

AN ANNOUNCEMENT FROM



BURROUGHS
JOHN BURROUGHS SCHOOL

January 2008



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To the Burroughs Family,

In 2009 Marcia and I will both be 65, and we will have been at the school twenty-three years. During winter break we put our heads together and held discussions with our family. We decided that the 2008-09 school year should be our last at John Burroughs School. The time has come for the school to find new leadership and for us to move on.

It has been an enormous honor to head John Burroughs School these many years. Doing so, I have been continually humbled and awed by the quality of students and adults in this community. To work in – to lead – a place where everyone constantly strives for excellence in a broad range of endeavors has been a sheer joy.

In addition to the people, what I value most about spending more than half my career in this headship is the school itself. Its philosophy of applying progressive methods to traditional subject matter defines American education at its best. For more than eighty years wonderful faculty have honed this definition in their subject areas, adapted it to the times, and insisted on broadening it beyond academics to the arts, athletics, and activities.

Of course, the school changes over time. In my era, we have seen a greater focus on what currently is called globalization, more support for students, vast changes in technology, growth in diversity and multiculturalism, systemization of our evaluation systems for both people and programs, significant expansion of the campus, and the beautiful renovation of the Brauer Building. This building reflects our enduring philosophy, the liberal arts taught in seminar-style discussions and hands-on activities. We have spent considerable time and energy developing a Master Plan to bring the rest of the campus up to the standard realized in our signature main building.

The very best thing that happened to Marcia and me during our stay at JBS was that our children could attend this school. What a gift for any child! Put talented and diverse young people together with talented and dedicated adults under an enlightened philosophy in a caring community – that is what we strive for at John Burroughs School, and, for the most part, on most days, that is what we achieve.

Marcia and I have no set plans. We look forward to spending the next year and a half as we have the last twenty-one and a half – enjoying this wonderful community and serving it as best we can. We give heartfelt thanks to all who have helped and befriended us.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Keith E. Shahan". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Keith E. Shahan
Headmaster

January 2008



Dear John Burroughs School Community,

After almost a quarter century of exceptional service to John Burroughs School, Keith Shahan will retire as Headmaster at the end of the 2008-09 school year. His remarkable tenure has propelled our school to the forefront of the nation's independent secondary schools. We forever will owe a debt of gratitude to Keith and Marcia for all that they have contributed to this institution. Their legacy is one of unparalleled excellence.

The Board of Trustees has no more important role than that of selecting Dr. Shahan's successor. Rest assured that the challenge of identifying and hiring Burroughs' next Head of School will be the Board's highest priority during the coming year. We are committed to a global search that will be thorough, thoughtful, and inclusive. To that end, a great deal of planning well in advance of Keith's formal announcement has already occurred.

Several years ago, the Board formed a Succession Planning Committee to consider various issues and to make sure that the ground work is in place so that we are well-positioned for a smooth transition. This committee, under the leadership of former trustee Jim Maritz '69, has accomplished its goal, leaving us well prepared to commence the search for a new Head of School.

A Search Committee is being formed and will be led by the Vice President/President-Elect of the Board of Trustees, Todd Schnuck '77. The complete roster of the Search Committee will be determined before the end of January.

The responsibility of the Search Committee is to recommend a candidate to the Board of Trustees for its consideration and selection by the fall of 2008, with the intent of naming a new Head of School who will assume leadership of Burroughs in July 2009. Keith will remain at the helm as Headmaster, providing continuity and stability throughout the search process and transition to new leadership.

Ultimately, the success of our search for a new Head of School is dependent on the input and active involvement of the greater Burroughs' community: our parents, students, alumni, faculty, staff, and friends. You will be hearing more about this process in the coming months.

Thank you in advance for your participation in this important step in the life of John Burroughs School. The Board of Trustees and I look forward to working closely with the school community in this endeavor.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "L. Carr Trovillion". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

L. Carr Trovillion
President, Board of Trustees

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Headmasters

Wilford M. Aikin (1923-35)
Leonard D. Haertter (1935-64)
William G. Craig (1964-66)
Edward W. Cissel (1967-86)
Keith E. Shahan '62 (1986-)

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