

*From the desk of Maribel Zubieta-Diaz...*

Next September we begin our 87<sup>th</sup> year under the same family leadership, continuing our mission and philosophy of global education.

What does global education mean to CEA? Global education at Conchita means a rigorous academic program based on humanities and sciences and developed by applying what we've learned to real life situations. It's discovering new ways of using and sharing information and developing critical thinking. It's developing the ability to connect with different people and learning to compromise. It is understanding multiple paths of expression through the arts: music, dance, visual arts, theater, and writing. It's awakening a curiosity for different cultures, ways of living, and ways of thinking while recognizing we are all citizens of one world. And finally, it's developing a sense of purpose, fulfillment and the joy of improving our world.

Technology will take over many of the jobs we see today, thus our students have to be prepared for a world we have not seen and will require skills that aren't found in a workbook or memorized – computers can do that. Our children will need a strong academic background that allows them to discern what resources they need to consult. They will need to develop the ability to articulate their thoughts and feelings clearly and relate to others. And most of all, they will need the fortitude to work hard for what they want, learn from their failures and exhibit the resilience to get up and try again.

As technology shrinks our world, the demands for effective and efficient communication increase; therefore, students need to be multilingual. Studies have shown that being multilingual sharpens executive functions such as mental flexibility, behavioral regulation, memory, and allows for greater focus. Knowing another language increases cultural understanding and can stimulate empathy.

We can be sure the world will continue to change, and technology will play an increasingly large role, but it can't take the place of our humanity. We will continue to educate our children to be strong, thoughtful, compassionate leaders, intelligent, resourceful, caring followers, and to have the wisdom to know when they should lead and when they should follow.

The Espinosa Method of education is not about grades; it's about learning. It's about how our children use what they've learned to help them find their way. We all want our children to be happy, but they also need to know that things can go wrong and they will fail at times. But we instill in them the idea that they are strong enough, smart enough, and compassionate enough to work through the failures and be stronger, smarter, and more compassionate on the other side. This is part of life.

As we end the year, please look at your children, listen to your children, and see how they are becoming citizens of the world for the world.

Have a blessed summer!

Much love,

