Dear Burke’s Community,

As we look to the close of a wonderfully productive school year with Michele’s second year as the Head of School, I wanted to take a moment to reflect upon and update you on the work of Burke’s Board of Trustees.

Since most of our work is long-range planning, it’s not always visible on a day-to-day basis. What impacts the daily operations of the school is tangible and I would first like to extend my great appreciation to the Parents Association, the Alumnae Board, and the Faculty and Staff Committees for our tremendous fundraising, community building, inclusivity efforts and service learning initiatives. Burke’s is extremely fortunate to have such a talented, dedicated, and broad-reaching community supporting our teachers and the innovative programs they thoughtfully provide our girls.

Highlights from concurrent board work this year include partnering with Michele on the launch and completion of a four-year Strategic Plan and preparing for its immediate implementation this fall; analyzing the needs and identifying funds for the renovation of the Lower School bathrooms this summer, establishing and utilizing a dashboard to measure all elements of our board work towards ensuring the school’s mission, surveying recent graduates regarding their cultural competency experience at Burke’s, and helping to successfully establish the first Eighth Grade Class Endowment Gift to be presented annually on Pansy Day.

At this time, I want to thank the members of our Board who are completing their tenure after an accumulated 18 years of exceptional leadership and service: Jennifer Caldwell, Louisa Consagra ’78, and Arrie Park. I also want to acknowledge the hard work of several non-trustees who served on Board Committees this year: Rick Polhemus and Monique Tuller on the Audit Committee; Gerry Agosta, Jonathan Feldman, and Sophie Middlebrook Hayward ’90 on the Buildings and Grounds Committee; Maricel Santos and Lisa Wu on the Cultural Competency Committee; Steve Ashley, Holden Lee, Chris Lenzo and Matthew Perry on the Investment Committee; Gail Chang, Jeannine Elzey, Robert Jay Green, Reed Maltzman and Anna Yatroussis ’84 on the Strategic Planning Committee; Lisa Gray on the Sustainability Committee; and Linda Chong, Anton Kast, and Venkatesh Reddy on the Technology Committee.

The generosity of time and expertise of these volunteers is immeasurable. The Burke’s board is comprised of 15 committees with over 60 volunteers including staff and faculty, all of whom go above and beyond to make our school the best it can be. I am deeply grateful for their tireless work and dedication and could not ask for a stronger team to lead.

Like most independent schools, the Board of Trustees is self-perpetuating and committed to continually electing people of diverse talents and backgrounds who can collectively serve the long-term interests of the school. Trustees act as both financial stewards and ambassadors, while serving to further the Burke’s mission into the 21st century. Each year, the Governance Committee analyzes and draws from an immensely talented pool of candidates from many constituencies including alumnae, past parents, current parents, grandparents and community leaders. With input from the Board at large, the Committee identifies areas of strategic need in light of the current composition of the Board, and recruits those individuals whose experience, capabilities, and generosity best fits with the current needs and priorities of the school.
I am very pleased to announce that the Burke’s Board of Trustees has elected four new trustees for three-year terms beginning September 2014: Anna Banks ’83, Gabrielle Kivitz ’89, Matthew Perry and Venkatesh Reddy. Click here to learn more about them.

In addition, we are grateful that Wells Blaxter, Travis Brownley, Laura Brugger, Gretchen Hansen, Leigh Matthes and MacGregor Read will be continuing their tenure on the Board for an additional three-year term.

I owe much thanks to the Governance Committee for their diligent and thoughtful work, and to the entire Burke’s community for this tremendously successful year.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Evan Marwell
President, Board of Trustees