

Dear Khalsa Families,

Khalsa Montessori School will be entering its 50<sup>th</sup> year soon. We have grown slowly and carefully through the years to where we are today with three campuses and a program that spans education for children ages 18 months to 14 years of age. We have officially completed this school year today. Phew! What a year it has been! There have been so many challenges to overcome and innovative solutions created that it is hard to choose where to begin.

At the beginning of the school year we reopened the Palm campus after extensive reconstruction for the middle school and toddler programs. This new campus is a beautiful new addition to our school's campuses. The primary campus has undergone several upgrades in the last several years. We will be focusing on the elementary campus this summer as we complete our planned refurbishing of our existing properties.

We have had challenges with faculty as have all schools in Arizona. Keerat stepped back into the classroom to meet this specific need in January. Then COVID hit and in-person instruction was canceled. The staff swiftly responded by creating on-line learning hubs for each level, learning packets and a host of unique videos on our Khalsa YouTube channel. Parents responded with ingenuity to support their student's learning. We have all tread new paths in this unusual time.

We have emailed parent/teacher summaries, requested parent feedback through surveys and posted the Upper Elementary final year research project presentations on the Khalsa learning hub. All typical activities in May have had an altered version this year. We will keep the learning hubs up through the summer and add some material to support parents with their own learning hub.

At this time we are eagerly preparing for the 20-21 school year. We welcome new Lead Teacher staff for the Lower Elementary East classroom and Middle School program. We are grateful that a majority of our staff will continue with us into the new school year. Keerat will continue to support the transition of the LEE classroom. She will also fully embody the Education Director role and provide guidance and support across all program levels. In addition to the Education Director role, Keerat will support the Special Education program at Khalsa. We are grateful to have her expertise in these areas. With this role change, Karen Paxton will step into the role as School Director. Her history with Khalsa Montessori School will provide for a smooth transition of leadership as we move into the next 50 years of Khalsa Montessori School. The Khalsa community is fortunate to have strong leadership from classroom Lead Teachers across all programs to Administration.

Finally, we usually gather tonight and celebrate the completion of another successful school year. We will not have the picnic this year as large gatherings are not appropriate at this time. We sincerely acknowledge the persistence and efforts that have characterized this year. We have learned so much of what we never imagined we would and have come to appreciate each other in new ways. Gratitude for each other and the whole Khalsa Community stands out as we look forward to next year.

We look forward to seeing everyone in person in August.

Blessings of health and wellness,



Karen Paxton and Keerat Giordano