



## **\*\*News Release\*\***

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### **Support Grows for Cutting Edge Elementary School**

#### ***Donors Give Over \$100K in Grants!***

**San Diego** – The news keeps getting better for Integral Elementary School of La Jolla, which recently opened a brand new 8,000 square foot campus. Now, three generous donors have given \$110,000 in grants to help fund the alternative school.

Two of the grants came from long-time supporters of the Center for Integral Education (CIE). The New Consciousness Foundation, based in Fremont, California, gave \$30,000, to be distributed over three years. The Grosvenor Family Foundation of San Diego gave \$60,000, also over three years, in an annual matching grant of \$20,000. Finally, CIE board members Lakshman and Hansa Sehgal pledged an additional \$20,000.

“It is an amazing blessing to see this enormous progress in our ‘Gem in the Making’ fundraising campaign,” said Prapanna Smith, the school’s founder and principal. “These generous grants will help us continue to make CIE a thriving, wonderful place for San Diego children to learn.”

The school’s Integral method, which originated at the Sri Aurobindo International Centre for Education (SAICE) in India over 60 years ago, is described as not just teaching, but creating lifelong learners. According to Smith, the United States’ current educational system is obsessed with test scores and this obsession is actually making it more difficult for children to learn. After teaching for a number of years in California public schools, Smith visited India where he saw a vastly different educational system at work. He felt those more holistic approaches to learning should be brought to the US.

Since 2002 Smith has been successfully running Rainbow Kids Integral School, in San Diego. That school now serves preschoolers only, and the recently opened Integral Elementary School in La Jolla serves students from Kindergarten to 6<sup>th</sup> grade.

While still following the California State Standards, an Integral education allows students to create, with the help of teachers and parents, a learning plan that also focuses on their individual strengths and interests, which allows them to experience a true desire and joy in learning. The school uses nontraditional approaches and assessments to let children demonstrate what they know in real-world situations. It also utilizes cross-aged tutoring and cross-disciplined groupings based on skill, so that the students can learn from, and help teach, each other.

Integral Elementary boasts an 11:1 student to teacher ratio. In addition to traditional academics, students also focus on the arts, meditation skills, and physical education, including yoga for children and the cutting edge “Awareness Through the Body” program. More information can be found at [www.IntegralElementary.com](http://www.IntegralElementary.com) or by calling (858) 450-4321.

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