



Check out
our new
CWC
sign!!

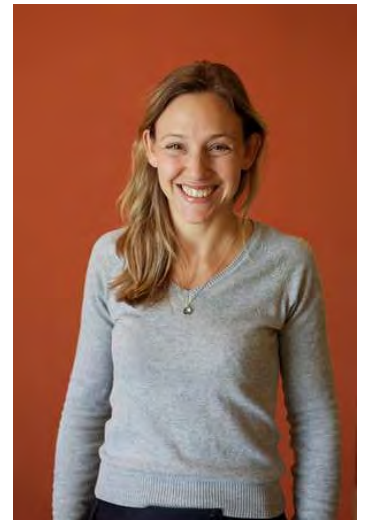
Parent Newsletter

Vol. 2

August 17, 2010

Hello CWC Families!

I hope this letter finds you well! As you can imagine, We are extremely busy and have many updates to share with you since our last newsletter. In spite of having quite the to-do list, Amy Dresser-Held and I continue to become more and more excited about how everything is coming together. It's incredible to watch a vision of a school unfold from being something on paper to becoming a reality. As our staff grows and our site gets increasingly ready, I'm truly inspired by the collective spirit, detailed work and thoughtfulness that it takes to start a school like ours from scratch. I am thrilled to have all of you as part of that and for the opportunities in the next coming weeks to bring CWC students and families together to further solidify our new school's community.



With that, it was wonderful seeing many of you at the first annual **CWC Family Festival!!!** It's been a huge amount of work to coordinate this event and I want to send a huge **THANK YOU** to Diana Harlin and her co-chair, Alison Tatlock, as well as the many other volunteers who helped to make this happen. We hope you had fun while your kids immersed themselves in things like cape decoration, painting, and, of course, the bouncy house! Most of all, I hope you and your family were able to meet and have fun with other families and CWC staff.

In this newsletter, you'll find lots of good information including: many of our bios for new staff members, info about the first day of school and much more. You'll also see a list of frequently asked questions I put together with responses, which hopefully will help to orient you all the more as the school year approaches. Happy reading!

Best,
Marissa Berman, *Principal*

Staff Updates/Bios:

In addition to our Lead Teachers, the rest of our team is being filled. At the end of this newsletter, you'll see bios for many of our founding faculty. In addition to the team members you see there, we are still finalizing our last two Teaching Assistant positions as well as our Music Teacher. More on those positions soon.

Generally, we're thrilled that, in addition to myself, Amy and Lily (our administrative support hero!), Daniela Cosentini started this past week as our Family Support Coordinator. Daniela is excited to join us, coming from a charter school in Chicago most recently. Welcome Daniela!

Even though our official orientation for teachers doesn't start for another week, our Lead Teachers have begun the fun process of collaboration and planning. They've been excited to begin getting to know one another while sharing their collective years of experience and teaching resources.

In the meantime, have fun reading about our amazing teachers and staff in this newsletter.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

- Sunday, August 29: Work Party #1
Location: CWC, Time: 11 am – 4 pm
Come help with site preparation projects.
- Sunday, September 12: Work Party #2
Location: CWC, Time: 11 am – 4 pm
* Please note, this work party is instead of the work party on Sunday, September 5th, the change due to the Labor Day weekend.
- Monday, September 13: FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL!!! 8:30 AM – See you there!
- Stay tuned to more park play dates in the next coming weeks before school starts.
- Very soon we will be sending out a final calendar for the year.

*******MARK YOUR CALENDARS*******

CWC CONTACT INFO:

Just a reminder about how to reach us these days. Since we've officially moved, please note the new street address for mailing us anything. We're getting our official new phone lines soon, which will publish as soon as they're set up.

- ❖ **Principal: Marissa Berman**
marissa@citizensoftheworld.org
- ❖ **Executive Director: Amy Dresser Held**
aheld@citizensoftheworld.org
- ❖ **Administrative Support: Lily Aure**
lily@citizensoftheworld.org
- ❖ Mailing address:
Citizens of the World Charter School
1316 N. Bronson Ave.
Los Angeles, CA 90028
- ❖ We are also checking voicemail regularly at the following phone number:
323-454-2220.

