

THE WINSOR SCHOOL



October 1, 2015

Dear Members of the Winsor Community,

On behalf of the school's Trustees and the Winsor Corporation, I am delighted to announce that we have named Dr. Sarah Pelmas as our next head of school, effective July 1, 2016. This morning, the members of the Corporation added their own unanimous approval to that of the Trustees, with both votes following the enthusiastic recommendation of the Search Committee. Dr. Pelmas will succeed Rachel Friis Stettler, who will retire in June after 12 remarkable years as head of school. We look forward with full confidence that Dr. Pelmas and our school will flourish in the years ahead as she builds on the leadership of the strong, visionary women who have guided us since our founding.

An accomplished educator and superb leader, Dr. Pelmas will join Winsor at a historic moment, with our school healthy and thriving by every measure. She lauds Winsor's tremendous strengths and shares our ambitious goals for the future. Among an exceptional field of candidates, she stood out not only for the breadth of her experience but also for her passion for our mission and the way in which she lives out our school's core values of intellectual curiosity, personal integrity and authentic engagement.

For the last five years, Dr. Pelmas has enjoyed a "profoundly fulfilling" tenure at National Cathedral School in Washington, D.C., serving as associate head and head of the Upper School at one of the country's pre-eminent girls' day schools. Prior to NCS, she served for a decade on the faculty and administration at San Francisco University High School, gaining experience in the many facets of school operations in her roles as dean of students, English teacher, and interim athletic director at a school known for its high-achieving students. Dr. Pelmas has also taught in the English departments of Stanford, Syracuse University, the City College of San Francisco, and the University of California, Berkeley, from which she holds her Ph.D. in rhetoric. She earned her bachelor's and master's in English and creative writing from Princeton and Syracuse, respectively. While her career path began in higher education, a shift to independent schools taught her "how much more there is to the education when it includes the whole person." Beyond her professional interests, her passions include sustainable living, rowing, and family, and she and her husband, fellow educator Matt Eddy, are parents to two young sons.

In putting forth her Winsor candidacy, she reflected eloquently on her educational philosophy. "Now, more than ever," she wrote, "schools need strong leadership so that the vision aligns with the mission, inspires everyone to work and learn, and above all keeps the institution moving forward in exciting ways." Her own career reflects each of those key qualities: leadership, vision, inspiration, and drive. What came across clearly to every one with whom she spoke during the process—trustees, faculty and staff, students, alumnae, parents—was how deeply her own vision aligns with Winsor's.

From the start of our search eight months ago, we knew we were in the best of hands. Since March, our Search Committee has worked tirelessly to find the best possible match, led by co-chairs Elizabeth Bennett Carroll '89 and Bruce Shaw. As anticipated, our peerless reputation and the possibility of leading Winsor's next chapter attracted an immensely impressive field of candidates. The wonderful end result is a testament to the wisdom and collaborative spirit of every single member of the committee, and I wish to thank them for being so "generous minded," in the best tradition of Winsor. Search consultants Linc Eldredge and Jessica Cockrell from Brigham Hill Consultancy deserve our thanks, too, for their invaluable assistance. We also owe our gratitude to those who met with and provided feedback about the finalist candidates, including our faculty and staff as well as parent and alumnae advisory committees.

Thanks to all of you across the school community who, by participating in this past spring's meetings and surveys, shared your personal thoughts on the qualities needed to lead Winsor into the future. Dr. Pelmas wonderfully embodies the most essential of those qualities. In a fall with so much to celebrate already, her acceptance gives us one more reason. Together, we all will look forward to welcoming her.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Allison Kaneb Pellegrino".

Allison Kaneb Pellegrino '89, P'21, '22
President, The Winsor School Corporation,
and Chair, Board of Trustees