



Jonas Salk Elementary
Principal : Deidre Hardson
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October 28, 2014

Dear Salk Learning Community,

It is fitting that I write this letter to you on **Jonas Salk's 100th birthday**. Dr. Salk said, "*Hope lies in dreams, in the imagination and in the courage of those who dare to make dreams into reality.*" I am excited that I have been chosen to serve as your first principal! I have many hopes and dreams for our school and I know that working together we will create another world class school in Mira Mesa.

I am convinced that public education is essential to growing and maintaining our strong democratic society. Just as Jonas Salk refused to charge for his vaccine because he felt that all people deserved access, I believe that all children should have access to a quality education that empowers them to make a positive difference in the world. I have been an educator in San Diego Unified for 31 years. I served as a Math teacher, AVID coordinator, Math Administrator, Vice Principal and Principal. More specifically, I have worked at both Wangenheim and Challenger Middle Schools. For 7 years, I happily served as the principal at Mason Elementary and am proud of the academic gains that we worked hard to achieve. Now, I welcome the prospect of leading the Salk Elementary team while helping to ensure stability for all of our children, those who remain at Mason and Hickman and those who transition to Salk. Our goal is to be sister schools, share resources, engage in joint professional development and empower the support for our Mira Mesa children.

Parent involvement is essential to student achievement. We depend on you to help keep our students achieving at high levels! Please begin thinking about how you will support our school next year. Throughout my career, I have learned that collaboration is the key to positive growth. *I believe that we are all teachers and learners.* It is through working together as a team that we are able to create positive change and enhanced academic achievement. I know that you will agree that it is important that the students' best interests come first in all decision-making. It is my role to ensure that the teachers and students have all of the tools and supports needed to achieve continual improvement. With your support, I am certain that each and every child will continue to receive a high quality education at Salk Elementary.

Please be sure to visit our website as it becomes available for additional information. I look forward to working with each one of you!

For our children,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Deidre Hardson".

Deidre Hardson
Principal

"There is no such thing as failure, there's just giving up too soon." -Jonas Salk

