

July 2010

Dear WES Community,

A month ago, I watched proudly as my eldest child graduated from WES. The event was bittersweet for me and many other parents that day because it meant significant changes in our lives. While even the word “change” sometimes triggers feelings of unease, change itself is healthy when it celebrates the good and builds on it for the future. We will experience this healthy type of change together this year at WES.

Head of School Search: As you know, the Board began last year a thoughtful and systematic search for a new Head of School to replace Stu Work. Our consultant, Educators Collaborative (EC), has nearly completed a process of assembling an impressive pool of candidates, choosing the best of more than seventy applicants. These candidates will be presented to the Search Committee in August. They are a highly qualified group of educators, diverse in experience and background and come from diverse locations across the United States. The Search Committee will have exciting, but difficult, choices to make as we identify the person who is the best fit for WES’ mission and culture and who can lead us forward with vision.

To assist the Search Committee in its work, advisory groups of faculty and parents have been created to help with the semi-final round of interviews. These groups are a combination of volunteers and easily persuaded recruits, and represent a cross-section of the school.

Faculty

Kim Bair (Grade 1)
Kim Baker (Chaplain)
Carrie Berman (Grade 6)
Eric Chalfin (Middle School Math)
Linda Durling (Grade 5)
Caterina Earle (Middle School Science)
Mehdi Elkasseem (Early Childhood and
Elementary Science, Athletics)
Bill Isola (Athletics)
Marguerite Miller (Art)
Suzy Olivera-Hansen (Foreign Language)
Linda O’Sullivan (Math Specialist)
Emily Shaw (Transition)

Parents

Margaret Bell (Dale – Grade 2)
Adrienne Chen-Young (Matthew – Grade 7)
Tacie Fox (Alexander Ratliff– Grade 6,
Nicholas – Grade 4)
Rick Haas (Julian – Grade 1)
Emily King (Caroline – Grade 1)
Celia Martin (Ben – ’08, Dana – ’10,
Carolyn – Grade 7)
Gina Mirigliano (Jonathan Butturini – ’10,
David – Grade 5)
Helen Moreau (William – Grade 2,
Victoria – Kindergarten)
Eric Myhre (Sterling – Grade 6,
Sarah – Grade 3)
Katherine Owens (Emily - Transition)
Maurice Ross (Jeffrey – Grade 7,)
Kimberly – Grade 3)
Gene Tibbs (Teddy – Kindergarten)

The Search Committee, led by WES parent and Board member Jim Young, and the Board of Trustees are grateful to all of our advisory group members for making this extra commitment to WES.

Most importantly, we need everyone to participate in the search process. Finalists will visit

WES in late October and early November, and there will be open sessions for the community to meet with our candidates on: October 20-21, October 27-28, and November 3-4. Exact times have not been determined, but please reserve the dates so that you may participate in these sessions and give us your feedback on the applicants. There will be multiple parent, faculty, student and other sessions to provide ample opportunity to participate. After these visits, the Search Committee will deliberate and present its recommendation to the Board for a final decision. We plan to introduce you to our new Head of School as quickly as possible, perhaps even before Thanksgiving.

WES Community Forum: As you can see, selection of the next Head of School will occupy a significant portion of the Board's attention in the coming year. However, there are other important issues on our agenda as well. Here are some examples:

Honoring and celebrating Mr. Work's ten years of service to WES

Planning for the best use of our expanded campus now that the one-acre sale has been Completed

Ensuring that WES continues to manage the pressures imposed by the economic downturn while continuing to provide the quality program that is the hallmark of WES' mission

The Board met in May to outline its plans for these and other issues. Over the summer, we have been getting a head start on our work for the year. Want to know more? Want to help? I invite you to attend a new event, the WES Community Forum, with the Board of Trustees on September 13 at 7:30 p.m. At the Forum, we will present updates on our plan for the year, including the Head of School search and the campus plan. We will outline how you can play a role in these important efforts and then open the floor to questions and discussion. Yes, this is also a change, but we believe a more open and accessible Board is a healthy change, consistent with WES' mission and traditions.

In the coming year, we will continue the celebration of WES' 25th Anniversary, but we will also embrace the changes that will build on that wonderful foundation. The 2010-2011 school year will be an exciting one, and I am eager to see it start. I look forward to seeing you in September.

With warmest regards,



Cynthia Stroman
Chair, WES Board of Trustees