

Dear members of the Rippowam Cisqua community,

I hope all of you enjoyed Spring Break and are excited about the remaining weeks of the current academic year. I am writing to inform you of my leadership plans for the Cisqua Campus for the 2009-2010 academic year.

Over the past few months, as I worked closely with members of the faculty, administration, and parent body to conduct the search for the Cisqua Division Head, it quickly became apparent that there was a need to find a leader who would advance the mission of Rippowam Cisqua, pay particular attention to nurturing the unique culture of the Cisqua Campus, and support me during my first year as Head of School as I begin to immerse myself into the School culture.

While our national search brought us a number of interesting candidates committed to early childhood education, I believe during this time of transition, it is in the best interest of the School to have a Division Head with a clear sense of Rippowam Cisqua's culture and mission, and extensive knowledge of the School community. As a result, I have asked Marylea Franz to return to Cisqua to serve as an Interim Division Head for the 2009-2010 academic year.

Marylea brings over 25 years of experience at Cisqua to her role as Interim Division Head. She had been a teacher, and most recently served as the Cisqua Division Head from 1997-2003. Marylea's intelligence, kindness, understanding of elementary education, and true love of children will serve the School well, and she will be enormously helpful to me personally as we work together with fellow administrators and faculty to further enhance the already dynamic educational experience that exists at Cisqua.

In September we will re-engage the process to find a Cisqua Division Head who will provide leadership for years to come. I am confident that my actual presence on campus, and the commitment to the process that so many members of the community have already demonstrated, will result in our appointing an outstanding leader. Until then, I know we are in excellent hands with Marylea, and I ask that you join me in welcoming her back to the Rippowam Cisqua community.

I also would like to publicly thank the members of the Search Committee who gave their considerable time and effort to the search process: Kate Manning, Carol Gahagan, Lisa Adorno, Harriet Doniger, Bill Barrett, Andy Kuhn, Betsy Carter, and Anna Lee.

Regards,
Matthew