

# Merci & Gracias

What a terrific year this has been for the spirit of volunteering at Saint George's. As the Parents Association secretary, I would like to share with you a great event and a generous program we offer at the school — the Staff Appreciation Luncheon and the Merci Program. Both of these give parents an opportunity to thank our teachers and staff for all the hard work they do for our children.

For the past two years, the Staff Appreciation Luncheon (SAL) has been coordinated by our wonderful volunteer Debbi Cavalieri. She has been nothing short of amazing! No less than 30 volunteers show up to help her every year at this spring event in the Davenport House. Debbi and the parents donate raffle gifts, bring in food, help with set up, clean up, assist with the raffle, and generally cater to and fuss over the teachers.

"I offered to coordinate the SAL because I have a great deal of admiration and respect for the faculty and staff at SGS," says Debbi. At Saint George's, "the child's education is tailored to the individual needs of the child. My daughter has benefited from this tremendously."

As volunteer Kris Schulte adds, "I just like the chance to show and say how much we truly appreciate their work, day in and day out."

This past year I have had the pleasure of coordinating the Merci Program, where parents volunteer to bring in lunch for the teachers once a month. The response to this program has been nothing short of amazing. Sandwiches, homemade soups, salads of all types, desserts, seasonal fruit and more came through every division door!

Parents were generous with their extra event tickets as well. Tickets to sporting events, symphonies, and plays came in to Elizabeth Tender, who held drawings to dis-

tribute them. Staff member Debra Romaneschi said, "I love the symphony and enjoy going. The experience was great and you get great seats!"

Two parents summed up for me the value of this program. Ramona Higashi says

**SGS parent volunteers support staff in welcome ways**



it is "to let the teachers know how much we appreciate all of their hard work and dedication that they make each day to give our children the best education that they can offer." Helen Poppel notes, "My motivation is simply that I love my children. I recognize that Saint George's teachers are dedicating their professional lives to enrich my children's lives."

Merci and SAL are only two of many opportunities to get involved here at Saint George's. We also have the Parent Association and the Class Ambassadors Program, as well as International Day and activities in each division.

Finally, the Merci Program will change its name next year to the Gracias Program. Spanish is now the school's K-12 second language, and I would like the program to reflect this change.

I was honored to help out, and I look forward to seeing another year of enthusiastic volunteers when the 2010-11 school year arrives. Merci and Gracias!

– Teresa Luders, *Merci/Gracias*  
Program Coordinator

**Just some of the parent volunteers who prepared and served lunch for the faculty and staff on April 7**