



Dear Prospective Parents:

Thank you for your interest in *Palo Brea School*. We are a unique school that believes meaningful – enduring – education comes from experiencing joy and having fun through learning that involves mind, body and spirit. Students achieve this education through real life and nature-based adventures that challenge and inspire them toward their full potential.

The lead teacher will be **Ms. Beth Giacalone**, an experienced teacher who truly connects with our children. She has many years of teaching experience and for the past several years has been a Faculty Associate in the Early Childhood Education Department at Arizona State University. She is also an author, researcher, and former Assistant Director of a well-respected private school here in the Valley.

Palo Brea School currently serves the upper elementary grades with an impressive student to teacher ratio of 8:1. Students will achieve academic excellence in a caring, safe, environment which includes organic food, student-directed and experiential learning, and excursions in our natural environment. Learning methods are based on extensive research in the field of child development.

The curriculum will include abstract and functional **mathematics** through outdoor exploration and **writing** to include journaling, poetry, personal reflections and practical communications. Students will choose group study books and **reading** will include various genres such as mysteries, fiction, non-fiction and fairy tales. **Spanish language learning** will be incorporated into everyday activities. **Social Studies** is explored through research on various cultures and traditions; exploration of how societies, tribes and towns function and community service projects. **Science** will be explored through real life projects involving applied sciences (inventions, building), earth sciences (physics) and life sciences (biology, gardening). **Physical Education** is integrated into the entire curriculum and is taught through specific activities such as sports, hiking, dancing, and neighborhood exploration. **Music** will include history, theory and practice. This is just a small sampling of the types of studies that will take place this year at *Palo Brea School*.

The *Palo Brea School* is currently interviewing prospective students and there is no charge to apply. Upon acceptance, a deposit and registration fee is required to hold your child's spot. Application for new students is open at this time and subject to space availability. School records and progress reports are required from your child's current school.

Thank you for your interest in our school. Enclosed is a packet of information designed to help you learn more about our school and our teaching philosophy. Please feel free to contact Vanessa Chamberlain at 602.432.3707 or Beth Giacalone at 602.751.7090 should you have questions or wish to apply.

Yours warmly,

Vanessa and Beth
Palo Brea School