Photography, Tech and Greening Needs

We are looking for parent volunteers who are professional photographers (or equivalent in expertise), those who have experience setting up computer/wireless networks and doing website development, and landscapers/gardeners. Is that you? Contact Marissa Berman at marissa@citizensoftheworld.org.

First Day of School CHANGED to September 13th, 2010!!

Although we've talked to many of you on the phone and in person about this, we wanted to make sure that everyone knew that our first day of school is going to be **Monday, September 13th, 2010** and NOT September 8th.

After careful consideration and getting more input from some members of our community, we decided to push the start date just three days to **September 13th**. We apologize for any inconvenience this may cause your family – we know that coordinating childcare is challenging. In all future years, we will not only be starting much closer to Labor Day, but we will also adopt calendars well in advance and avoid changing them unless absolutely necessary.

There were multiple reasons to postpone the first day of school including honoring the Jewish holiday of Rosh Hashanah, aligning the start day to area public schools and allowing maximum time to ensure the site is optimally prepared for the beginning of school – considering that we're managing the coordination of several construction projects, many of which are being done by LAUSD contractors. Above all, we want to make sure the start of school is as solid as possible, so we thank you in advance for your understanding and look forward to seeing you at the work parties later this month and in early September.

Our gentle beginnings structure will not be disrupted due to this shift. Students will be in their Gentle Beginning groups Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday. Teachers and myself will be making personal phone calls to all families after that third day of school to notify you of what classroom your child will be in to make sure you have that information before our fourth day of school, Thursday.

-- Amy Dresser Held & Marissa Berman

FRIENDLY REMINDERS

- * The FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL is Monday, September 13, 2010 and will run from 8:30 – 1:30.
- * The first three days of school will be early dismissal (Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday).
- * School will always begin at 8:30 AM, with drop-off to classrooms starting at 8:15.
- * On Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays school days end at 3:15 except for the first three days of school.
- * On Wednesdays there are shortened days and school ends at 1:30.
- * ALL FIRST THREE DAYS OF SCHOOL ARE EARLY DISMISSAL AND END AT 1:30
- * Enrollment forms that were sent with the first newsletter are also at the end of this newsletter.

PARENT SURVEY COMING TO YOU!!

This week, you will be getting a parent survey through the online tool Survey Monkey. If you have never used Survey Monkey, we think you will find it easy to use. You will find the survey delivered straight to your email inbox. Included in the survey will be questions related to after school and morning care, parent volunteerism and more. We will also be printing this survey out and distributing to people who are not online as well as handing it out at work parties. Thanks for participating!

HOT LUNCH AT CWC!

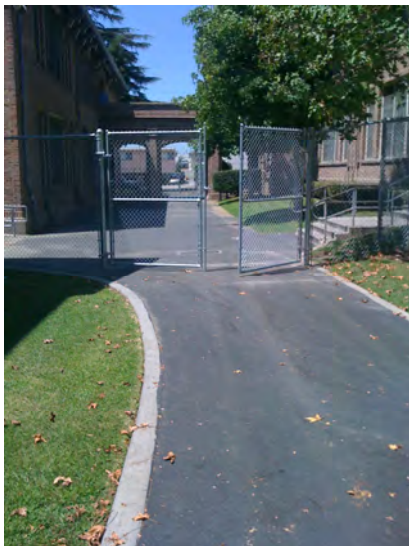
We are getting close to choosing a hot lunch provider. We've had several tasting sessions with different providers and have narrowed it down to our favorite. We are finalizing the details on cost with them, but will have news on this shortly.

The good news is that we will be providing lunches that feature all natural foods and a good portion of organics as well! More soon.....

Monday, August 16th Site/Facilities Update

As you know, we moved into our new site and have begun the process of nestling into our administrative offices there. We've continued to build on the early relationship with the Le Conte staff, that we started forming back in the spring. We've seen some good progress with the site. As you'll see in the updates below, construction projects related to both our interior and exterior partitions are nearly done. We feel confident that these partitions ensure that our campus is appropriately separate from the middle school. Please read below for an overview of what's been going on.

