

04-08-2011

Peter J. Caldwell Named New Headmaster

The Board of Trustees, at a special meeting on April 5th, voted unanimously and enthusiastically to appoint Peter J. Caldwell as the next Headmaster of Morristown-Beard School, effective July 1, 2011.

Peter comes to us from St. Andrew's School, a coed preparatory boarding school in Middletown, Delaware, where he is Assistant Headmaster. The son of boarding school teachers, Peter has been deeply immersed in the life of an independent school community since childhood, and his professional experience reflects this fundamental truth: he is a life-long educator. Peter received his undergraduate degree in History and Music from Bowdoin College and his Master's degree in Education from Harvard University. He taught, coached soccer, skiing, and lacrosse and served as corridor parent at Vermont Academy, where he was appointed Dean of Students at the age of 26. Subsequently, he served as Director of Admission and Financial Aid at Riverdale Country School in Manhattan before joining St. Andrew's in 1991. During his twenty-year tenure at St. Andrew's, Peter has been involved in all facets of the school: serving as a history teacher; academic advisor; soccer coach; cello instructor; Director of Admission and Financial Aid; and for the last twelve years, Assistant Headmaster.



Peter's appointment comes as a result of a thorough and inclusive process conducted by the Search Committee, under the leadership of Mike Ranger, and in conjunction with our experienced educational search firm, Gregory Floyd & Associates. Beginning in January, our consultants built a pool of more than 50 impressive and qualified candidates. After preliminary research and conversations, the committee narrowed this pool down to 12, five of which were invited to the School for campus visits. Two finalists were then selected to return for more extensive interviews, conversations and meetings. Upon conclusion of these visits, the Search Committee spent considerable time carefully reviewing all of the information acquired through the process, including community feedback, before making its recommendation to the Board of Trustees. The Search Committee's commitment to this endeavor has been remarkable to witness and essential

to the success of the process. I would like to extend my sincere gratitude to John Adams, Noreen Cassidy, John Egan, John Farhat, John Fay, Natalie Malseed, John Mascaro, John Peirano, Mike Ranger, Kathy Rohrer, Debi Roth, and Lee Kellogg Sadrian '89, as well as to all of the members of the Advisory and Communications committees for their outstanding service to the School.

In the position profile that was created for potential candidates, the community articulated its desire for a Headmaster with intellectual vision, exceptional communication and interpersonal skills, high moral character, a sense of humor, a strong campus presence, a lifelong commitment to learning, extensive independent school experience and exemplary references. Peter Caldwell possesses all of these qualities, and more. Peter was chosen by the Board of Trustees for his all-encompassing experience in education, his passion for teaching and learning, and especially for his ability to connect with students, earn the respect of faculty, and appreciate and value community. As part of the Search Committee's due diligence, it conducted a series of comprehensive conversations with numerous individuals with whom Peter has worked. It was very clear that he had done a remarkable job at St. Andrew's and is highly respected and beloved by all constituencies of the school community. All of the feedback we received, whether from Peter's current and former colleagues or from members of the MBS community, uniformly endorsed Peter's teaching skills, his intellectual prowess, his warmth and personal nature, his integrity and his deep appreciation for a sense of community.

In accepting his appointment, Peter said, "I am thrilled to be joining the Morristown-Beard community. I am extremely impressed with the commitment and combined effort of the Search Committee, the Board, the faculty and the parent body to safeguard the School's mission in creating an environment where each student is valued. I am especially excited to lead a middle and upper school. I look forward to working closely with the outstanding administration, faculty and student body assembled under the superb leadership of Dr. Alex Curtis."

Peter will be moving to Morristown with his wife Darcy, also an experienced and well-respected educator. Peter and Darcy have three children: twins Tyler and Alexa who will be graduating from Harvard and Brown, respectively, this spring, and Lucinda, a freshman at Brown.

As we look toward the arrival of Peter and Darcy on July 1, the coming months will also offer us opportunities to celebrate and thank Alex and Beth Curtis for their incredible contributions to Morristown-Beard School. Alex's leadership has been transformational and has helped to bring Morristown-Beard to the enviable position it occupies today among our peer schools. So, with immense appreciation for our remarkable history, both distant and recent, we eagerly look forward to a future of continued excellence under the stewardship of Mr. Peter Caldwell.

Sincerely,
M. Thomas Conway

President
Board of Trustees