



The Walden School

Hello Walden Community,

The end of the school year is a time when I often find myself reflecting on the year we had and the people who made it possible, and what a momentous year 2021-22 has been.

We went from significant COVID restrictions, to seeing the effect of vaccines and other mitigation efforts payoff, allowing us to return to an environment more akin to what we were used to prior to March 2020. This year also saw the retirement of Mary McKeon, along with other beloved teachers, and a resulting search process that brought Bob Thomas to Walden. Not to mention hundreds of new experiences and learning moments for our students.

This time of reflection also leads me to thank those who made it possible, especially our teachers, staff and administrators. Who have once again ignited the curiosity of students during this pandemic. The efforts certainly do not go unnoticed and I for one am grateful for their continued dedication to Walden. It is their commitment to Montessori and Walden that truly make Walden a special and unique gem for learning.

I want to especially thank Mary McKeon, who, after more than 35 years of service to Walden and 12 of those as Head of School, will no longer be the persistent and delightful presence inside our walls (after her retirement on June 30). She has certainly been an important part of Walden and of my own life, starting as a teacher and later Assistant Head of School while I was a student, through my tenure on the Board during her time as Head of School. Her graciousness and connections with students and families will surely be missed. I wholeheartedly thank her and wish her all the best as she enjoys her retirement.

I also wish to thank the members of the Search Committee for their efforts in finding the right candidate to lead Walden forward. With your input and assistance, they selected, with Board approval, Bob Thomas to be our first externally selected Head of School in Walden's 55-year history. I know he has impressed me with his dedication and immediate connection to Walden. As he takes office July 1, he has begun the process of getting to know each family and faculty member, to ensure the nurturing environment you have come to expect from Walden continues.

Finally, but certainly not last, I want to thank you, our families, for your continued support of Walden. It filled me with much joy to see many of you as we began to once again hold in-person events like Bid Sip & Celebrate this year. You have also continued to show your generosity through the annual fund, for which we are truly grateful.

I congratulate our Graduates and thank their parents and teachers for ensuring that they exemplify the traits of a Walden Learner as they move out into the world.

I wish you a pleasant summer.

Daniel Neubert

Chair of the Board of Trustees