



Welcome to the 2016-2017 School Year!

I am so honored to begin another great new year at Westmont with all of you. I hope your summer was filled with family and fun and that you were able to create great memories! Interesting how as educators we look at September as the “New Year”. We spend much of our summer in reflection, as well as preparing for the year to come; summer also offers a “spring cleaning” opportunity, so to speak. Our school has undergone some cosmetic renovations this summer, from the front of the building to the mulch on the playground, and many touch-ups in between. All of our classrooms have new rugs and the floors are shining bright, ready for the little feet that will soon take over.

This year Westmont is entering its 52nd year of growth and success. I, myself, am entering my 30 plus year of personal growth at Westmont. I can still remember my first visit like it was yesterday; those were the “yellow trailer” days of Westmont. Coincidentally, a dad brought his daughter to camp this summer and as he entered the building he said, “Wow this place has changed since my day.” It turned out that he and his two sisters attended Westmont in the “trailer” days. He brought me right back to his family’s time at Westmont and his parents’ great involvement during their 10 plus consecutive years at the school. Seeing him kiss his daughter goodbye and leave her for the first time at Westmont in a parental role brought forth great emotion. I went running to the class photo archives to find him and his sisters in their Westmont classes; there they were, young preschoolers as captured images in my mind still.

We don’t always have the pleasure of reconnecting in this way, but it is great when we can. This summer, we had 27 alumni junior camp counselors return to our school as volunteers in our camp program. Through these avenues and more to come from our new and active Alumni Committee, we hear up-to-date stories, as well as receive feedback on the importance and influence of the early Westmont years for our students. Knowing how those years supported passion, independence, discipline, growth, creativity, personal achievement, and outcomes in our students validates our mission and our vision.

For all of you, at this time, your focus is now and the smooth transition to the new school year for your children. Your goals and aspirations for your children are many and varied. Our goals for your children mirror yours. We look at each child as an individual and developing capable, respectful, healthy minded, happy and engaged children is our priority too. The future for our students is indeed bright. We are ready to launch a brand new year, our reaccreditation is under our belt, our school community is growing, our building is in great shape and everything is in place for our students. Our physical structure may have changed over the years, however, our commitment to our model of excellence in early education is as strong as ever.

Westmont’s Board of Trustees, comprised of current and former Westmont parents, our faculty, staff, administration, and I, are equally delighted to embark on this exciting and wondrous “New Year “ with all of you and your children. We look forward to creating new stories and forging lasting connections.

Warm regards,
Colette

[Westmont’s Mission Statement](#)

The Westmont Montessori School provides an environment that fosters independence, self-esteem, integrity, and personal responsibility. Our Montessori philosophy empowers each child by providing the foundation to excel academically, to develop respect for self and others, and to value the world in which we live. The Westmont graduate is a capable young person who is inspired to learn.

[Westmont’s Vision](#)

The Westmont Montessori School inspires each child, parent, and staff member to reach his or her potential.