



WASHINGTON EPISCOPAL SCHOOL

September 2009

Dear Jim,

Working in a great school like WES is incredibly rewarding. Since becoming Head of School in 2001, I have found every day to be both professionally and personally satisfying. To engage in meaningful tasks with exceptionally dedicated colleagues, the most supportive parents any school could wish for, and conscientious and visionary trustees guided by three superb Chairs continues to be a great experience. At the end of next year I will have completed ten years as Head of School, and the school will celebrate its 25th anniversary. WES teaches students to stretch their boundaries and look for new challenges. As an educator, I should model the practices we espouse. Much as I have loved and benefited from my years here, I feel that those two milestones mark the right time for me to seek new educational paths to follow. With our own children settled, Rachelle and I now have the freedom to consider fresh challenges wherever they may be located. It is therefore with much regret that I inform you that the next school year, 2010-2011, will be my last year as Head of WES.

So much of the pleasure of my experience as Head of School comes from the hundreds of WES Dragons I greet every morning, interact with in dozens of ways during the day, and bid farewell to at afternoon pickup. This includes the 228 graduates who have received a diploma with my signature at the bottom and gone on to wide success in high school and college. But it also embraces our youngest students, whose delight and wide-eyed wonder at what our program holds for them is a constant affirmation of what we do and who we do it for.

Even as the school has remained faithful to the vision of the founders, it has made remarkable progress in the last eight years. I have been privileged to be a part of this forward motion. The facility has improved markedly, with the addition inside of the climbing wall, fitness room, ceramics studio and Early Childhood science room, and the host of outside upgrades, from the many improvements to the playground to the beauty of Founders Park. The program has also seen many important enhancements with the addition of Spanish, new curricula in science, math, and reading, and the addition of a math specialist.

We can all take pride in the remarkable spirit of giving that has been so evident over the past eight years. Highlights include the most ever raised for a single campaign, the most ever raised at a Benefit Auction, and the most ever raised for Annual Giving, not to mention two years of 100% parent participation in Annual Giving. These funds have been used wisely and husbanded carefully, with eight years of balanced budgets and small annual surpluses.

I am informing you now so as to give the school plenty of time to find, and then make a smooth transition to, a terrific new head. The next two years will see the completion of the ongoing reaccreditation effort, planning for the use of our new property, and the celebration of WES's 25th anniversary. I am sure the second 25 years will be even more remarkable than the first. I look forward to working with you, the trustees, my colleagues, and parents on these projects over the next two years and to making sure students benefit every day from that special mixture we call the WES Way.

I will always look back with great fondness on my tenure at this remarkable school.

Sincerely,

Stu Work
Head of School