- Exterior fence to fully secure the campus installed week of 8/9. Other fencing needs (access to field, etc.) to be completed week of 8/16.
- Signage installed week of 8/9
- Interior wall partitions being installed on the first and second floors the week of 8/16
- Bathroom construction on the first and second floor to lower bathroom sinks started by LAUSD the week of 8/1 to be completed by 8/30
- Classroom and office furniture and computers to be delivered by LAUSD 8/30
- For displaying of student work, we are installing cork-like boards in classrooms and around our hallways. These boards will be installed by the end of the week.
- Cable wires to hang student work being installed 8/16
- We have been collaborating closely with the heads of the Sunset Bronson Studio, as we work out how to manage with them a smooth pick-up and drop-off system through our parking lot, which is adjacent to their studio and Fernwood St., a thoroughfare they use. More info about that to come.
- Come see the site and help us beautify and prepare the classrooms at work parties scheduled for 8/29 and 9/12 from 11am-4pm.



Exterior fence



Bathroom sinks being lowered



Our new CWC sign

Ten Frequently Asked Questions

1. How will the hot lunch program work?

Although we are in the process of finalizing our hot lunch provider as well as the payment structure for this program, we are excited to report that students will be served lunches with natural foods including a number of organic foods as well. This lunch program is not mandatory but instead is something families can buy into if they would like to not make lunches at home. A schedule of meals will be provided by the month and families can decide how much they would like to purchase ahead of time for their child. Families who meet the income eligibility for free or reduced price lunches will have to fill out an application. If you haven't already done so, please let Daniela Cosentini, our Family Support coordinator (dcosentini@citizensoftheworld.org), if you need such paperwork. Even for families who are participating in our hot lunch program, we might be asking families to provide a morning and afternoon snack, to ensure students have enough food in the day to feed their brains and sustain their energy throughout the school day.

2. Will teachers at CWC be referred to by their first or last names?

CWC students will refer to their teachers and most adults at the school by their last name. We wanted to make sure that all people involved in our school community were attracted to and felt comfortable within our learning environment. For this reason, we've decided that using last names helps us toward that goal.

3. What is the system for dropping-off and picking-up my child at school everyday?

Although the details are still being worked out, we are structuring a smooth system to drop-off your child in the parking lot adjacent to our school building. In fact, we've been working with the Le Conte leadership and the Sunset Bronson studio to determine how best to build out a roundabout in our parking lot where parents can safely deposit their children into the hands of CWC staff each morning. If you are dropping your child off from your car, the Principal, Teaching Assistants and a small squad of parent volunteers will be there each morning to help shepherd students to their classrooms. If you are parking your car and walking your child in, we will encourage you to park on Bronson, as there will not be enough space in our parking lot/drop-off area.

4. How many students will be at CWC this first year?

In the first year of our operation we will have 100 enrolled students. Although, we initially discussed having 120 students, 3 - kindergarten classes and 3 - 1st grade classes we found that it would be more beneficial in our first year to maintain a small school population. While more 1st grade applicants have approached us since this decision in early August, we had already achieved with 100 students our model, at the 1st grade level, of having a mixed-income and diverse student population. Therefore, we felt that we needed to shift our focus and preserve the sense of a small school by only having 2 - 1st grade classes. In doing so this will allow all the families to build a strong community amongst each other and to allow for more long term relationships with not just your child's specific class and teacher but the school as a whole. This will not increase the amount of students in the classroom but will allow us to maintain the balance of our mission to serve a socio-economically culturally and racially diverse community.

5. How can people participate before school starts?

Come to the work parties! The two Sundays, August 29th and September 12th, will be organized opportunities to get parents involved in school beautification efforts as well as classroom set-up. August 29th will be more focused on larger school projects and the 12th will be focused on helping teachers with those last preparations to make their classroom ready for the first day of school. If we are in need of specific efforts on other days, we'll certainly let you know and appreciate those who have already helped with previous projects.

6. What school supplies will I need to obtain for my child in preparation for school?

Each grade level team of teachers will be publishing a list of school supplies that are needed to fully stock the classrooms at that grade level. These lists will go out next week and will give parents plenty of time to purchase things on that list. These school supplies will not belong to your child individually but will go into a shared stock of supplies for all classrooms – markers, crayons, tissues, etc. Teachers have thoughtfully put together such lists, considering what they need to structure and supply their classroom. Thank you in advance for helping us with these supplies.

