

November 1st, 2010

Dear friends,

It has been such a joy to be a part of Crestmont over all these years! It's still such a magical place, such a unique and wonderful resource. In my 20 years at Crestmont I found it to be a progressive environment that offered joy and a life-long passion for learning.

Through the years Crestmont has also been a stable environment in an unstable, crazy world. It's a constant that we grow to count on, a community that supports itself – a result of our commitment to our kids and then, naturally, to one another.

Crestmont is a place where extremely interesting families gather to do whatever it takes to create a happy, healthy, and stimulating environment for their children. And children are challenged at Crestmont, as are their parents. Over the years I have watched so many parents come into their own as a result of the responsibilities they have taken on. It is a remarkably safe environment in which to grow for *everyone* who participates: the kids, you and me.

We have helped children become aware of and involved in environmental and social justice issues, nurturing that innate care we feel for our fellow beings and helping kids to be their best. Crestmont graduates often go on to creative vocations, and many have gone on to do work that gives back to the world. Giving back – it's so important and it's one of the most important lessons at the heart of Crestmont. It's one of the reasons Crestmont has managed to continue to be one of the co-op schools that's has stayed a co-op.

At this school, in this community, we all step up and step in and together we make the difference that needs to be made. We do it for the kids and we do it for each other. It works and it's wonderful!

Helping children solve their own problems in a thoughtful, peaceful way was always a top priority. Loving all the arts and sciences was another plus, as well as the endless field trips! The produce market at 5 in the morning, visiting the elephant seals up close at Año Nuevo, camping at Del Valle, restoring marshlands, feeding the homeless, or going on night hikes at Tilden were all a weekly occurrence for Crestmonters. But we couldn't have done any of it without the wonderful parents who drove us everywhere and made sure everyone got the most out of the opportunities we created.

I think Crestmont represents a true model for the natural yet lovingly guided evolution of children, teachers and parents. Here's to another forty years of this wonderful school and this grateful community we're all so fortunate to be a part of.

I hope you'll do whatever you can to help us continue to make Crestmont possible in the spirit of giving back.

With thanks,

xoxo
Camille (Zulpo)



Dear Crestmontians, warmest regards and happy holidays!

Celebrating this 41st year of Crestmont School, we are grateful for you, the families that came to this little school before us, providing the resources and structure that enable our school community to keep growing and thriving. We continue to incorporate the talents and energies of the entire Crestmont community into our traditions and activities to provide our students with the most rewarding educational environment possible.

This is what makes Crestmont so unique and special: we are ALL in it together, past, present, and future families, creating a remarkable school for our children and those who will follow.

And in Camille's words we see so much that has made our school what it is – how we've managed to hold together and to thrive over the years. When she started in 1986 the school was less than half the size it is now – and yet we continue to deliver the highest quality education and experience for the kids. Because we do it together.

Because of the deep roots you helped put down, Crestmont is as wonderful as you remember it – and better than ever. We continue to be a co-op-run school which at some levels is very intentional – and at others is organic and is a direct product of our community. People come from all walks of life to bring their children here because they love their children and want the best for them – and they want to be a part of their education.

Crestmont is one of the oldest co-ops still running without a paid administration or head-of-school. We believe that's because of the way Crestmont was set up and has been held by the community, so successfully.

Our tuition is still the lowest among East Bay private schools as we seek to attract an economically diverse group of families. Our scholarship program continues to help people who need financial assistance. Maintaining a healthy reserve is essential and we're proud of our fiscal management. **The Annual Fund** is set up to direct funds towards scholarships, special programs, the **Teacher Endowment Fund**, and improvements to our facilities. In these challenging economic times, we need the support of each other, of our community. Our scholarship fund and financial assistance program have never been more in demand. That's why we're writing to you now.

Please show your gratitude for this school that made such a difference in your world. Will you make a new investment in Crestmont with a generous, tax-deductible year-end gift?

We invite you to make a year-end investment to ensure that Crestmont remains strong. We need your help, especially in the current economic environment. Together we are a strong community that supports itself. Together we provide the magic of Crestmont.

Thank you so much for all you have done, and continue to do, to keep Crestmont healthy and strong.

With love and appreciation,

The Fundraising Team 2010-2011
www.crestmontschool.org