



Kaleidoscope

THE NEWSLETTER FOR THE CENTER FOR INTEGRAL EDUCATION

A New Gem Found under our Rainbow!

It seems that every year in our Fall edition Kaleidoscope, we have something wonderful and outstanding to share with you. This year is no different. We are delighted to announce that in the Fall of 2006, CIE will be opening the doors to our second school location, the Integral Elementary School of La Jolla! When some things happen, you feel the stars are in alignment, and you know you are on the right track. So it was at the end of this summer, when we found out about a charter elementary school location in San Diego that would be available in the Summer of 2006. The landlord was looking for interested leasing parties, and we just happened to find out about it through a forwarded email from one of our supporters. It was amazing how perfect the timing was, how ideal the location was, and how reasonable the price was. After a month and a half long bidding process, the landlord finally chose us, and we understood once again that the universe is supporting this vision for education.



this marvelously large new location, to go ahead full steam, and open up to serve all the elementary grade levels, rather than just the first few. Of course this means much ramping up in a relatively short amount of time, but we are up for the task, and feel it would serve both CIE and the community the best. We'll continue to maintain our low student-teacher ratio of 10 to 1.

Selecting a name for the new school proved to be a somewhat challenging process. We debated whether or not to keep the rainbow theme as we moved forward. In the end we decided that it had too much of a young-child feel and association with it, and that it would not work well as the children grew older. The team considered many possibilities, and ultimately decided on the simple and straightforward name of Integral Elementary School of La Jolla. We made our final decision on the auspicious date of Nov. 17. We've selected a blooming white lotus flower with a flame in the center, surrounded by rainbow colors, as the logo for the new school.



We have lots of work ahead of us this year, as we market, raise funds, and lay the infrastructure for the new school. One of our board members works for a PR and marketing firm, The Monday Group, and we have decided to hire them to help us successfully let the San Diego community know about its new school. We will also be conducting community presentations regularly, and already have the first one scheduled for January. We will be starting an extensive fundraising campaign as well, as we must fill our new school with desks and chairs, computers, a science lab, curriculum materials, office furniture, etc., etc. We are hiring Dan Spinner, who has a wealth of expertise in this area, and who has worked with us in the past, to help lead us in the right direction for this very important task (see the article inside for more info). Lastly we will continue to develop all the curriculum, policies and procedures, teacher training, hiring criteria, and the like, over this crucial time. There is much to be done, and we feel your support. We couldn't have made it this far without you, and we are so grateful. For those interested, we will soon be sending out a call to join our school-building team. If you have a specific area that you would like to help us in, please let us know.

To follow our progress and stay in touch with what is happening, please visit our newly redesigned CIE website, www.IntegralEducation.org. From there you can see the latest postings about the new school, as well as information about and pictures of the Rainbow Kids Integral School. Together we are creating a unique school for Life-Long Learners. It is a New Education for a New Consciousness!

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The Rainbow Kids Integral School is now in its fourth year of operation. We have officially started our elementary school program with a classroom of Kindergarten to 2nd graders. Our large 3-room preschool is bursting at the seams, with full enrollment of about 85 students (both full and part time). As we grew over the last year, we knew we would need another place to expand into soon. We thought we might be able to make it for one more year, but it would be very tight. As the universe now would have it, however, we won't have to.

We will still keep our wonderful preschool for 2 ½ year olds through Kindergarten, at our Mira Mesa location, but we will move the elementary school program to the La Jolla school site. This will then free up another classroom for the preschool, and we will be able to serve even more young children in that community. The elementary school will open up for students in Kindergarten through 6th grade. We have been in the process of developing our elementary level curriculum, and decided, given

A New Education for a New Consciousness

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Prapanna Smith

As you can imagine, there is much excitement in the air due to all the progress CIE has made, and with the bright future it has ahead of it. We have come a long way from being a lofty vision to becoming a viable functioning preschool, and now we are moving towards a new phase of growth that will witness the inauguration of the first Integral Elementary School in the US! It is impossible to convey to everyone the joy I feel in my heart and the deeply felt gratitude to all who have made this progress possible.

