



March 1, 2008

Dear Parents,

A week ago, Colleen and I welcomed Patrick James to our family. While our older kids are helpful – and seven days later still accepting of this new addition – life in our household has changed. In the moments immediately following the delivery, I contemplated who this little being will become. I wondered who will influence this child the most and instill the values we want him to have. Most importantly, I am curious to know who will shape his character; will it be his parents, his siblings, Hannah Montana, his school, or the kids in the neighborhood?

I have always felt that it is a school's responsibility to do more than impart wisdom, teach theorems, coach, and instruct students to think and write critically. Parker Palmer, the author of our faculty summer reading, in his book *The Courage to Teach*, shared with us his view on the role of the teacher and the school. He explored what it means to teach, and most importantly what it takes to connect to the students. Palmer asserts: "The connections made by good teachers are held not in their methods but in their hearts – meaning *heart* in the ancient sense – as the place where intellect and emotion and spirit and will converge in the human self."

Palmer reminds us how influential we, as a faculty, are in shaping character and instilling values. "The soul and spirit of education can be found through a lifelong cultivation of the *wisdom* each of us possesses – and can share – to benefit others." This is accomplished through a connection with the student, and I take comfort knowing that as a parent, I have some "help." I am confident that the schools my children attend and the teachers they have will connect to them and have a significant role and responsibility in their social, emotional, moral, and physical development as they go through adolescence.

La Lumiere's mission calls for us to make these connections and to educate students in the spirit of character, scholarship, and faith; we proactively work to do just that on a daily basis. But we are also actively exercising these tenets when faced with the need to react to an adverse situation. When our kids do falter, when they make poor decisions, and when they don't perform their best, it is imperative that we as parents, and as a school, be firm and supportive in dealing with their setback. I believe it is our responsibility, and a sign of a great school, to live out our mission proactively educating students, as well as reactively dealing with the life lessons of being a teenager.

Fourteen years from now, as Patrick enters La Lumiere School, my hope is that he is prepared, as Palmer says, to *share his wisdom*, but more importantly to be open to those around him who are sharing their wisdom and talents with him and the greater community.

Have a great March, a restful Spring Break and a Happy Easter.

Michael Kennedy  
Headmaster

### ***Looking back***

As the basketball seasons came to a close, the end of February came with the campus pretty excited about some post-season happenings.

Our school play *Frankenstein* was a great success. One student commented to me that it is great to learn about the hidden talents of many of his classmates. I applaud the cast and crew for their hard work and efforts. Thanks to Rachel Anne Bradbury, Donna Blue Lachman and former parent Lannie Johnston for their guidance, direction and assistance.

Bookstore Basketball started this past week and for those not familiar with this La Lumiere tradition in its 16<sup>th</sup> year, this 3-on-3 basketball tournament involves teams (ideally) made up of a faculty member, a boy and a girl. While the team names, daily recaps, and opening and closing ceremonies are more entertaining than some of the games themselves, this is something that the students (and teachers) look forward to every year.

I want to thank our basketball teams for entertaining us throughout the winter. I would say the Winter Athletic Season was a great success. I have to say all of our teams have had their moments when they have been fun to watch. In the last girls' game of the year, I saw the progress and development they made in their passing, in playing defense, and in working together as a team. It was great to watch four-year varsity player Teagan Zubrys drain three three-pointers in a row. Then in the boys' game, we were once again entertained by the athleticism of De'Andre Haskins as he and Luka Mirkovic connected for the skillful alley-oop dunk.

I want to acknowledge the wonderful sounds from the pep band, the singing of Zach Gillis and Taylor Bonds, and the efforts of the parents, especially those of Deborah Sauers, who kept the snack shack going each of the home games. You all made the games fun to attend.

### ***Looking ahead***

Spring Break starts *Friday, March 7*. Resident students return *Monday, March 24* and classes resume *Tuesday, March 25*.

Over Spring Break, a dozen students will participate in a service trip to Nicaragua working the Fabretto Children's Foundation. This year, Mr. Patrick Kennedy and Mr. Phil Keck will lead the excursion to San Jose de Cusmapa, Nicaragua.

### ***Save the Date***

Alumni Event: All parents are welcome to join us for our Alumni Event at Goose Island Brewery on *Thursday, March 13 at 6:30 pm*. Please contact Casey Allen at the School for more information.

Red Cross Blood Drive: We need as many parents as possible to volunteer to give blood on *March 26*, the first Wednesday we are back from break. We have met or surpassed our goal the last few years.

Taste of La Lumiere – *Friday, April 4*

Call for Recipes! Plans are underway for our annual Taste of La Lumiere. This event is open to the public and showcases the incredible culinary talents of our diverse community. Please contact Dr. Mariam Nasidi at [mnasidi@lalumiere.org](mailto:mnasidi@lalumiere.org) with your family recipe to share that evening.

Run for the Roses: *A Night at the Races*  
*May 3, 2008 at Heston Hills*

Sponsored by The La Lumiere Parents Association, the proceeds from this auction, dinner, and actual "horse" racing will benefit the faculty of La Lumiere School. Invitations will be mailed soon.