



September 4, 2007

Dear Parents:

We are excited about the 2007-2008 year, and have added several new programs to our school. In addition to Title I (federally funded program to assist with Reading and Math) and ALP (local assistance for reading and math), our staff has chosen to create a new custom designed system for student management that closely aligns with the goals of the IB Programme and the mission and vision of Farmington Woods International Baccalaureate.

The IBO philosophy states the following: *The IBO aims to develop inquiring, knowledgeable and caring young people who help create a better and more peaceful world through intercultural understanding and respect.* To that end, the Farmington Woods IB staff has selected a new way to assist students in settling their disputes through conflict resolution. As such, this week all classroom teachers have introduced the following Peace Pledge to their students:

I Pledge to...

- Practice showing respect and tolerance,
- Empathize with others and offer a helping hand,
- Appreciate myself, others and the school,
- Cooperated with all the people in the school,
- Each day show enthusiasm and integrity.

The method of using the "Peace Process" to resolve disputes is being taught to all children at Farmington Woods by learning how to use "I messages" to resolve conflicts. The strategy being taught follows these steps:

- Tell how you feel about the situation using an "I Message".
- Listen to the other person tell how they feel about the situation.
- Tell what you would like the other person to do instead.
- When you agree on the solution, shake hands to signify that you have made peace.

After the children have agreed on their solution, and made peace, they indicate their agreement into the classroom "Peace Log". It is our hope that these lifelong skills will not only be effective in school, but carry over into all situations of childrens' everyday lives.

At today's writing we have 864 students enrolled at Farmington Woods, with new students joining us each day. As you may have noticed, our campus has expanded, and so has our teaching staff. We hope you are able to join us for "Open House" on September 13th, where you will have the opportunity to be introduced to the entire staff. The PTA meeting begins at

7:00 p.m.; classrooms will open immediately following the meeting, with two identical thirty minute information sessions.

Sincerely,

Frances Venezia
Principal

Please help us ensure ongoing safety.

If you are changing the method your child will travel home, please write a note to your child's teacher. Do not call the school to leave a message. Safety measures require parents sending a note to the classroom teacher.

- Walkers are released at 2:50
- The lot in front of our school is to be used for car-pool only.
- The bus lot is an active place. We discourage parents from parking in the "bus lot" to pick up walkers, as spaces are at a premium and a free flowing area is needed for busses. Instead, we ask that children join the car-pool group.
- When you drive into the bus lot, remember to park in marked spaces only. If you walk through the lot with your child, know we consider the bus lot a "hand holding" zone. (No children are permitted to walk in the in the "bus lot" unaccompanied.)
- All parents and visitors must enter the school through the front door.