



ST. GEORGE'S  
SCHOOL

June 7, 2016

Dear St. George's School Community:

Our Head of School, Eric Peterson, has announced his intention not to extend his contract beyond June 30, 2017.

The Board of Trustees is profoundly grateful for Eric's leadership of St. George's over his past twelve years as Head. The contributions Eric and his family have made to the life and future of our school are immeasurable.

With his pursuit of ever-higher curricular standards, Eric championed and shepherded the creation of the Merck-Horton Center for Teaching and Learning, created the SGx design thinking program and our global studies program, developed the Third-Form Initiative, expanded *Geronimo* to include a European tour with all of the curriculum opportunities that presents, and the list goes on.

Eric's tenure also saw the expansion of the Hill Library, numerous dorm renovations and the creation of the Academic Center — a building that has transformed the way our students learn science, math and technology, and gather to study.

The contributions of the Peterson family extend beyond Eric's role as head. In addition, thanks to Krista Peterson's efforts in the Admissions Office, as its Senior Associate Director, demand for a St. George's education has never been higher. She has been a mother figure to thousands of Dragons over the years, opening her home and heart to our students and their families. Krista's talent, warmth and open nature will be sorely missed.

St. George's search for a new Head will undoubtedly attract great talent - leadership that will continue the School on its upward trajectory. The timing of Eric's announcement gives the school ample opportunity to pursue a deliberate and thorough nationwide search for a new Head of School and ensure a smooth transition in leadership.

Throughout this transition, the school's commitment to addressing past instances of sexual abuse and to supporting our survivor community will remain steadfast, as will our efforts to advance educational innovation, support our faculty and challenge our students.

To guide us through the search process, we have retained executive search firm, Spencer Stuart, which is deeply experienced in placing both secondary school and college heads. Trustee Tad Van Norden '84, Chair of the Search Committee, will update you in the coming weeks with more information on the search process and its timeline.

In addition, rest assured that the search will provide opportunities for all members of our school community - alumni, parents, faculty, staff and students — to take part in the selection process providing invaluable input and feedback during the upcoming year.

On behalf of the Board of Trustees, I want to thank Eric for his commitment to academic excellence and educational innovation; and for his and Krista's devotion and service to our school.

Sincerely,

Leslie Bathgate Heaney '92  
Chair, Board of Trustees



ST. GEORGE'S  
SCHOOL

June 3, 2016

Dear Leslie,

In his poem *Ulysses*, Tennyson reflects upon the Greek hero Odysseus and his desire to return to the sea in search of adventure. It's a poem I have always loved, not least because my students and I study it as part of the Geronimo Seminar, but even more because it describes so well the tension between staying home in a familiar, comfortable setting or chasing the horizon towards an unknown, exciting future. For the past several years, I have found myself wrestling with this same dilemma, and after much reflection and consideration I am writing to inform you and the Board that after twelve years as Head of School, I will not seek an extension of my contract beyond its conclusion in June of 2017.

Krista and I are enormously grateful to have had the opportunity to be a part of St. George's. It is a place we love dearly and in which we take great pride. We have lived here longer than we've ever lived anywhere; we raised our family here, and for all of us, St. George's will always be home. At the same time, we all leave home someday, and this transition comes at a logical point for our family and for us professionally. Furthermore, I am hopeful that announcing this decision now will allow for a thorough, national search for a successor, a process that requires substantial lead time and significant effort.

Even though recent months have been challenging ones for St. George's, I'm confident that the next head of school will arrive at an important juncture in our history and will be well positioned to carry the school forward in continued positive ways. Looking back over my time here, I am enormously proud of our work as a school. From the creation and impact of the Merck-Horton Center, to unique curriculum initiatives like SGx and Global Studies, from the renovation of our dorms and the Hill Library, to the construction of the new Academic Center, from the creation of the Honor Code, to innumerable small moments that positively changed students' lives, every day we have sought to be a better, more dynamic, more successful school. We have the most devoted, engaged faculty I have ever known and I count myself lucky indeed to have worked alongside them for as long as I have. No one could ask for better colleagues or more important work, and you, the Board, and the entire St. George's community should know how fortunate Krista and I feel to have played our respective roles in the life of the school and in the lives of more than a thousand graduates.

In the meantime, we have much to accomplish in the next thirteen months, and in Tennyson's words, "Some work of noble note may yet be done." For my part, I look forward to continuing to serve and support the school, even as the horizon that is ever visible from campus calls me and my family onward.

With deepest respect,

Eric F. Peterson  
Head of School