

January 19, 2010

For all of us at Clariden, the last few years have been ones filled with many successes. We have weathered the economic storm and made major strides toward greater financial stability; we have worked together to clarify the strategic focus of the school; and we have developed a team of faculty that is working in a coordinated way toward a common goal: continuing to provide an educational environment in which children do not just succeed, but thrive. A major factor in these successes has been the leadership of David Deuel. You can therefore understand our mixed emotions as we share with you David's decision to leave Clariden at the end of the 2010-2011 school year. While we fully understand his and Celita's desire to return to international educational opportunities overseas, David's eventual departure is bittersweet for those of us at the school. We are faced not only with losing a friend and community member, but also with finding someone to fill David's shoes as our Head of School.

Without question, we are committed to continuing our steady path of success by growing our school with quality students as well as finding and retaining the best possible teachers for your children. Fortunately, David has been very thoughtful in timing his announcement and departure. Since he will be with us for the next year and a half, David has given the Board of Directors ample time to conduct a thorough search for his replacement and allow for a seamless transition to a new Head of School.

In anticipation of identifying a new Head of School, the Board has engaged The Education Group, an independent school search firm based in Dallas, to provide consulting services through this process. The Education Group was involved in the search five years ago that brought David to Clariden and is nationally and regionally recognized for its search activities in this field. Board members Carl Bush and Marian Cartwright will serve as the Board's Search Committee, whose focus will be to work with the Education Group, the Board, and the Clariden community during the leadership transition. Additionally, Clariden's Faculty Parent Council will serve in an advisory capacity and will support the Search Committee and Board as needed. Given its composition of faculty and parents representing the Upper and Lower Schools, we believe the Faculty Parent Council can serve as an important resource during this search.

The Board and Search Committee will be vigilant in our efforts to keep you informed of progress throughout the search process. While there will be significant activity during the coming weeks, the visible phase of the search will begin in March when our consultants come to campus to meet with faculty, administration, students, and parents. In addition to campus-wide interviews and focus groups, we will distribute surveys to all of you to solicit your input. Throughout spring, summer, and early fall, our consultants and the Search Committee will be identifying and interviewing candidates. It is

anticipated that in November and December we will conduct on campus interviews with finalists and that we will announce an appointment in the early part of 2011. The new Head of School will begin official responsibilities in Summer 2011.

We will miss David and wish him and Celita the very best. At the same time, we will look at this process as an opportunity to bring in a leader who has the right background, skills, and commitment to principles to help our community take critical next steps in its growth. We look forward to your engagement and support as this search effort moves forward this year. In the coming weeks you will receive information on a section of our website that will be dedicated to this search, a tool that we will use to keep you updated on progress, provide answers to basic questions, and list key contacts for any questions that you may have. We welcome your input as we proceed in this next exciting time in Clariden's history.

Sincerely,

The Clariden School Board of Directors