



The International School

Dear TIS Families and Friends:

This Fall will mark the beginning of my ninth year at TIS, and the end of my third three-year contract cycle. After deep personal reflection and lengthy deliberation with the Board of Trustees, I have determined that this year at The International School will also be my last. My time at TIS has offered me some of the most fulfilling experiences of my twenty-two year career in senior leadership positions. In the eight years that I have had the honor of leading this community, TIS has evolved and grown into a world class center for excellence of language immersion and inquiry-based education.

Since my arrival in 2012, TIS has matured and transformed into a stable, inspiring, influential institution. Our community is marked by key characteristics that provide the foundation on which we will continue to successfully move forward.

- A community deeply committed to the TIS mission of inspiring children to become global citizens through language and culture
- A passionate, highly capable teaching staff dedicated to educating the students they serve
- A resourceful, skilled, and competent administrative team that has steered the school through both day to day and large unanticipated challenges
- A passionate Educational Leadership Team committed to supporting our faculty as they collaborate to provide innovative inquiry-based educational program
- An engaged Board of Trustees that provides strategic direction and guidance
- A loving, responsive parent community who support their children through their volunteer work and their philanthropic donations

These characteristics are The International School's pillars of strength. They are what makes our community flexible and resilient, even in times of struggle and crisis. We will need to rely on them this coming year more than ever, as we work together to face the unprecedented challenges presented by the COVID-19 pandemic. I will spend my final year guiding us through this storm, and through our collaborative efforts I am confident that we will adapt and emerge from it facing an even brighter future.



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I look forward to the coming months, knowing that together we will overcome the challenges that lie ahead, while holding strong to our mission, vision, and values as a school. I am extremely grateful for the support and collegiality that has been extended to me during my tenure at TIS. I look forward to collaborating with the board, faculty, staff and parents to set the stage for a smooth transition for the next Head of School and the beginning of a new page in TIS history.



Robert Woods



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Dear members of The International School community:

The International School has been very fortunate to have Robert Woods at the helm for the past eight years. With talented faculty and staff leadership in place, Robert and the Board of Trustees have decided that the 2020-21 school year will be Robert's last as Head of School. Robert's eye toward establishing institutional processes and innovative academic programming leaves the school well-positioned to withstand even the most challenging times that the world faces today.

During his service as Head of School, Robert has significantly strengthened TIS including:

- Guiding the creation of schoolwide academic achievement and assessment standards, and supported the full transition to the IB PYP program, garnering numerous commendations
- Prioritizing faculty and staff professional development
- Spearheading the creation of a comprehensive new ten-year strategic plan
- Establishing the TIS Student Support Services program allowing TIS to better educate and support every student at our school
- Overseeing the successful completion of TIS' largest capital campaign, resulting in the construction of Learners' Hall
- Supporting campus enhancements, from the natural playground to a major renovation of Stearns Hall

The Board is particularly appreciative of Robert's leadership in shepherding continuous learning in response to COVID-19, quickly launching one of the leading online programs in the region. We are grateful that Robert will continue to lead TIS this upcoming school year as we navigate the uncertainties around COVID-19.

The Board of Trustees has created a Search Committee to conduct a comprehensive local, national and international search and has engaged [Joan Beauregard](#) and [Sally Mixsell](#) of [Educators' Collaborative](#), a national consulting firm specializing in working with independent schools, to assist us with the head of school search.



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Educators Collaborative meets one of the major criteria in selecting a search firm: a proven track record of identifying and hiring highly capable, racially and culturally diverse leaders into Head of School and other senior school administrative positions. We are committed to making this Head of School search inclusive, transparent, and collaborative and we will share more information in the next weeks. **Our goal is to conclude the search and announce the new head of school in early 2021. The new head will start at TIS in July 2021.**

As trustees, we would like to reiterate our belief that the unique value of TIS is even more relevant in today's global times of change. With its focus on globally-minded, caring, and inquisitive learners, TIS is uniquely positioned to support a generation ready to embrace a more just and peaceful society and a sustainable planet. We believe this head of school search process will make our school even stronger. We will work together to identify a leader who not only embraces our values and vision of multicultural academic excellence, but who challenges us all to truly live up to them.

Please join the Board of Trustees in thanking Robert for his steadfast leadership at TIS. We will create opportunities for you to help celebrate his dedication and accomplishments during the upcoming school year.

Sincerely,



Owen Pike
President, Board of Trustees
On Behalf of The International School's Board of Trustees



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