

20 June 2016

Ian Crossland
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AA 86827 Bogotá
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Subject: Award of CIS Re-Accreditation

Dear Ian,

The Council of International Schools' Accreditation Service and its Advisors have now completed their study of the report submitted by the April 2016 CIS/NEASC Visiting Team and considered its recommendation with regard to your school's status within the accreditation process.

I am pleased to inform you that the Council of International Schools has decided to award CIS re-accreditation to Colegio Los Nogales (CLN) with immediate effect. Warmest congratulations to you, your staff, and the entire school community on this achievement.

In reaching their decision, CIS took into account the Visiting Team's (VT) commendations which were based on evidence of excellent and effective alignment with the standards for CIS accreditation. In granting the award of accreditation, CIS felt that the commendations – or strengths of the school – far outweighed any areas in which the school was deficient. For example:

Good schools start with strong leadership and the VT cited the Consejo Superior for its continued and effective efforts in providing CLN with sound direction, secure finances and general support. The senior leadership team is to be commended for its' implementation of the school goals and for creating an ethos that nurtures student well-being.

A second outstanding feature of effective schools is the support given to staff. The VT has commended the school for providing teachers with access to a variety of professional development opportunities that support, and are relevant to, their teaching. Considerable investments have been made in ICT and for helping teachers as they explore the wide-variety of educational technology available today.

Another characteristic of effective schools is a focus on student well-being. CLN has a range of suitably qualified and experienced support personnel. For example, there are four Psychologists (one for each section), a Speech Therapist, an Occupational Therapist and four Learning Assistants. The school has in place an effective and successful character education program – "FINES." Student leadership opportunities abound and CLN has established activities which focus on developing global citizenship.

Special recognition is given to the Coordinator of the Caminatas program and the Coordinator of the Bioreserve for the development of the Caminatas program and the Zasqua Biorefuge, both of which are highly unique and worthy of the pride and excitement they generate in the school community. The VT also cited the Maintenance and Housekeeping teams for keeping the gardens and the appearance and cleanliness of the grounds impeccable.

We would add that the VT cited the quality of the self-study as being a strong indicator of the seriousness in which the school considers institutional improvement: "CLN's Self-Study report was



exceptionally well done, clearly written, extraordinarily perceptive, self-critical, and fully documented.”

These strengths should be celebrated by the school community. The complete list appears in the Visiting Team Report.

Although the Visiting Team clearly viewed the school very positively, it made many recommendations. The school will need to address these in the coming years. For example, the Visiting Team was concerned with areas needing development in the following areas:

- The Senior Leadership Team and/or Academic Council explore ways to provide consistent integration of internationalism in all subjects (Sections A, B)
- The Academic Council, Social Services Coordinator and section coordinators continue working to enhance opportunities for meaningful and reflective community service throughout all sections of the School (A, F),
- The Academic Council and level coordinators formalize the process for establishing a curriculum review cycle (B)
- The School use student assessment data to more effectively inform and guide curriculum revisions, instructional strategies, and professional development opportunities (B)
- The Senior Leadership Team and/or Academic Council develop and implement systems to allow teachers to collaborate and strengthen the horizontal alignment of the curriculum so that meaningful connections between the disciplines can be made (B),
- The Language and Learning Support Departments work with faculty to develop agreed upon strategies to support language development across all disciplines (E)
- The School Leadership and Human Resources Director (Directora de Talento Humano) provide professional development to all support staff and ensure their achievements are recognized and if possible celebrated (G)

These challenges should be addressed by the school community. The complete list appears in the Visiting Team Report.

The next routine stage of the accreditation process for the school will be the submission of the First Report on Progress & Planning (FRPP) by 01 April 2018. Guidance on how to write the FRPP can be found in the FRPP Booklet which will be made available to you by the CIS Accreditation Office.

You may now publish the fact that the School has been re-accredited by the Council of International Schools. An official CIS leaflet entitled ‘Your Child is at an Accredited School’ is available for distribution in your school community if you wish. Please contact our Accreditation staff at accreditation@cois.org if this is of interest to you.

To celebrate the granting of re-accreditation, a plaque and certificate will be awarded to the school. Staff from the Accreditation Office will contact you on this matter.

I look forward to reading how the school has addressed all the Visiting Team recommendations when the FRPP is submitted in April 2018. In the meantime, please do not hesitate to contact John Heard, the CIS School Support & Evaluation Officer responsible for your school (johnheard@cois.org), or me (grahamranger@cois.org), if there is any point that is unclear or on which you need further advice.

Once again Ian, congratulations to everyone at the school on achieving CIS re-accredited status.



With my best wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read 'Graham Ranger', is written over a horizontal line.

Dr Graham Ranger
Director of School Support & Evaluation
Council of International Schools (CIS)

c.c. Chair of the Board/Colegio Los Nogales
Peter Mott, Director, CIE/NEASC
Stuart McLay, CIS Associate Director School Support & Evaluation
John Heard CIS School Support & Evaluation Officer
Katie Sandwell, CIS School Services Advisor

Please note: You should have access to the Visiting Team Report to which this letter refers. If this is not the case, please contact our Accreditation Staff at accreditation@cois.org.