

*TRANSCRIPT - ANNUAL REPORT 2024-2025 ("THINK BIG, START SMALL" VIDEO ON GALA PAGE)*

*(Music up and under): "Fight Song" by Rachel Platten*

*"Like a small boat on the ocean sending big waves into motion..."*

Child 1: The smallest thing that I can think of would probably be...

Child 2: An apple seed.

Child 1: Probably a grain of sand.

Child 3: A little ant.

Child 4: Did you know that some ants...

Child 5: Can support one hundred times their weight...

Child 6: Upside-down on glass.

Child 7 (twin): Did you know they use sand to make computer chips?

Child 8 (twin): Really?

Child 9: Did you know that you can easily count the number of seeds in an apple...

Child 10: But it's impossible to count the number of apple trees...

Child 11: That can originate from just one seed.

Child 12: This is the power of small.

*(Music): "Like a small boat on the ocean sending big waves into motion..."*

Ilene Reinfeld: How did we get to 'think big, start small'? The origin happened because when I arrived here, everybody was making excuses for the small size. We're small, we don't have what other schools have, and I said, "Well, small is mighty. Small is ambitious. Small is connections."

Meena White: I'm a parent of a kindergartener and a sixth-grader, as well as a member of the Board of Trustees for the school. And something that attracted me to the school, when we first applied, was the fact that it was a K through 6 school and also the small classroom size which really showed us that the focus was going to be on childhood.

Melissa Pomerantz: When I came here to look for Logan and tour the school, I walked through the red gates and immediately was sent back to my time here and how comforting it is, and how much a family, it kind of feels like a big hug when you walk in, I feel like.

Ilene: And I think what sets us apart is being small, we're able to offer big opportunities.

Jordan Calderon: Not only do I know every kid in the school, I really know them. And I can give them what they need, in a moment of need.

Jenna Marshall: We have so many opportunities to interact across grade levels and have moments of authentic integration. Seeing friends signing 'yes' and 'no' from across the yard and notice it's also happening up in science and in art and in library and in assembly, and seeing it all come together in really one beautiful community, is so meaningful.

Ashanti Bruce: I love working in a small school because I get to be a part of each child's unique creative journey, and I just really get to spend a lot of time with each individual kid, and you form such a strong bond, and I really love the school.

Juan Campos: There's a closeness between not only the students and their peers, but also the students and the teachers. And that allows us to even have the shyest child pop out of their shell and say, "Hey, I have an idea. Hey, I think we should do this."

Nate Blanchard: The small size is a great foundation to build on as they go into this big world and they have to think big and think outside the box and kinda find out who they are and what they can offer. It all begins here."

Meena: I think larger schools tend to focus on the upper grades and don't really focus on that special time, that magic time, that children are going through kindergarten and elementary school when they really are enjoying being children and enjoying play and enjoying learning and enjoying friendships and foundation building. And I think what Los Encinos does best is really focus on that. They start to think big as children and that is something they carry with them when they leave the school.

Child 13: When I get big I want to be a soccer player.

Child 14: A horseback rider.

Child 15: Either a professional baseball player or an engineer.

Child 16: I want to be a writer.

Child 17: When I get big I want to be a snake.

Child 18: I want to be an Imagineer for Disney.

Child 19: A scientist.

Child 20: A cheerleader.

Child 21: I want to be a singer.

Child 22: I don't know, but when I grow up I just want to do good and be good.

*(Music): This is my fight song, take back my life song, prove I'm all right song. My power's turned on. Starting right now I'll be strong. I'll play my fight song. And I don't really care if nobody else believes. 'Cause I've still got a lot of fight left in me. A lot of fight left in me. Like a small boat on the ocean, sending big waves into motion. Like how a single word can make a heart open...*

Ilene: We're not apologetically small. We're confidently small.

*(Music): I might only have one match, but I can make an explosion.*

Child 23: This is the power of small.

*Music ends.*

*End.*