7. Given that you just moved into the site, how can parents get a hold of CWC staff members between now and the start of school?

We have just moved into our new site, so instead of sending things via snail mail to our PO box address or our temporary address at the Wonder of Reading, you can now send things (enrollment forms, etc.) to Citizens of the World Charter School, 1316 N. Bronson Ave., LA, CA 90028. As far as phone, our new lines will be working shortly. In the meantime, we still regularly check messages at 323-454-2220. We will let you know when our new phone lines are up and running. Also, email is a great way to find us too! As you can imagine, we are incredibly busy so please allow us 24 hrs. to respond.

8. Will there be uniforms at CWC?

At the start, we will not be using uniforms at CWC. Students should adhere to appropriate and comfortable kid-wear of their choosing. It feels important to have children exercise some independent decision making when picking things to wear to school each day as well as clothing being an important and early form of self-expression. If, as a community, we want to discuss changing this in the future, we will do so through the forums of both the Family/Principal's Council.

9. How can I get my enrollment forms to you and when do you need them by?

You can mail in your enrollment forms to the address above before school starts or bring them to any of the work parties in the next few weeks. It will be very important to get immunization records and other forms prior to the first day of school. The needed enrollment forms were included in the last newsletter and can also be found at the end of this newsletter too.

10. In addition to helping at the work parties, are there things we should be looking out for that the school needs in start-up mode?

Right now we are waiting for the bulk of our furniture to come from LAUSD as well as from the several businesses we've ordered from. Additionally, we are looking for the following things, ideally to be discounted or donated: Planter boxes/containers/pots, a few pieces of comfy furniture for our teacher resource room, 4 comfy office chairs, a microwave, small fridge, and pillows for student libraries

CWC STAFF BIOS

Daniela Cosentini
Family Support Coordinator



Ms. Cosentini earned her Bachelors degree in Humanities and Elementary Education from Wheelock College in Boston. She moved to California this past summer after working as the Literacy Coordinator for a K-8 charter school in Chicago. Daniela also has experience as a classroom instructor and has taught both fourth and fifth grades. She is so excited to work closely with the students, families, and staff of CWC and looks forward to being part of a team that welcomes diversity, works hard, and holds high expectations. In her spare time, Daniela enjoys yoga, reading, playing guitar, and visiting museums.

Vivian Lee
Kindergarten
Lead Teacher



Mrs. Lee is thrilled to be part of the founding faculty at Citizens of the World. Although she has worked at several charter schools in L.A., including Santa Monica Community Charter and most recently at Westwood Charter, she is very excited to be at the forefront of a brand new school. She feels fortunate to be part of a school community that promotes critical thinking, embraces multiple intelligences, and cultivates leadership and global citizenship for everyone—students, teachers, and parents. Vivian is a true Southern California native who also attended UCLA, where she graduated with a BA in Psychology and a minor in Developmental Psychology. She then went on to Pepperdine University to receive her MA in Education as well as a MA in Educational Administration. Still a newlywed, Vivian and her husband, Spencer, just celebrated their 1-year anniversary. She loves to travel with her husband, especially to Hawaii. Back at home, Vivian can always be found checking out her favorite bands in concert, enjoying the newest restaurants in town or trying out new recipes in her kitchen. Vivian is literate in Spanish while also being fluent in Korean.

Rend Al-Kassir
Kindergarten
Lead Teacher



Ms. Al-Kassir is so excited to be joining the CWC family and to have the opportunity of bringing the school's philosophy to life in the classroom. After growing up in the L.A. area and graduating from El Camino Real High School, she enrolled at the UC, Santa Barbara and earned a BA in Global Studies followed by a MA at Pepperdine University. In spite of her California roots, Rend spent her first year teaching internationally in London, England at Kings Avenue Primary School. After moving back to L.A., she has spent the past three years teaching multiple grade levels at 32nd Street/USC Visual and Performing Arts Magnet, where she loved the opportunity of integrating the Arts into her classroom! Outside of her life as a teacher, Rend is very close to her family and is the oldest of four; one sister and two brothers. She enjoys traveling, dance, learning photography, reading, eating cookie dough ice cream, and playing with her German Shepard Sophia "Sophie" Loren. While having basic language abilities in Spanish and French, Rend is also fluent in Arabic languages.

