

Dear Colleagues,

It has been a few months since our conference in Puerto Rico, and the memories of coming together with others who share our unique position in the educational world have not faded. We enjoyed lengthy conversations about professional development, outreach, teacher education, sustainability, structure, and children that continue to influence my thoughts and interactions. I left the conference feeling inspired and invigorated. Some of what I have learned, I have put into place with new initiatives at Falk School. My hope is that you have also continued to be influenced by our time together. Perhaps you have begun an initiative in your own environment. If so, I hope you will share that with me so that I can tell our story with the hopes of inspiring even more educators. I also encourage you to follow through with the promises of reaching out to establish collaborations, build partnerships and continue the conversations.

In the spirit of conversation and collaboration, I am excited to announce the dates and places for our International Tour. This year our Tour begins in Toronto at The Dr. Eric Jackman Institute of Child Study on October 17th and 18th. Then the Tour continues to Pittsburgh to visit three lab schools: The Children's School at Carnegie Mellon University, The Campus School at Carlow University, and Falk School at the University of Pittsburgh. While each of these schools are dedicated to the work of lab schools, they differ in their governance, organization, and relationship to their universities. A tour of these four schools will showcase the many ways lab schools have developed to serve the vision set forth by John Dewey.

I am also excited to announce that IALS is offering Directors of lab schools the opportunity to come together at our first Director's Institute. The Director's Institute will take place in Pittsburgh on October 20th and 21st. Participants will have the opportunity to tour the same schools as the International Tour group and have time devoted to conversations focused on the many responsibilities with which lab school directors are tasked.

We hope that you are able to take advantage of these wonderful opportunities, please visit our website www.laboratoryschools.org for more information and to register. We look forward to connecting with you soon!

Best,

Jill Sarada

President, International Association of Laboratory Schools