There is so much to share, so many people to thank, and so much more to say than is possible to go into here. However, one thing certainly needs to be addressed, and that is what is ahead of us. There is much work to be done between now and next summer in order for CIE to be able to create the kind of school we are aspiring for. Our wonderful preschool

has always been intended to become a base for our primary goal, the creation of an Integral Education school for school-aged children. Now that we have this strong foundation upon which to build our future we have arrived at yet another important and crucial phase in the manifestation of this beautiful vision. The Mother put out the call for the manifestation of such a vision when she said, "An integral education which could, with some variations, be adapted to all the nations of the world, must bring back the legitimate authority

of Spirit over a matter fully developed and utilized." All we have to do now is step up once again and respond to this call.

So what, specifically, can we, as individuals and as a community, do? First, spread the word about this school and its vision. It is said that each human being is connected by only seven degrees of separation to every other human being on the planet. One never knows who in one's circle may have that crucial line of contact that will bring significant resources. Second, come visit us anytime you are in San Diego. Or, better yet, make a special trip to San Diego to witness first-hand our work. One can best appreciate what is happening here when seen through one's own eyes. Third, make a financial contribution in whatever amount you are able. Any amount, large or small, helps to create the channel for additional funds to flow through. Fourth, facilitate our speaking tour next year by organizing a time and venue, and inviting interested parties, for a presentation about our work. I will personally go anywhere I am called to share our work and vision with prospective supporters. Finally, and this is important, if you are, or know of anyone in our community who is, an educator who could become highly dedicated to our vision, please let us know.

Again, let me extend my warmest wishes and gratitude to all who have helped make our school become a reality. We have come a long way, but still have much to do. I invite you join us and help in any way you can in creating a New Education for a New Consciousness.

First Integral Elementary Classroom is Launched

Our very first elementary classroom for Kindergarten to 2nd grade was launched this past September, at the Rainbow Kids Integral School. Into our fourth month now, we can say that it is developing exceptionally well, as the children are already showing personal growth in individual areas, as well as in group activities. They are all motivated to learn while expressing joy in the process. Each of them is on the path to discovering themselves and exploring the world around them.

Getting the classroom ready this summer was no small task. Our back room area had been the storage room for all our extra furniture, materials and teacher resources. The task of cleaning out all these materials or making space for them elsewhere was process in itself. When that was done, we painted, replaced the carpeting, added a new wall and door, and renovated the children's bathroom.

Much time was also spent in designing the layout of the classroom, as we wanted to create a warm, inviting and stimulating, yet structured setting. The main subject areas, such as language, science, math, and social studies, have separate study centers in the classroom. This allows for teacher directed rotations of small groups of students, as well as allowing students to pursue their interests at their own pace without the distraction of other activities that may be going on elsewhere in the classroom. A large space in the center is used for discussion groups, dance, music, and yoga.

Our largest investment this year was for the reading library, which has benefited the children tremendously. We purchased hundreds of books, and the children have all developed a high interest in reading due to the wide variety available in both topics and reading levels. Across from the library is our language arts center where the children work on their creative and practical writing skills. Next to that is the science center. There we have experimental and activity stations, and the children all pretend to be young scientists, acting out their part to the fullest. Along these lines, the students have also designated our nice side yard as a science and experiment zone! Next to the science

area is the math center, with plenty of hands-on activities so that the children are engaged in learning math concepts used in the construction of bridges, buildings, etc., as well as setting up shop with fractions, time, and money concepts. Moving to the other end of the room we have the computer center, where the children work on educational programs that supplement their curriculum subjects.



Then we have the art area, stocked with all materials needed for creative expression. These art materials are changed frequently so that students are exposed to various mediums, which allow them to broaden their creative skills. Next comes our society and culture center, where children explore things like the people and places of the world, both close and far away.