David Coronel
Kindergarten
Lead Teacher



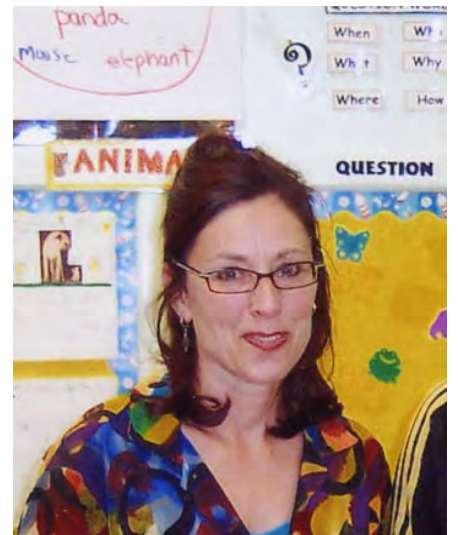
Mr. Coronel is very enthusiastic to join the Citizens of the World Charter School. Having just returned to his native California, David was recently teaching first grade for several years in New York City at the Dual-Language Institute, P.S. 150. As a teacher, David has always been committed to providing a safe and comfortable learning environment in which individualized, child-centered instruction is imperative -- ensuring that all children thrive both academically and socially, while also developing a genuine profound love for learning. David certainly considers himself to be a life-long learner, often getting lost in the aisles of bookstores and libraries for hours on end, brimming with excitement to find a stack of new books to read when home. In his free time, you'll find David venturing the nearby hiking trails, attending concerts in local parks, exploring new restaurants, and hanging out at his favorite coffeehouses. David can read and write fluently in Spanish while also having conversational abilities in Portuguese.

Nicole Grakal
First Grade
Lead Teacher



Ms. Grakal has been teaching for 14 years. She began as a Teach for America Teacher in Compton and, since then, has taught in South LA ever since, serving a low income, mostly Latino community. In 2002 she became Nationally Board Certified in English Language Development. In addition to her role as a classroom teacher, Nikki was a reading and writing coach for 3 years, training teachers how to implement writer's workshop and independent reading in their own classrooms. She is very passionate about making sure ALL children have access to child centered, meaningful curriculum, and is very excited to be in an environment that is diverse and will support her growth as a constructivist teacher. In her spare time, she enjoys spending time with her family and practicing yoga! Ms. Grakal is proficient in conversational Spanish.

Carol Van Heerden
First Grade
Lead Teacher



Ms. Van Heerden is thrilled to be joining CWC, an exciting new school that is very much in line with her personal beliefs about teaching and learning. Before coming to teaching several years ago, Carol had a career in the creative arts, a passion she has continued to infuse in her time as a classroom teacher. Carol received her Masters in Teaching from USC and has been teaching first grade for LAUSD at 6th Avenue Elementary School. Keeping tied to her previous career as a textile artist, Carol is also an instructor of Textile Design at FIDM in downtown Los Angeles. Outside of school, Carol takes an active interest in the adoption community and the special issues faced by trans-racial adoptees and families. She lives in Santa Monica with her husband Chris Rozé and their 11-year old daughter Lucy, various cats, guinea pigs and fish. Chris, Lucy and Carol share an interest in art, books, music, and movies.

McKenzie Morris
Playworks Coach/
CWC PE Teacher



McKenzie "Coach Mac" Morris comes to CWC all the way from Oklahoma State University. She earned a B.S. in Human Development & Family Science with a focus in Child & Family Services. Since moving west, she has spent two summers on staff with the Center for Student Missions, mobilizing youth to engage in urban community service throughout the Bay Area & Los Angeles. Last school year, she was the full-time coach at Aspire Titan Academy where she organized daily recesses, led class game times, coordinated an after-school program, and coached basketball/volleyball teams. She is very passionate about the power of play and so thrilled to be a part of the team at Citizens of the World Charter!

