

**Montessori of the Rio Grande Charter School
Collaborative Council
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February 2, 2009

**AN OPEN LETTER TO THE MRGC COMMUNITY AND TO OUR NEIGHBORS IN
THE LOS DURANES NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION:**

One of the most wonderful aspects of our school is its location. We are fortunate to be able to incorporate the beauty of the Bosque and the adjacent Duranes Park into our daily activities. We are also privileged to reside within a quiet, historic neighborhood.

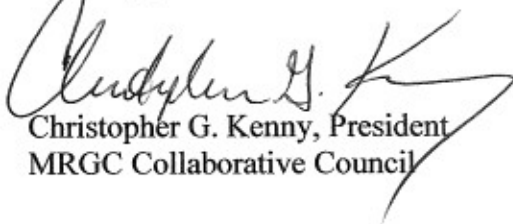
With these benefits comes an important responsibility for all of us who use and enjoy this wonderful area: to treat our extended family within the Los Duranes Neighborhood with the same type of respect, grace and courtesy that we ask of our students and one another.

Regrettably, we have not been living up to our responsibility of late. Reports of ongoing problems with drivers coming to and from our school have been brought to the attention of the Collaborative Council. These include almost daily instances of speeding well above the 25 mile per hour and 15 mile per hour posted limits in the area. In addition, several residents have informed us that near collisions with vehicles and pedestrians have become commonplace, that we routinely block driveways while waiting to pick up our children along Leopoldo Road, and that we do not comply with Stop signs.

Our school community has enjoyed a long and positive relationship with the Los Duranes Neighborhood. We need to re-commit ourselves to that relationship by acting – not just sometimes, but daily – with grace, courtesy and respect. At a minimum, these means that we all must obey the posted speed limits; watch for pedestrians, bicyclists and others in the neighborhood; take care not to block driveways; and generally be mindful that we are part of a residential neighborhood and should act accordingly. In order to remain watchful in this residential area, please discontinue the use of cell phones as well.

On behalf of our entire school, I want to offer my sincere apologies to the residents of the Los Duranes Neighborhood for our recent behavior. Please know that we are committed to reestablishing our reputation for being a welcome part of your neighborhood and look forward to working with you to make sure that we enjoy a positive relationship for years to come.

Sincerely,


Christopher G. Kenny, President
MRGC Collaborative Council