



# ACHIEVEKIDS

## NEWSLETTER

SEPTEMBER 2022

### CHANGES AT ACHIEVEKIDS



The summer of 2022 was a busy one! All of our staff were engaged in professional development activities throughout June and July. There was much fun and frolic on both campuses with summer fun special activities. We also spruced up our classrooms and playgrounds and expanded the library on our San Jose campus. After a three-week break, we kicked off our 2022-2023 school year on August 15.

The summer also brought the news that Ryan Eisenberg, our Executive Director for the past six years, was moving on to another opportunity. As part of Ryan's transition, we created a new Head of School position. Stephen Crook, our School Director in San Jose, stepped into this role in July. He is a great fit for this role and we are excited to see how he helps our programs evolve and grow.

In turn, I accepted the role of Interim Executive Director to help keep AchieveKids vital and strong as we complete a search for our new Executive Director this fall. For those of you who do not already know me, I have been with AchieveKids for 40 years and have worn many hats, including Residential Programs Director, Director of Human Resources and for the past 20 years, the Associate Director. It has been a privilege to contribute to AchieveKids all these years. We make a difference every day, and it brings a smile to my face to know I've helped along the way.



As we bring on new students, new staff and new leadership this fall, we are excited about our possibilities. One of the defining qualities of AchieveKids is our ability to be agile when circumstances demand or when opportunity arises. Change brings challenges and fresh perspectives, and I have confidence that together we will continue to meet students where they are and empower them to get to where they want and need to go.

Thanks for your support, and please do not hesitate to reach out if you have a question, concern, or words of encouragement.

Jean Spurr, MSW  
Interim Executive Director

### A WELCOME FROM OUR NEW HEAD OF SCHOOLS, STEPHEN CROOK

Parents and Caregivers,

For those who don't know me, I was the School Director in San Jose for the past 4 years and had the pleasure of leading that campus and forming connections with the team, the students, and our families. As we enter this new school year, I am excited for the opportunity to serve as the Head of Schools, overseeing both our San Jose and Palo Alto campuses. I take great pride in being chosen for this role.



As the Head of Schools my overarching responsibility will be to lead AchieveKids schools and educational programs, providing oversight and guidance to our program design, content, our curricular offerings and structure, and our school program operational processes. I am a firm believer in the importance of connections amongst all of our stakeholders to ensure each and every student is afforded the best quality education possible. We all play an essential role to create opportunity in the lives of each student and to drive their growth and personal development forward. I very much look forward to all of the possibilities ahead and to supporting the ongoing success of AchieveKids!

Stephen R. Crook, M.A.  
Head of Schools