

**January 30, 2015**

## **MICDS Becomes St. Louis Mosaic Project Ambassador School**

Mary Institute and St. Louis Country Day School (MICDS) is pleased to join an important initiative to welcome foreign-born families to St. Louis as only the second area school to sign on as a St. Louis Mosaic Project Ambassador School. Betsy Cohen, Executive Director of The St. Louis Mosaic Project and Jason Jan, a Malaysian immigrant and entrepreneur who founded FroYo, shared the goals of the Project with Upper School students and faculty on January 22.

The St. Louis Mosaic Project was launched in 2012 in response to an economic impact report, outlining St. Louis to be lagging in immigrant growth as well as highlighting the economic benefits of increasing its foreign-born population. The Mosaic Project's goal is to transform St. Louis into the fastest growing metropolitan area for immigration by 2020 and promote regional prosperity through immigration and innovation. This regional initiative is managed by the St. Louis Economic Development Partnership, World Trade Center St. Louis and a 22-member committee.

"MICDS places great value on nurturing an international school community. In addition to English, 39 languages and dialects are spoken in our families' homes, and we firmly believe that a diverse school community enriches the educational experience for all. We are so pleased to offer our support to the admirable work of The St. Louis Mosaic Project," said MICDS Head of School Lisa Lyle.

As an Ambassador School, MICDS will host events designed to welcome international families, many of which are already part of the School's program, including international parent coffees, an educational Passport Series for parents, and the biennial International Expo, a festival of nations celebrating the culture, customs, history and cuisine of more than 40 countries representative of our community's ethnic heritage.

"MICDS is adding programs that welcome current and future international families, momentum for our regional goals of attracting more foreign born families to St. Louis," says Betsy Cohen.

MICDS also will host educational events for students, parents and faculty to increase cultural awareness on campus, and support various St. Louis area organizations, including Casa de Salud and the International Institute, as volunteers.

For more information about The St. Louis Mosaic Project, please visit [www.stlmosaic.org](http://www.stlmosaic.org).

If you would like to learn more about how you can join MICDS' efforts to support The St. Louis Mosaic Project, please contact Erin Hamill, MICDS Director of Global Learning and Upper School Community Service, at [ehamill@micds.org](mailto:ehamill@micds.org) or 314-995-7352.