



October 29, 2010

Dear Oak Meadow Community,

On behalf of the Board of Trustees, I would like to share the news that Dave Stettler has been selected as the next Headmaster of The Fessenden School in West Newton beginning July 1, 2011. This development obviously brings with it mixed emotions. We are excited and proud of Dave and of our community for being tapped as the source of leadership for a 107 year-old school after a highly competitive, nationwide search. At the same time, we will miss Dave and think of him as we continue on our journey.

With Dave as a partner since 2005, we have taken great strides to enrich and develop Oak Meadow. With faculty, staff, and community leadership, we attained accreditation from the American Montessori Society (AMS) and the Association of Independent Schools in New England (AISNE). This accreditation places us at the forefront of large Montessori schools and positions us as a compelling independent school choice.

We undertook and completed our first five-year strategic plan, including the construction of the new performing arts, athletic, learning, art, and community gathering spaces. These spaces have come to life with enriched performance, artistic, and physical education opportunities. Importantly, we are now completely able to gather as a community, which we will do again at our gala, "*Our School Shines Bright,*" on Saturday, November 6.

The Board of Trustees is forming a Search Committee to lead our community through the process of choosing our next Head of School. Simultaneously, the Board is committed to working with Dave, and Dave is personally committed to Oak Meadow in his current role as Head of School through June 30, 2011. He and members of the Board will be available at a special *Golden Bean* on Monday, November 1 at 9:00 a.m. (after Monday Morning Meeting) and again at 6:00 p.m. that evening to answer any questions.

Oak Meadow is currently in a very strong position. The Board takes seriously the task of appointing a new Head of School and anticipates an exciting year ahead. We have already embarked on our Strategic Visioning process where we will explore and learn about who we want to be as a Montessori school in the 21st Century. We look forward to working with the community on both journeys.

Sincerely,

Robin L. Foley, Chair
Oak Meadow Board of Trustees

October 29, 2010

Dear Oak Meadow Students, Parents, Faculty, Staff and Friends,

I have been called to move on to a new opportunity – a new set of challenges – in my professional life. When I was contacted a few months ago and asked to be a candidate for Headmaster at The Fessenden School, I struggled with the decision. I envisioned many more years at Oak Meadow and looked forward to being a part of our school's continued evolution and growth. The decision to leave Oak Meadow is an emotional one for me. I love this school, and I have deep respect for its mission and for my colleagues who bring its mission to life.

I have had the honor and the joy of serving as Head of School at Oak Meadow Montessori School for six years. We have accomplished so much together. The future at Oak Meadow shines bright. Our fine faculty, our facilities, our educational program, and our strong enrollment all serve as examples of excellence to the Montessori community and to the independent school world. I will be forever grateful as I savor the memories of working with the wonderful children, the caring and engaged parents, the superb teachers and administrators, and the fine Board of Trustees at Oak Meadow.

I remain committed to Oak Meadow and will continue to serve as Head of School through June 30, 2011. I will continue to focus on the best interests of this school and of our children throughout my remaining time here. We will work together through our Strategic Visioning process to build a road map for the future of this fine school. I will leave Oak Meadow knowing that the school is in strong and capable hands. The Board of Trustees and the Search Committee will lead a comprehensive search for my successor. The new Head of School will work with all of you to bring Oak Meadow's strategic vision to reality. I am buoyed by the knowledge that our talented faculty and administration will continue to assure the success of this wonderful school.

Thank you for sharing your lives and your children with me and for entrusting me with the opportunity to lead this fine school. I will cherish the 2010-2011 school year. Every moment with the children, every interaction with parents, and every collaboration with our faculty, administration, and Board will serve as a reminder to me of the essence of our mission and the strength of our school. I look forward to continuing to work with you all throughout this school year and then to watching from a new vantage point as Oak Meadow's journey continues.

Sincerely,

David B. Stettler
Head of School