



November 19, 2007

Dear Heathwood Hall families:

After the recent announcement that Steve Hickman would be leaving his position as our Head of School at the end of this school year, the Board of Trustees assembled a search committee that is charged with leading the effort to find Heathwood Hall's next head. Parents/trustees Mrs. Katherine Frankstone (parent of Harper, 11th grade; Preston, 9th; Manning, 8th) and Mr. E. Wade Mullins III '86 (Margo, 5th; Emmye, 2nd; Kit, K) agreed to co-chair this important effort with the support of their fellow committee members:

- Dr. Felicia Goins (Amanda, 11th);
- The Reverend Susan Heath (Sarah Jackson, 8th);
- Mrs. Madhavi Penmetsa (Neha, 6th; Megha, 11th)
- Mr. Edward Stiefel, Jr. (Eric, 9th);
- Mr. J. P. Strom, Jr. (Caroline, 4th; Margaret '07) and;
- Mr. Donald R. Tomlin, Jr. (Savannah, preschool; Paris, 2nd).

The Search Committee already has met twice and made a formal recommendation to trustees at last Thursday's board meeting that Associate Head of School Anne Weston and Steve Mandell, Assistant Head, be named co-interim heads for the 2008-2009 school year. The Board of Trustees unanimously accepted the committee's recommendation, and the plan will go into effect June 1, 2008.

Anne Weston has served Heathwood in exemplary fashion for nearly 30 years as a teacher, counselor and administrator. She currently heads the Upper School and continues to oversee the School's full academic program (including the arts and athletics) and the faculty. Steve Mandell joined us in 2000 as Director of College Counseling, distinguishing himself in that role and as Director of Student Services, a position he assumed 3 years later. In 2006, he was named Assistant Head for Admissions and Student Services, adding enrollment and marketing to his list of responsibilities.

The Board's announcement is exciting on two levels. First, it demonstrates their confidence in Anne's and Steve's leadership and recognizes the accomplishments of our current senior administrative team. Secondly, it allows our Search Committee and school community the recommended length of time to undergo a comprehensive search process and find the right person to lead Heathwood Hall as our next Head of School.

Over the course of the next two months, the Search Committee will be interviewing a number of professional search firms that will travel to our campus and make presentations. After the committee selects a firm, representatives from that firm will be back on our campus early in the spring to begin a community-wide dialogue with opportunities for families, faculty, alumni, past parents and many other friends to have a voice in the search process. I trust that you will participate fully in our search for a new Head of School. I am grateful to Steve Hickman for his continued leadership, and I appreciate your support for Anne Weston and Steve Mandell as they guide us through the next school year.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "W. Leighton Lord III".

W. Leighton Lord III, Chair
Board of Trustees