



November 12, 2010

Dear Saint Mark's Community:

On behalf of the Board of Trustees, it is my pleasure to announce the appointment of Joseph M. Harvey as Saint Mark's next Head of School. The board's unanimous decision to select Joe followed the enthusiastic and unanimous recommendation of the Search Committee. Joe's appointment will begin July 1, 2011.

Over the last nine months, the Search Committee engaged in a comprehensive and inclusive search process for a new Head of School; it did so with the support of the trustees, administration, faculty, staff, parents, students, and alumni. The committee was assisted by Gregory Floyd of Gregory Floyd & Associates, a nationally recognized educational executive search firm.

At the outset of the search, the board and the Search Committee, with extensive community input, identified the desired qualities of our next Head of School. Included among them were: an inspirational and visionary leader; a role model with high personal and professional standards; a captain of growth and necessary change; a champion of our school's mission; a developer of genuine bonds with students; an administrator with independent school managerial experience; an innovative educator; a mentor, collaborator, coach, and team builder; an earnest listener and effective communicator; and an embracer of our culture, values, and community.

Saint Mark's constituents overwhelmingly recognized that Joe Harvey embodies all of these qualities and more. He has demonstrated his leadership skills in his present position as Academic Dean at Marin Academy and as a previous Head of Upper School. His board-level work includes serving on MA's Strategic Planning Task Force and Buildings and Grounds Committee and as a current trustee for a local K-6 school. Joe's career in education spans nearly twenty years and includes experience as an English teacher, math teacher, Junior Class Dean, Athletic Director, head coach, Assistant Director of Admission, and member of MA's Diversity Council. He is best known for his attentive stewardship, his visionary and collaborative leadership style, his strong moral compass, his intellectual curiosity, his steadying influence, his gravitas, and his ability to make difficult decisions.

We are honored that Joe has accepted our offer to serve as our next Head of School. We are also pleased to welcome Joe's spouse, Amanda Cashman Harvey, and their seven-year-old son, Jed, as members of the Saint Mark's community. Amanda is a very accomplished coxswain and is currently a rowing coach at Marin Rowing Association.

The Board of Trustees is grateful for the invaluable support of the Saint Mark's community in the search. We are deeply appreciative of the Search Committee members for the tremendous amount of time they have expended during this process and for their unwavering commitment to choose the optimal new Head of School. Above all, we thank Victor Castillo, Search Committee Chair, for his exceptional leadership. We believe the process has brought us the finest of leaders in Joe Harvey.

As we anticipate Joe's arrival, we will have many opportunities this school year to celebrate and thank our beloved Headmaster, Damon Kerby, for his outstanding twenty-four years at Saint Mark's. Damon will leave behind a truly meaningful and enduring legacy, defined by vision, excellence, intellect, love of learning, collaboration, humor, integrity, and heart. To Damon's credit, this legacy has enabled us to recruit one of the top educators in the country and to effect a seamless transition. We are deeply grateful to Damon and his wife, Janet, for their commitment to and love of Saint Mark's School.

Sincerely,
Diane Gabianelli
President, Board of Trustees

.....

JOSEPH M. HARVEY

In his letter to the Saint Mark's Search Committee, incoming Head of School Joe Harvey thoughtfully wrote, "Almost twenty years of work in independent schools has convinced me of the importance of elementary education in nurturing a love of learning, engagement in a community, and kindness, compassion, and an ethical framework. What makes Saint Mark's so attractive is its focus on those core values; indeed they are hallmarks of the school."

Joe was born in Joliet, Illinois, where he grew up on a small farm, one of five children. His grandparents lived next door, and they were surrounded by extended family. Although neither of his parents had gone to college, they placed a high value on education, and there was always the expectation that college would be part of his life. Joe attended Harvard University, where he studied political science and was awarded his B.A. cum laude in 1989. It was at Harvard that Joe first fell in love with the sport of rowing particularly the teamwork, perspective, and commitment it demanded. He was elected captain of the 1988-1989 varsity heavyweight crew team and was awarded the John Reardon Men's Award for Academic and Athletic Excellence.

After college, Joe moved to New York and worked as a financial analyst at Goldman

Sachs. After three years, he pursued his interest in teaching and began a career in education at Deerfield Academy in Massachusetts. Between 1992 and 2000, he served as the Assistant Director of Admission, as an English and math teacher, and as the head coach of the varsity crew team. Subsequently, Joe became Head of Upper School at St. Stephen's Episcopal School in Texas. He joined Marin Academy in 2001 as an English teacher and the Junior Class Dean. In the meantime, Joe earned his master's degree in 2002 from the Bread Loaf School of English at Middlebury College. From 2004 to 2007, he continued his work at MA as both a teacher and the Athletic Director. Joe has served in the senior administrative position of Academic Dean since 2007.

Joe and his wife, Amanda Cashman Harvey, have a seven-year-old son, Jed. Amanda has enjoyed an illustrious career as both a coxswain and a rowing coach. She is currently a popular coach at Marin Rowing Association. The Harvey family lives locally in Terra Linda. They enjoy playing and swimming at the neighborhood pool, hiking on the ridges, and watching the white-tailed kites, turkey vultures, and occasional osprey flying overhead. Joe enjoys riding and running on the roads and trails of Marin, racing the occasional triathlon, and his favorite by far playing smokejumper, Golden Gate Bridge crew, or NFL football games in the driveway with Jed.

Joe is looking forward “to building a deep understanding of Saint Mark's history, culture, and community; leading and continuing to strengthen a talented and committed faculty and administrative team; working collaboratively to shape and communicate the shared vision of the school's future; and leading the process of successful school advancement.”

Saint Mark's School wholeheartedly welcomes Joe and his family to our community.