

**Honored guests, board of Trustees, families, students, and friends of
The Monarch School:**

**HOORAY!! WE'RE REALLY MAKING MONARCH HISTORY TODAY!
We've come a long way from the first year of The Monarch School in
an unheated, unairconditioned garage! And a long way from three
trailers and office suites in a business park! HOORAY!**

It gives me such great delight to heartily THANK key people today:

- **No one more than THE FACULTY: teachers, psychology staff,
administrative staff**
- **No one more than OUR STUDENTS**
- **No one more than OUR PARENTS**
- **No one more than our EXECUTIVE BOARD, led by Dave
Matthiesen**

- **No one more than our honorary capital campaign chairs, Rose Cullen and Kathy Cullen McCord**
- **No one more than our CAPITAL CAMPAIGN COMMITTEE, led by Grier Patton**
- **No one more than my husband and cofounder of the school, Gene Webb**
- **No one more than program directors Dr. Neal Sarahan and Dr. Debrah Hall**
- **No one more than our Extended Leadership Team**
- **No one more than MetroNational Corporation, whose gift of this land made today possible**
- **No one more than our donors, especially John O'Quinn who is here today**
- **No one more than The Houston Mennonite Church and especially our ardent supporter, Ed Wiens**

- **No one more than our Movers and Shapers volunteers, led by Justin Fox**
- **No one more than Amegy Bank and our banker John Kelley**
- **No one more than our architects John Clements and Shelly Potorff**
- **No one more than the team of consultants who've been working with the architects for the past 18 months.**
- **No one more than Mission Constructors, Don and Glenn Woo and John Plumb**
- **No one more than consultants Kearney Morgan, Ellen Cokinos, Mark Dulworth and Mary Gibbs**
- **No one more than YOU. You made this day possible! Everyone here today and many more who aren't here is a **STAKEHOLDER** in The Monarch School. And **EVERYONE** here is invited to leave your handprint in cement. Those pieces of concrete with all of**

our handprints will be worked into the design of the new campus.

It's no accident that this podium is surrounded by MILKWEED plants. They are the host plant for the Monarch butterfly and eventually we'll have hundreds of them on this site. The milkweed plant contains a poison that makes birds and animals sick....so that when the Monarch butterfly lays her eggs on its leaves, both the caterpillars that emerge and the butterflies that develop from the caterpillars are safe from predators. JUST AS STUDENTS AT MONARCH ARE SAFE FROM BULLYING, TEASING AND UNFAIR EXPECTATIONS!

What happens inside the beautiful chrysalis that the caterpillar makes is almost unbelievable. The caterpillar's body completely changes. It dissolves into a green liquid. Butterfly parts, such as wings, begin

forming in this soup mixture. JUST AS LIVES ARE CHANGED AT THE MONARCH SCHOOL: FROM THE INSIDE OUT

With its new body, a butterfly leads A NEW LIFE. The caterpillar did not see well, but the butterfly has good vision. JUST AS MONARCH STUDENTS LEARN TO SEE THE WORLD MORE CLEARLY AND TO SEE THAT THEY HAVE AN IMPORTANT PLACE IN IT!

And did you know that the tiny ½ ounce Monarch butterfly flies 2000 miles to a warmer climate each winter? JUST AS MANY MONARCH FAMILIES RELOCATE FROM AROUND THE COUNTRY AND WORLD TO COME TO THE MONARCH SCHOOL!

Our school has completed the first decade in its life cycle. We searched for the perfect nurturing place to begin and found it at The

Houston Mennonite Church. Our programs were hatched and we grew strong, flexible and insatiable in our quest for therapeutic innovations. We formed the chrysalis of our UNIQUE school. We worked and waited and dreamed and today....we are filled with the wish to FLY.....to Rosefield Drive, the permanent home of The Monarch School!

LET THE GROUNDBREAKING BEGIN!!!