

September, 2011



Greetings Thorne Elementary Families:

It is with great pleasure that I write to welcome you and your student(s) to the 2011-2012 school year at Thorne Elementary. I hope that you enjoyed the warm and beautiful summer days along with spending quality time with family and friends doing lots of fun activities. To those students and parents who are new to Thorne we extend an extra warm welcome and best wishes for an exciting and productive school year. We hope that you will quickly feel at home and become involved in the activities of the school through the PATHS parent group and your child's classroom program. As the new principal, I am looking forward to meeting all of you and forming strong and positive partnerships.

As I begin my first year as the principal at Thorne Elementary, I will work diligently with staff, students, parents and the community to promote a positive learning environment. Working together we will move forward in our mission this school year to create a nurturing, disciplined and challenging environment in which all students learn at optimal levels.

The first student day will be Tues., Sept. 6<sup>th</sup> and will be a full day for 1<sup>st</sup> through 5<sup>th</sup> grade. The school day will begin at 7:55 a.m. and runs until 2:55 p.m. Kindergarten students will begin the school year on Thurs., Sept. 8<sup>th</sup> with a half day of school from 7:55 a.m. until 12 noon. Kindergarten students and their parents **MUST** have a meeting with the teacher on either Tues., Sept. 6<sup>th</sup> or Wed., Sept. 7<sup>th</sup> prior to starting on Thurs., Sept. 8<sup>th</sup>. Please call the office at 313-292-2440 to schedule an appointment if you have not already heard from us with an appointment.

Our Back-to-School evening will be Wed., Sept. 14<sup>th</sup> from 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. and will begin in the cafetorium. You will have the opportunity to visit your child's classroom, begin to form a relationship with the classroom teacher and learn about grade level curriculum, specials and classroom activities.

It is also with great pleasure that we welcome several new members to the Thorne Elementary Staff. These staff members are: Kristen Kajoian - Assistant Principal, LeAnn Bridges-Barker and Laura Hutten - 1<sup>st</sup> grade teachers, Angela Briscoe - 2<sup>nd</sup> grade teacher, Pamela Root-Taylor - 5<sup>th</sup> grade teacher, Jennifer Anson – Special Education teacher, Nancy Brennan – Resource Room Teacher and Ted Vingarzen – Music Teacher. We will also soon welcome a new ASD and Chinese teacher to the staff. Stay tuned for more details as names become available.

If you have questions or concerns that arise at any time, please do not hesitate to give your child's teacher or me a call. I look forward to having a long and rewarding relationship with you and your family.

Sincerely,

Leslie D. Simmons, Principal  
Thorne Elementary School  
Westwood Community School District

