

April 8, 2010

To the Waring School Community:

In the accompanying letter Peter Smick, Headmaster, has notified me about his plan to retire at the end of the school year in July 2012. The fall of 2011 will mark the 40th year of Waring School. Peter will have been Headmaster for more than half of that time.

Peter was named Headmaster by the Waring Board of Trustees in 1990 succeeding Philip Waring, the school's founder. The handoff from Philip to Peter has been successful by any measure. Peter skillfully expanded upon the core foundation envisioned and installed by Philip. At the same time, Peter took an ambitious yet fledgling enterprise and transformed it into a more mature, sustainable and distinguished institution.

During Peter's tenure as Headmaster Waring has secured a durable financial footing and enjoyed two significant growth spurts. Waring has engaged gifted faculty many of whom have chosen Waring as their preferred place to build a career. Since Peter arrived at Waring—some dozen years before he became headmaster—two generations of students have found and expressed their voice and prepared themselves as lifelong learners for a remarkable range of destinations after Waring. Families of more than 400 students over that long time frame have voted with their feet and their minds to invest in the unique educational offering at Waring.

During the next two years, we have much work to complete as we prepare ourselves for a new Headmaster and secure a worthy successor to Peter. Of course, the daily life of the school will carry on largely unchanged; new students will experience camping trip for the first time, all-school meetings will continue, trips to France and other destinations will take place, more league championships in athletics will be won, an impressive array of college acceptances will be received and graduation speeches by seniors will display once again why Waring is a special place.

Beginning in the summer of 2011, we will also follow a deliberate and careful process in conducting a comprehensive nationwide search for Peter's successor. To that end we have engaged a nationally known independent school consultant, Mr. Gregory Floyd, who has been an advisor to over 250 independent schools all across the country. Gregory has a long and distinguished career in independent schools. A product of Brown University and Oxford, Gregory was also the Headmaster of the Portsmouth Abbey School in Rhode Island for ten years and was an executive with the National Association of Independent Schools before engaging in the independent school consulting world. Over the next several months Gregory will be introduced to Waring. You will see him on campus from time-to-time, often accompanied by Peter or me as he gets to know you and the Waring School. We will prepare the school profile and begin discussions with potential candidates sometime beginning around the summer/fall of 2011. There will also be many opportunities for you to participate in discussing the ongoing life of the Waring School through group meetings in a variety of forums. We will announce late spring next year a search committee that I will head.

In many ways it is too early to wish Peter well in his retirement. Two years is a long time. Of course, there will be plenty of opportunities to recognize Peter two years from now. In the meantime, graduation speeches and another Junior trip abroad are but six weeks away. I look forward to talking with you over the coming months.

Sincerely,

Geoff Hunt
Chair, Board of Trustees