



In Our School

University Preparatory Elementary – Mark Murray Campus ~ December 2008

Dear Families,

Happy Holidays! I hope you enjoyed a wonderful Thanksgiving with your families. The busy holiday season is officially underway and it is hard to believe that we are in the final month of 2008.



Our first trimester has officially ended. You can expect to receive your **child's first narrative report on Friday, December 5th**. If you have any questions about the format or the content of the report, please see your child's teacher. Of course, if you feel like you need to speak with me, I am always available but will ask if you've spoken to your child's teacher first. With our first round of exhibitions behind us and narratives going home this week, it feels like our educational community is beginning to take shape. This was especially evident during our Fall Fest. We had over 250 people attend the event. The food was good, having your name pulled for a basket was better, but the company was best of all. It was so nice to see so many of our families and staff come together for a good cause. From the volunteers who helped out Friday during the day with so many preparations; getting the bake sale together, putting the finishing touches on the themed baskets, and moving tables around, to the parents who sent in the \$5.00 for basket items, to those of you who invited grandparents and extended family members to the event, a HUGE HUGE thank you! None of this could have been possible without all of us coming together for our children's benefit. We raised a little over \$3000.....yeah us! The money will be used to help students attend field trips and other events that help to enrich our curriculum. We also learned many things that will make next year's event an even bigger success. I also want to thank our parents and staff for making our first round of exhibitions very successful. We had almost 100% participation. When home and school team together, your child is the winner. Exhibitions are an essential part of the UPA curriculum. If you did not attend your child's exhibition, you missed a fundamental belief and component of UPA's educational philosophy.

I am very grateful to our wonderful staff for making our first trimester such a success. They are some of the most dedicated and professional teachers I have had the opportunity to work with. We've had some stumbling blocks but these experiences have made each of us stronger educators. For me, the winter holidays are a time to remember those people who have touched my life in special ways. The holidays bring happy memories of time spent with my family and friends. I will keep each of you in my thoughts throughout this special time. My hope is that as you and your family prepare for the upcoming winter holidays, you are able to spend quality time together and make happy memories for all our UPA students.



On behalf of the entire faculty and staff of UPA – Mark Murray Campus, I would like to extend to you and your family our hope that you experience joy and happiness and create new memories during this wonderful holiday season, upcoming New Year and always. Remember, school resumes Monday, January 5, 2009! **HAPPY HOLIDAYS!** Kim Llorens, Principal