

## GIVING THANKS

Dear Parents, Grandparents and Friends of Las Cruces Academy,

Thanksgiving is my favorite time of year. It is a time for family to gather round, share stories and catch up on news. Smiles abound, children and grandchildren play and frolic. Before we begin our dinner, contributed from all, each person is asked to share "what are you most thankful for?"

Besides family and good friends, the answer to the question this year will be easy for me. Our granddaughter started kindergarten at LCA this year. She is so happy, she loves learning and is making many friends- so, Las Cruces Academy is what I am most thankful for. I am betting most, if not all, of you would heartily agree.

I first met Lou Ellen and Vince soon after they started LCA thirteen years ago. We shared our life-long commitment to education and thoughts about what was important in today's world. Lou Ellen recently told me her motivation to embark on the exciting yet challenging journey of starting a school. She said, " After a lifetime of teaching biology at universities I was appalled at how poorly prepared my students were. Also, I was and still am deeply concerned about world issues such as climate change, population and leadership. I decided to help my community and world by founding a school for bright, capable students with excellent education so that they could become thoughtful people and competent leaders. With the help of family and others we launched the Academy. Our school is doing well, highly regarded by the community and our alumni are going to good colleges and majoring in important fields. This makes me very happy and proud."

Independent schools operate financially on tuition and charitable gifts. The gifts part provides an extra boost to add special quality improvements. This is the school's 10<sup>th</sup> year for the ANNUAL FUND. This year our goal is \$30,000. Gifts will make possible: new books for the library; Raspberry Pi computers; supplies for the science curriculum; teacher documentation of curriculum for school accreditation from ISASW (Independent Schools Association of the Southwest) and growing our capital fund to purchase the building. By the way, LCA would be the first school in southern NM and one of very few in the State to boast this prestigious accreditation.

Please join us in giving thanks for LCA, for the selfless commitment of many, and the vision of Lou Ellen and Vince by making a gift to the 21021-2022 ANNUAL FUND. Your gift supports a school that works to be the best it can be.

Sincere regards,

*Bruce*

Bruce Begin, GP, Co-Chair of the 2021-2022 Annual Fund