



St. Louis Language Immersion Schools Inc.

"To position all children for success in local & global economies through holistic, intellectually-inspiring language immersion programs."

April 4, 2017

Dear SLLIS Teachers/Staff and Parents/Guardians:

Happy Spring! As we prepare to move forward together into planning for next year and beyond, I wanted to take the time to celebrate and acknowledge the progress SLLIS has made over the past ten months. Sometimes all of us have our heads down in the work so much, we forget all that we have achieved. Indeed, all of you have helped contribute to making SLLIS better in some way and we thank you! Below are many positive points of pride for the entire SLLIS learning community:

- A modernizing facelift for the SLLIS website
- Part-time nursing services for students offered at both campuses
- Continued financial support for legal fees associated with teachers on initial or renewed H1-B visas
- Facilities Task Force Committee established by the Board
- Parent voice on a semi-monthly basis at the SLLIS Council
- School calendar for next year extends students' learning time both daily and annually
- Through cost savings efforts, reduced the projected budget deficit by almost \$100,000
- Board membership has increased from five to ten members
- Summer deep cleans of both campuses for the first time
- Partnership established with Operation Backpack students beyond the school day for food-insecure students
- Full-time human resources specialist hired to support staff directly
- Focus groups for parents seeking feedback on reorganization
- Strategic Planning process initiated and all SLLIS stakeholders invited to participate on 19 different committees
- Renewed focus on data-driven decision-making for student achievement and enhanced social-emotional learning through the establishment of Instructional Leadership Teams
- Staff received employment offer letters for the next school year on March 17, earlier than ever
- Teacher/Staff voice on a monthly basis at the Professional Welfare Committee
- Increased attention to vendor billing, resulting in additional cost savings
- Emerging teacher leaders offered specialized training on data-driven instruction
- All staff participation in February giving input on areas of strength, weaknesses and suggestions for how we can improve SLLIS
- SLLIS-wide staff collaboration days for IB unit planning
- Specialized administrator professional development at a thought series with the internationally-renowned educator, Dr. Michael Fullan
- SLLIS brought into full compliance for Title I for 2015-2016, and compliance policies consistently approved in an on-going fashion by the Board

Thank you for continuing to bring your passion and roll-up-your-sleeves attitude to SLLIS! We look forward to continuing working with everyone to close out the year in a positive fashion. I know I personally am excited to see the committee-work results of Phase II of Strategic Planning.

Sincerely,
Lilith Werner, PhD
President

P.S. Please be on the look-out for a communication April 14th announcing staff promotions for the next school year!