



## THE WINSTON SCHOOL

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For Immediate Release

### Winston Secures Del Mar Campus

Del Mar, CA--May 22, 2008: The Winston School announced today that it had secured its permanent home in Del Mar after a successful community campaign that resulted in the purchase of the Shores property by the City of Del Mar. The City and the Del Mar Union School District closed escrow on the Shores Property, which includes the Winston School campus.

Winston's contribution of funds to the purchase ensures a 55-year lease on its long-time location. The deal means Winston's scenic views of the bay and location within walking distance of Torrey Pines State Beach and quaint commercial district along Camino Del Mar will remain fixtures of Winston's future for generations to come.

"We're thrilled to have succeeded in this vital project," said Winston's Headmaster Mike Peterson. "We now know where we'll be for the long term and can begin enhancing the facility and putting down even deeper roots in Del Mar which we've come to love. The warmth we've felt from our neighbors here, as well as the very generous contributions they and the parents and Board of the Winston School have made, helped to make this dream a reality."

The Winston School is completing its 20<sup>th</sup> year as a premiere independent school serving children with learning differences in grades 5-12. The School enrolls over 100 students and provides a college preparatory education with a special emphasis on the arts. Over 90% of Winston's graduates attend two- or four-year colleges.

Winston Board President Dr. Sarita Eastman expressed appreciation for the support Winston has had on this process: "We are very grateful to Laura DeMarco and Joe Sullivan who led the community effort, the School District for making this possible as well as to the City Council for its efforts in negotiating this deal and filling the gap needed to make this happen." Eastman is a local pediatrician who was one of the original founders of the school in 1988 along with the late Dr. John Richards. His vision for educating students with learning differences propelled Winston through most of its first 20 years.

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According to Winston Board Treasurer John French, Winston's leader in the effort, the School contributed over \$3M to the City so that it could close the deal on the \$8.5M price tag. "The balance of the funds came from an enthusiastic fundraising effort with the Friends of Del Mar Parks, a committee of neighbors and friends in Del Mar led by DeMarco and Sullivan. The City of Del Mar agreed to carry back a note for \$3.5M to give Winston and the community more time to raise the additional funds. Winston's contributions are credited as prepaid rent which will carry us through for about the next 15 years."

Winston plans to renovate the campus over the next several years, and it will make some of its facilities available to the community when possible. "We're looking forward to continuing to develop an abiding friendship with the Del Mar community. We're confident that over the next several years Winston can find ways to be helpful and to offer opportunities for Del Mar to get involved in the school and facilitate building a beautiful campus. Our students deserve to learn in a beautiful and inspiring environment."

Winston had long sought the stability of a permanent home, and French's nearly 20 years of searching with the Winston Board finally paid off. "Our students aren't allowed to quit even though they have faced many obstacles along the way. How could we? As our namesake Winston Churchill famously advised students at his grade school: Never, never, never give up."

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If you would like more information or would like to make a donation to the Winston School please call Headmaster Mike Peterson at 858-259-8155, email him at [mikep@thewinstonschool.com](mailto:mikep@thewinstonschool.com) or go to the Winston website at [www.thewinstonschool.com](http://www.thewinstonschool.com).