



July 2016

Dear Parents & Guardians,

We hope that you have been able to enjoy some summertime warmth, good family time and lazy days. I enjoyed picking radishes and basil in my parents' garden in Connecticut and sitting on the front porch of a green, tree-lined street. We have already been planning for next year for many months now, and this letter is to bring you up to date on changes taking place at SFWHS for the upcoming year. Each class will be receiving separate emails with the details of activities for orientation week and other information you need for the start of school.

We are pleased to introduce our new full school Facilities Manager, **Duncan Dow**. After having acted as a consultant for us on several projects last year, he started in his new role beginning of May 2016. Many of you know Duncan, whose daughter Isabel (Class of '15) went all the way through our school from parenting classes to high school. He has a background in construction, including operating his own contracting business, as well as working for Genentech doing data management. Duncan has a keen mind for solving problems and many active hobbies-woodworking, beekeeping, mead-brewing, and rebuilding bicycles. We are so pleased that our three campuses are in his capable hands.

Last April, the Board announced that Caleb Buckely, our Administrative Director, would not be returning. **Gerhard Engels**, our Director of Finance and Planning, has generously agreed to take on the role of Acting Administrative Director. The Board has formed a search committee composed of both board and faculty/staff members. This team, headed up by Sheila Schroeder (Board President) and Jim Stearns (Board), will lead the hiring process for the position. The committee, working on a 12th month hiring timeline, has already reviewed the Administrative Director job description and anticipates hiring a consulting firm this summer to broaden our search for the right person.

Other members of the search committee are: Gerhard Engels (*Director of Finance*), Jessica Eicher (*High School Chair*), John Froley (*Board*), Michael Gowe (*Board*), Liz Halifax (*Board*), Ghita Harris-Newton (*Board*), Laurence Jaquet (*Faculty*), Karen Nelson (*Grade School Chair*), Moira Walsh (*Board*), Paige Hart (*Board*), Renita LiVolsi (*High School Enrollment Director*), and Cotty Wolcott (*Board*).

Faculty & Staff Updates:

Beth Allingham, our Educational Support Coordinator, retired at the end of last year. We celebrated her long and full Waldorf teaching career and are grateful for the years that she spent at the high school, building our learning support program. We have had a seamless transition to our new Educational Support Coordinator, **Margo Engels**, who worked with Beth during the last month of school. Margo is an experienced Education Therapist and credentialed teacher who, in addition to maintaining a private practice, worked for the last seven

years as the Learning Support Coordinator and teacher at Greenwood School in Mill Valley. Margo holds a BA from UC Davis, a Master's in Education from UC Berkeley, and has Waldorf teacher training in both foundation studies and remedial work. Many of you are already familiar with Margo's commitment to the school though her work as a parent in the community (Jeremy Engels, 12th grade and Griffin Engels, 6th grade) and on the High School Parent Council. In addition to her role as Educational Support Coordinator, Margo will teach a 9th grade mathematics track.

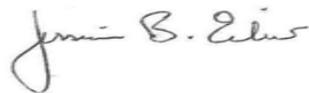
As you know, Ben Pittenger, who has been our Earth Science teacher for the last 5 years, is moving on to courageously pursue his passion for environmental law and policy. We are pleased to welcome **Madison Scheer** as the newest member of our stellar science faculty. Madison will teach our Earth Science Main Lessons (Geology, Meteorology and Environmental Science) and Habitat class, as well as collaborating with Luke Barbee in our Outdoor Education program throughout the year. Madison, who grew up in Marin and holds a BA from Colby College in Maine, is passionate about teaching, experiential learning and outdoor education. She has worked for Overland Summers for the past few years leading backpacking trips in Colorado and Alaska and spent last year teaching science at a private school in Los Gatos.

Dr. John Burket, our Biology/Gardening teacher and 10th grade sponsor, has been granted a sabbatical that he will take by finishing his teaching at Spring Break both this year and next year. He will continue his normal teaching responsibilities until April both this year and next.

Finally, we would like to introduce **Michelle Sparnicht** as our new afternoon Front Desk Receptionist. Michelle is relocating from Southern California where she spent last year working in the front office of the Pasadena Waldorf School. She is a ceramicist with a BA from UC Berkeley in Anthropology and History of Art. If you miss Karen Schuler, you can visit her at our Grade School, where she is now the full time Grade School Receptionist/Registrar. Heather Malcolm will continue to be your primary front desk point of contact at the high school in the mornings.

And that is all the news! The faculty and staff look forward to welcoming back the students on **Monday, August 22 at 9am** with Convocation and Photo Day. We hope to see all of you at our first community gathering, the **High School Welcome BBQ on Saturday, August 20 from 1-3pm**, on the high school campus.

With warm summer wishes,



Jessica Eicher
High School Chair