" that will compete that evening. Look for information in the coming weeks as to what we need and how you can get involved.

Drama Performance: *Frankenstein*

You will certainly be entertained by our latest Drama performance of *Frankenstein*. Performance dates are February 28 at 7pm, February 29 at 7pm, March 1 at 7pm.

Summer School

In the next month, you can expect to see preliminary information about some of the summer courses La Lumiere plans to offer.