



WASHINGTON EPISCOPAL SCHOOL

October 2009

Dear WES Community,

During WES's journey from a modest church basement to the facilities and program that we now enjoy, the school has benefited enormously from the steady leadership of two remarkable educators. My family may have joined the school that Isabelle Schuessler founded, but we all have come to cherish the school that Stuart Work has so ably led for the past eight years. So it is with a combination of real regret but deep appreciation that the Board of Trustees and I have accepted Stu's decision to finish his service to WES at the end of the 2010-2011 school year. As much as we will miss Stu, and thank him for all he has done, we respect his desire after ten years to pursue new challenges.

We are grateful that Stu has given us early notice of his future plans, so that we can undertake a deliberative and thoughtful process to select our next Head of School. The Board will form a search committee, engage a search consultant, and otherwise plan for this transition. You will be hearing more about the process in the coming months. Even though planning for the transition will take place over the next two years – and we will have the benefit of Stu's continued leadership during this period – the Board wanted to share this news promptly with the community.

The completion of Stu's ten years of service will coincide with the school year that marks WES's 25th anniversary. So the 2010-2011 school year will give us the chance to celebrate both of these milestones in the life of WES. Great schools reflect the hard work and dedication of many people, but particularly the leadership by the Head of School. During Stu Work's tenure, WES has truly been blessed with a leader deeply committed to the mission of the school, to its faculty, and especially to its students.

Transitions are an inevitable feature in the life of a school. WES has already accomplished so much in its short life, and we can look forward to the next stage of WES's history from a position of strength. With solid enrollment even in a weak economy and a remarkable sense of community spirit, WES has many exciting opportunities to pursue, as we recover some additional space for our current building in 2011 and plan for the future use of the additional four acres adjacent to the school. Much of what WES has already accomplished we owe to the dedicated service of Stu Work. Much of what WES will accomplish in the years ahead will be achieved by building on the foundations he helped establish.

Sincerely,

James P. Durling
Chair, Board of Trustees