Mekenzie Schneider
Art Teacher



Ms. Schneider is a graduate of Otis College of Art and Design. With a degree in painting, she has been teaching various art courses throughout the greater Los Angeles area for the last several years, most currently at the Young Artist's Summer Program at Otis College as well as at the charming Wizard of Art, a small private studio located in Los Feliz Village. Mekenzie is excited to collaborate with the CWC family to challenge and inspire our students to become amazing creative members of the community. She aims to brighten eyes and smiles!

Vanessa Goldberg
Teaching Assistant



Ms. Goldberg grew up at Edwards Air Force Base in California's Mojave Desert and, later, in San Diego. She graduated from the University of Miami where, in addition to studying Psychology, she tutored underprivileged elementary school students in English language skills. Meanwhile, she also spent summers as a camp counselor in upstate New York and teaching English to high school students in China. After college, Vanessa worked for a nonprofit organization in Beverly Hills but eventually decided to return to her educational roots and pursue her teacher's certification. She has spent the past two years student teaching and working as an aide at Larchmont Charter School - West Hollywood and is very excited to continue her educational career at Citizens of the World. Vanessa loves teaching because it provides her the opportunity to make a difference in children's lives as well as the world at large. Her interests also include reading (Harry Potter is her favorite), photography, hiking and going to Disneyland!

Patricia Alvarez
Teaching Assistant



Working at UCLA's Lab school during her undergraduate career at UCLA helped Ms. Alvarez discover her calling: education and a desired future career in teaching. In her pursuits of becoming a Kindergarten teacher, Patricia Alvarez realizes that being a part of the Citizens of the World team will give her a wonderful opportunity and the experience she needs in order to achieve this goal. She is particularly excited about the opportunity of developing new skills and building upon the methods she was exposed to at the Lab School, preparing her all the more for beginning a Master's/Credential program in the near future.

Jacqueline Melendez
Teaching Assistant



Ms Melendez grew up and attended K-12 in Hollywood, CA, where she first discovered her love for the world of education. After high school, she attended UC San Diego, where she found a passion in the study of Sociology. However, education was always at the forefront of her career. After graduating, she came back to Los Angeles to attend Pepperdine University, where she recently graduated and received her MA in Education and her Multiple Subject Teaching Credentials. Jackie is excited to begin working at Citizens of the World Charter, given that it's hard to find a public school that holds the same mission and values related to education as she does. She looks forward to working, learning, and having fun at this new and amazing school. Jackie is a fluent Spanish speaker.

SEE BELOW FOR ENROLLMENT FORMS, ALSO SENT IN THE PREVIOUS NEWSLETTER.



REQUEST FOR IMMUNIZATION RECORDS

At the start of the school year, CWC will need to collect immunization records for each student. These immunization records will become a part of the student's permanent record (cumulative folder). Copies can be made of the Yellow California Immunization Record card you might have for your child or another official immunization record from your physician. If a child is exempted from any immunizations for medical reasons, a doctor's written statement is required explaining which specific immunizations are exempted and the specific nature and probable duration of the exemption. If a child is to be exempted for reasons of personal belief, the parent or guardian must sign, upon the start of the school year, an affidavit.

WALKING FIELD TRIP PERMISSION SLIP

I, _____, hereby give my permission for my child(s), _____, to participate in walking field trips around the neighborhood of our school, Citizens of the World Charter School - Hollywood, for the school year 2010-2011. I understand that such walks will be well supervised by CWC staff and have educational value.

Date: _____

*** Please note that families will be notified of such walking field trips ahead of time. If, for any reason, as parents or guardians need to take their child(s) out of school while the school day is still in session, it is important to provide written notification of this ahead of time to ensure that students will not be "off-campus" during such a time. Additionally, separate permission forms will always be used when any form of transportation, other than walking, is necessary.



FAMILY DIRECTORY INFORMATION

- I grant permission to Citizens of the World Charter School staff to use our family information (last name, parent/guardian names, child's name, address, and telephone number) for use in a schoowide directory/roster. I understand this information will not be released to any other outside organization without further consent.
- I do not want our family's information included in a school directory/roster.

ACADEMIC STUDIES PARTICIPATION

CWC might sometimes participate in or initiate academic studies related to our educational program. Do you grant the following permission?