When we began this elementary program we were ready for the challenge to make it as integral as possible, and we were also excited about being the first to experiment with these concepts in the US. In this short amount of time, we have learned a great deal already. This year has been one of exploring many learning strategies within the whole classroom environment. It has been challenging, yet will culminate in a steady growth of development for the students, the school, and ourselves.

Kids Corner

Code of Sportsmanship

Keep the rules. Keep faith with your comrades. Keep your temper. Keep yourself fit. Keep a stout heart in defeat. Keep your pride under in victory. Keep a sound soul, a clean mind, and a healthy body. Play the game.

A Good Sportsman is:

- **Courteous** - *In school* she is considerate to authorities, the fellow students, and the teachers.
- **Modest** - *In school* he does not become conceited over success, nor does he feel superior to his classmates.
- **Generous** - *In school* she appreciates another's merit.
- **Game** - *In school* he does his work, even in the face of almost certain failure. He has the vim & pluck to think and act straight.
- **Obedient** - *In school* she observes all the regulations.
- **Fair** - *In school* he does not waste his time nor that of the teachers. He is always honest.

-- "Code of Sportsmanship" is from *Introduction to Physical Education* by Jackson R. Sharman

-- "A Good Sportsman" was adapted by the Mother from the same book



"A Gem in the Making" \$300,000 Fundraiser



Starting a non-profit school is a rather daunting task. While team building offers its challenges, and generating a clientele to serve requires a certain marketing savvy, funding a phased growth school with multiple start-ups represents a huge task, particularly since there are no investors who stand to gain from the school's operations. The only way to get a school like ours up and running is through the financial support of individuals and organizations that hold our vision for education near and dear to their hearts. Together, we have been successful in creating the Rainbow Kids Integral School. Now, it is time to take the next step and launch the first Integral Elementary school in the United States.

Our new elementary school will have a technology lab, a state of the art science lab, library, meditation/serenity room, and Integral Education centers structured within each elementary sub-grouping. Grades 1-3 and grades 4-6 each will have a free flowing system of classrooms and integral centers. A team of highly dedicated teachers will educate, guide, and nurture the students in their fields of knowledge, while maintaining a low 10:1 student-teacher ratio. Our curriculum is developed to promote interest, motivation, and creativity in each child. In addition to all the major academic subjects, and while using the California state standards as a guideline, the integral

curriculum also includes character development, self-reflective exercises and journaling, a physical exercise program that involves an emphasis on awareness through the body, yoga, meditation, and world culture.

It is a very ambitious program, however we know that it is what is needed to give our students a truly integral and cutting edge education. And we need your help to achieve this. Our goal is to raise \$300,000 over three years in gifts and pledges, to make this school the best it can be. We've included a gift/pledge form with this newsletter. Funding is crucial at this juncture, and we are asking that you **please consider giving the most generous year-end gift** as you possibly can. Note that your contribution is 100% tax-deductible.

There are other ways you can help too. Spread the word to other interested parties, especially to those who genuinely care about the future of education and children. Offer your services in your areas of expertise. Host a presentation at your home or elsewhere, to let people know about this important work in progress (we will travel to you). Know that however you choose to support this vision and its manifestation, it is all gratefully accepted and appreciated. Thank you so much for your support.

Insights from the Mother



A Need of the Hour

"We are not here to do (only a little better) what the others do. We are here to do what the others cannot do because they do not have the idea that it can be done. We are here to open the way of the Future to children who belong to the Future."

"It is not for our family, it is not to secure a good position, it is not to earn money, it is not to earn a diploma that we study. We study to learn, to know, to understand the world, and for the sake of the joy that it gives us."

"Constraint is not the best or most effective principle of education. True education has to unfold and reveal what is already present in the children. They open themselves in joy just like flowers to the sun."

-- The Mother (Mirra Richard Alfassa)

Rainbow Kids Art Work



Cori G. - 6 yrs old



Michele E. - 5 yrs old



Rainbow Kids Integral School



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"A New Education for a New Consciousness!"

www.RainbowKidsSchool.com
www.IntegralEducation.org