

February 28, 2011

Dear PCD Families,

On behalf of the Board of Trustees, we are pleased to announce the appointment of Vince Watchorn as The Providence Country Day School's next Head of School, effective July 1, 2011. The Board's decision to select Vince followed the enthusiastic and unanimous recommendation of the Head of School Search Committee.

At the outset of the search, the Board and the Search Committee solicited extensive community input and identified the most important characteristics we would require of our next head of school. Included among them were: a dynamic leader who has the vision, confidence, passion, skills and experience to inspire and guide our community; a good listener; an effective communicator; a collaborator; a proven manager with financial acumen; an individual willing to put down roots and eager to tell the PCD story in the Rhode Island community and beyond; an individual who is comfortable with people from all walks of life and who appreciates the unique character of our families and alumni; and a person who is genuinely attracted to PCD's traditions, values and community.

Vince Watchorn embodies these qualities and more. In recommending Vince to the Board of Trustees, the Search Committee pointed to his proven leadership as an associate head of school and administrator at both The Ellis School and West Nottingham Academy; his experience engaging the community's constituents in strategic planning; his extensive leadership in fundraising and development including his direction of several highly successful capital campaigns; his collaboration with faculty to create and direct internal/external partnerships for curriculum enhancement in the arts and environmental education work; his work with alumni; his vision of education in the 21st century, grounded in a philosophy that values traditions and history; and the respect garnered from faculty, staff, administrators, parents and students for his initiative and collegiality. References for his candidacy and survey feedback from the PCD community resoundingly endorsed Vince's ability to connect individually and in groups, as well as his personal warmth, humor, and approachability. Additionally, through references the committee learned of Vince's collaborative leadership style, superb administrative and communication skills, and his commitment to eliciting the best work from the adults and children in a school community.

Vince's appointment comes as the result of a thorough and inclusive search process, during which the Search Committee worked with nationally recognized educational search consultant Gregory Floyd. We are grateful for the active, thoughtful input from faculty, administrators, staff, parents, parents of alumni, and alumni to develop the position description and to identify the leadership qualities sought in PCD's next head of school. The community's participation continued in the welcoming of candidates to campus this winter, and by providing helpful feedback to the Search Committee. The Board of Trustees thanks the Search Committee members for the tremendous amount of time and energy they have expended.

We are honored that Vince has accepted our offer to serve as Providence Country Day's 8th head of school. As we anticipate Vince's arrival, we will have ample opportunities to honor Susan Haberlandt for her outstanding thirteen years of leadership at The Providence Country Day School. We are deeply grateful to Susan for her commitment to and love for PCD, as well as the foundation she has laid to help ensure Vince's and PCD's success.

Sincerely,

David Bazar '76

President, Board of Trustees

Mary P. Heffner

Chair, Head of School Search Committee