- I grant permission for my child(ren) to participate in academic studies related to CWC's educational program. I understand that my child may be interviewed, fill out surveys, and/or participate in other data collection methods by outside, school-approved researchers. I understand that my child's individual name, data, and/or other identifying data will never be released or used within any study facilitated or sanctioned by the school. I understand that such studies benefit CWC and other schools with a similar educational program/philosophy.

MEDIA RELEASE FORM

CWC will sometimes use photographs or video of our students on our website or in print materials related to the school. Do you grant the following permission?

- I give permission to Citizens of the World Charter School to use images of my child(ren) including photograph and video images, for such purposes as the CWC website, classroom and school activity displays, fundraising, and publicity activities. I understand that my child may be photographed by staff, parents, and others during school events, and that use of these pictures benefits the school and the CWC community.

CWC Class Placement Input Form

As a staff, we value family input in creating well-balanced classroom communities. In order to make this decision, we will consider the educational and emotional needs of each child. While we do not honor specific classroom teacher requests, this form is intended to assist the staff with the placement process. *****Please complete this form for each incoming CWC student in your family and return it by mail to the address below. If you need additional space to write, please use the back. Thank you for your input!

Student's Name:	Incoming Grade:	Date of Birth (mm/dd/yy):	Primary Language:	Ethnicity:	Gender:
List any siblings and their ages/gender:		Please describe your child's strengths and interests:		Please describe your child's academic, social, and emotional needs:	

TO RETURN THIS FORM TO US YOU CAN:

1. MAIL IT TO OUR ADDRESS:

Citizens of the World Charter School
1316 N. Bronson Ave.
Los Angeles, CA 90028

2. Bring them to work parties!

GENTLE BEGINNINGS AT CWC: **The First 3 Days of School**



While we gather input from you about your child on the Class Placement Input Form, I wanted to take this opportunity to tell you about how we are going to start the school year. As you know our first day of school is Wednesday, September 8th. That week, for our first three days, school will be from 8:30 – 1:30, with an early dismissal time.

It will be helpful to think of these first three days of CWC as a sort of orientation for both you and your child. Below is an explanation of how we are planning to approach these three days of orientation so that we are as well positioned as possible to have a wonderful school year.

Prior to the first day, your child will NOT be assigned to a classroom teacher/specific classroom yet. Instead, he or she will be assigned to a grade level color group (i.e. all kindergarten students will be in one of three color groups) that they will stay in for Wednesday, Thursday and Friday of that first week of school. We will make these color groups as balanced as possible, based on gender and information we have about your child before the start of school. During those first three days, students will spend time in their color group, rotating amongst the different classrooms and Lead Teachers at their grade level. For instance, the “yellow” Kindergarten group would spend one day in each of the three Kindergarten classrooms, having opportunities to get to know the whole Kindergarten teaching team. The same would go for 1st grade, which will also be split up into similar grade-level color groups. Throughout the course of these three days, students will be participating in a number of rich community-building and start-of-the-school-year activities, all of which will provide a calm and thoughtful orientation for children at the start of the school year.

Most importantly, during those three days, the CWC team of educators will be getting to know your students more, working with them closely while also doing a first round of observation and initial assessments. This is a crucial part of our educational model. Getting to know your child individually and understanding, developmentally speaking, how best to meet their needs and support them as learners will be, in large part, how we approach teaching and learning at CWC. After Friday at 1:30, when school gets out, we will use all of the information we gathered in the first three days as well as input you have supplied on the Class Placement Input Form to create mixed and balanced class groups where students will be assigned to a specific Lead Teacher and Teaching Assistant for the year. This is NOT in any way a mechanism for us to create leveled classroom groups (i.e. high, medium, low), but again to make sure each class group is as balanced as possible, as this will only help to further ensure that your child has a successful and happy first year at CWC in an optimal learning environment. Although, in the future, we will only do this for incoming Kindergarten students, we will be doing this as well with our 1st grade students this Fall, as everyone is new to CWC this year!

Ahead of the first day of school, we will make sure to clearly communicate which color group your child is in and where you can drop them off on the first, second and third day of school. After Friday afternoon, we will quickly blast to all families their child’s classroom assignment as well as clearly post it around the school that next Monday morning. Please know that we will absolutely make sure that everyone knows where they are going and that the transition is a smooth one for all.

With care,
Marissa Berman, Founding Principal