



February 2018



A Message From

Ryan C. Eisenberg, Executive Director

The AchieveKids Community Extends Internationally!

The launch of our second semester is a time of great excitement for AchieveKids. It is a semester where we plan to come together as a community between our campuses, where we will be hosting special education professionals from throughout the world, and where we will be visited by our local government representative.

We are excited to announce a two week visit from members of Therapy Focus, a non-profit organization based in Perth Australia, dedicated to working with children and adults with disabilities. This learning tour partnership enables their team members to visit our schools, meet with our educators, and share learning on a larger scale. With this visit, we'll also be hosting a Special Needs Professionals collaboration night, featuring professionals throughout the Bay area, and our special guests from Australia, for a night of shared learning and community building. I want to express my deepest thanks to all of the local schools and organizations that have volunteered to host our guest for different days during their visit, as it demonstrates our shared appreciation for enhancing our services through community, respect, and collaboration.

In late March we have another special guest. Assembly Member Ash Kalra, our state representation for our San Jose school, and member of the Assembly Education Committee, has asked to visit our school. We appreciate his engagement on addressing the teacher shortage, and his insight into enhancing and advancing outcomes for students in special education. In preparation for his visit our students are exploring what **Learning for Life** means to them, and how state government impacts their daily lives. We are thrilled to be able to host Assembly Member Kalra and appreciate all he has done for our community.

Together We Can Achieve!

Ryan C. Eisenberg, Ed.D.
Executive Director

Save the Date!

Annual Spring Play by AchieveKids Students

Friday, April 6

11:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

Celebrating Autism Awareness Month at our Palo Alto Campus

Seventh Annual AchieveKids Reach for the Stars BBQ

Saturday, June 2

5:30 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.

Palo Alto Campus

STAR Award Honoree: Phil Bookman

Spotlight on one of our new Board members:



Venous Farsad joined our Board of Directors in December 2016. Ever since childhood she has felt a special bond with children. In her adult life, she gravitated toward children's studies and causes, studying child psychology in college and doing research for two years on fragile X and Down syndrome with babies and mothers. Venous also had the privilege of volunteering and working at three of the nations' top pediatric hospitals. When asked what makes her most excited about being a board member she said, "The passion and talent of the teachers, administrators and staff. I am in awe of the incredible team at AchieveKids. They care so much about the kids and want success for every child. Their enthusiasm and dedication is infectious." She sees our biggest challenge as getting the word out to the greater public about who we are and what we do. "People may not know about AchieveKids because public

schools have greater name recognition and more students. I joined the board because I want to help create awareness of AchieveKids and make a difference by contributing to children's causes in a significant way." When not working as a marketing communications manager for Wilson Sonsini Goodrich & Rosati, Venous enjoys hiking, traveling, writing, going to concerts and salsa dancing. We are very honored to have Venous as a Board member. Welcome to our team!



Happy Valentine Day from all your friends at AchieveKids!

For more information on how you can sign up for a school tour or to learn more about our program please contact: Karin Klarreich, Director of Development at 650.213.5286 or kklarreich@achievekids.org

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