

# 2007-2008 Annual Report

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We are *so* American. My father was born the fair-haired son of a farmer and raised on the plains of eastern Nebraska. My mother was born the ebon-hued daughter of a butcher and raised on the Southside of Chicago. I was raised, a self-defined Black Christian, by a white minister father and a Black mother, in East Harlem. The first individual financial supporter of our school - and my oldest friend (yes, a white guy) - was raised in Yorkville and pursues his mother faith, Judaism, in San Francisco. The first institutional supporter of our school was introduced to us by JFK, Jr., an Irish Catholic raised between Cape Cod and the Upper Eastside. Many of our new families have their origins in the Sonoran expanses of Mexico and raise their children in the concrete canyons of El Norte. Most of our trustees were raised in material comfort and most of our families in material poverty - all are our guiding lights. We are nothing if not paradoxical! Our School's very existence as an independent school - for children usually relegated to the collectivized public system - shows an iconoclasm and heterogeneity that is so fundamentally American.

Our new, beautifully quirky building on 103rd Street stands as proof, as does our patch quilt nation, that very different people can come together to build a space that elevates the spirit and opens the mind - ain't that America? Please understand, this building is your home away from home. If your heart grows restless or you have a hankering for a philosophical dustup, come uptown and sit a spell. We can debate democracy amidst our aspirational architecture, inspirational teachers, and the restless individuals up here who are a part of jumpstarting our whole future.

With love and gratitude,  
Ivan



## UPCOMING EVENT

2008 Fall Benefit  
*co-honoring*

**Mary Meeker  
&  
Bea Tompkins**

Tuesday, October 28th  
Pier Sixty, Chelsea Piers



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