

March 4, 2022

Dear Community,

It is with great enthusiasm, confidence, and optimism that I write to you today to announce the transfer of the San Juan Del Sur Day school to a group of leaders representing a new legal entity who will lead us through our next stages of growth and development into the future.

We have accomplished many great things as a community. Over the past 13 years our school has grown from 6 students and 2 staff members to over 170 learners and over 30 employees. We have earned and maintained our accreditation as a Colegio Bilingual with Nicaragua's Ministry of Education since 2014 and are currently undergoing the rigorous process of gaining our international accreditation with Cognia. We have attracted and retained dynamic, effective, experienced teachers who have succeeded in creating a program that has instilled a lifelong love of learning, addresses the whole child and differentiates learning for every child. We have created an environment that sparks joy and curiosity, allowing students to explore the great outdoors, increases autonomy, collaboration, cooperation, connections and student skills.

These past few years have been incredibly challenging for our community. Along with the notable successes, growth and improvements that the school has accomplished, there have also been intense challenges, struggles and obstacles that we have had to overcome. We have persevered through hurricanes, the 2018 attrition, significant family crises, and a pandemic. After a brief stint online, we successfully reopened our campus when much of the world remained remote. These life changing events have reinforced our school community's strengths (flexibility, responsibility, resilience, teamwork, innovation, endurance, optimism and discipline). These life lessons have also, through reflection, humility and honesty, led my husband John and I to acknowledge our limits and the need for more resources, larger commitment, deeper involvement and investment from a team of people who can lead the school through its next stage of development.

I am thrilled to be able to work in collaboration with a team of leaders who are invested in the development of the school. This group will provide direction, assistance and resources to our current team of incredible leaders and work to attract additional career educators to take our school to the next level. I feel a deep sense of gratitude to be able to share the responsibilities of running and growing a developing school. Over the next few months the operating board will work together to ensure that the transition goes smoothly and that we continue our path to be one of the top PreK-12th International English Schools in Nicaragua.

This is the start of a new and exciting journey, we are putting forth a call to action for our entire community to participate actively in the decision making process for the school. With change comes progress and we are prepared to work together to create the new strategic plan and follow it step by step to achieve our goals. I am incredibly proud of what we have already created and I am excited to be an integral part of our continued growth, evolution, improvements and development. We are committed to creating these changes together with you the parents and building an even stronger culture of rigorous academics, sustainability, community and love of learning.

In Gratitude,

Julie Speier

Director/Founder

Please direct questions to: sjdsdstransition@gmail.com