



November 13, 2007

VISIBILITY: Lesbian and Gay People We Love
An LREI Community Photo Exhibit

Dear Friends,

Now begins the process of submissions for the LREI lesbian, gay, bi-sexual, and transgender VISIBILITY photo exhibit. This biennial show is part of LREI's ongoing dedication to celebrating diversity and social justice. The photo exhibit is for everyone, and we hope you will join us.

The idea is simple—as a member of our community, we invite you to submit a photo of yourself and/or your children, with someone in your life who is lesbian or gay. For those who are straight, it is a chance to show support and love for lesbian or gay family members or friends. For those who are lesbian or gay, it is a chance to share stories and experiences about visibility. Prior exhibits have included between 80 and 100 photos of lesbian and gay faculty and administrators, parents, and high school students. There were friends, aunts and uncles, brothers and sisters, godparents, and alumni, as well as photographs of Elisabeth Irwin, founder of the school, with her partner and their children.

Every class in the school, from pre-kindergarten through twelfth grade, will visit this exhibit and use it as a catalyst for discussion. In the past the youngest children have discussed different ways of constituting a family, observing that some of their classmates have two moms, two dads, a single mom, a single dad, etc. Middle-schoolers have talked about name-calling and fairness, about homophobia and intolerance; older students have discussed gay marriage laws and adoption rights.

Winter break is a good time to organize your contribution to the show. Take a few moments when you're with family and friends to capture an image of those you love that are lesbian or gay. The people in your picture do not have to be part of the LREI community. Snapshots are fine, and more than one photo can be submitted. Please include a sentence or two explaining who is pictured, and why they are important to you or your child, or, if you like, something about their experiences. We will be accepting unframed photos for inclusion in the show. Photos and captions may also be submitted electronically.

If you are not sure how to ask your loved ones to participate in the show with you, show them a copy of this letter. We are willing to bet that they will be deeply moved by this acceptance and affirmation of their individuality, and of their importance to you.

VISIBILITY: Lesbian and Gay People We Love will open on the Charlton Street campus February 20, 2008 and move to the Sixth Avenue campus on March 3, 2008—but we would love your photo and caption as soon as you have it.

For further details, please contact:

Kim Hostler at jkka@mac.com or 917-532-9978

Keith Stout at keithstout@mac.com or 212-367-6348

Best wishes for the holidays,

Keith Stout and Kim Hostler
Co-chairs, LREI Lesbian/Gay/Straight Alliance