

August 17, 2009

Hello all,

I hope this note finds you returning safely from a restful summer. As excited voices fill hallways, classrooms and playgrounds, we are reminded of our blessings - a beautiful campus, first class faculty, fabulous families and remarkable children. On behalf of the faculty and staff, I would like to welcome you to the 2009-2010 school year. Greeting old friends, making new friends, and catching up on news from summer adventures make these first days a blur for all.

Speaking of new friends, each year brings new families and new faculty members to add their talents and unique skills to our already outstanding community. As many of you have heard me say, great schools are simple: they require only great students, great families and great faculty. Adding new faces, ideas and talent to our community each year ensures that our school continues to provide the very finest educational experiences.

It is with great pleasure that we introduce our nine outstanding additions to our faculty.

John Bamford joins our Upper School English Department. John holds a BA in English from Harvard and also holds an MS in Philosophy. John will also be coaching soccer.

Gina Baucom returns to All Saints' Academy as Head of the Physical Education Department, Director of Wellness and Associate Athletic Director. Gina will also work with our girls basketball program.

Paul Freeman moves from the Lower School to the Upper School History Department. Paul holds a BA in History/Political Science from Winthrop. Paul will work with the Varsity Football Team as well as serving as Head Girls Varsity Basketball Coach.

Kim Jordan joins the Lower School, working with the 4th and 5th grade as a science specialist. Kim holds a BS from University of Georgia, an MS in Science Education and is a Woodrow Wilson Fellow from Princeton University.

Chris "Quick" Pearce joins our Upper School History Department. Chris is an All Saints' Alum where he continues to hold the state record for steals in baseball (hence, "quick"). Chris holds a BA in History from University of Florida and a J.D. from Florida State. Besides wondering whom he roots for each year, Chris will be coaching Cross Country and Baseball.

Danielle Roberts joins our Lower School Faculty as part of the third grade team. Danielle holds a BS in Elementary Education from Florida Southern College. Danielle enjoys science and technology and will work with our Lower School Robotics team.

We welcome back Valarie Satterfield to our Lower School. Many of you will remember how beautifully and effectively Valarie covered for a maternity leave last year. We are so pleased Valarie was available to bring that special warmth, love of children and academic integrity to our first grade team.

Joe Strednak joins our Upper School Science Department specializing in Chemistry. Joe holds a BA in Molecular Biology with postgraduate studies at Duke University. Joe brings excellent experience in independent education and has taught at Columbia Prep and the Hun School. Joe brings solid AP Chemistry teaching experience to our school.

John Winchester joins our Science Department specializing in Physics. John has a BS in Mechanical Engineering and 27 years working in the engineering field and at NASA. John has been teaching Honors and AP Physics in Seminole County and was an adjunct professor of Physics at Seminole County Community College. John was named the Seminole County STEM (science, technology, engineering, and math) teacher of the year.

Faculty notes:

Kacee Smith and Gail Fulwood, Pre School faculty, attended a workshop in early age gardening hosted by the Florida Department of Agriculture. Kacee and Gail have some exciting ideas for our Lower School gardens!

Barbara Sheekey, Sandy Dunn and Virginia Drake-Jacobson attended a workshop in Orton-Gillingham reading strategies at Florida Southern College. The Lower School has studied reading strategies as a faculty and is exploring many grade appropriate initiatives.

Grant Lyons, Upper School History, received a fully supported study sabbatical from the College Board to travel to China. We are proud of Grant's award and look forward to his experiences elevating his World History classes.

John Winchester, Upper School Science, received a NASA fellowship to study atmospheric chemistry and physics on the West Coast. John studied with Dr. Sherwood Rowland, the 1995 Nobel winner in chemistry. John was excited to study with a Nobel Laureate and will bring wonderful insights to our science students.

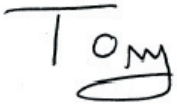
We understand our families expect our faculty to remain in front of leading research and to bring appropriate and reasonable best practices to our students. While we avoid fly by night and marketing fads that curse many educational systems, there are proven, research based practices that strengthen our ability to bring individualized instruction to our small and intimate classes. The faculty has, for the past two years, undertaken a group read where all faculty read a significant work over the summer. This summer, the faculty, collectively, read Michael Gurian's "Boys and Girls Learn Differently". Dr. Gurian brings brain research and hard data to the learning patterns of children. We look forward to bringing these insights into our PK3-12th grade classrooms and continuing bringing the highest level of education to our bright and capable students.

Thank you all for responding to the parent survey last spring. The results are helpful in determining areas in which we are succeeding and areas we need to continue to seek the excellence that is our mission. The survey results were shared with the faculty in our in-service meetings prior to the beginning of school and led to many intriguing discussions. My next newsletter will include the data from the survey and some of the faculty's thoughts on the results. I look forward to sharing this information with you and to your thoughts as well.

Well, most of us expected a bit of a reprieve from the initial Swine Flu (H1N1) outbreak last school year. Clearly, the flu itself did not listen to the new reports. As many of you followed the same news reports I did, the Swine Flu remains something to be taken seriously. Fortunately, we are lead by our fabulous school nurse, Paulette Wiley, who keeps us safe and well. While there is talk of vaccinations, the general conventional wisdom remains good common sense, frequent hand washing, and extra care if flu symptoms appear. We are blessed to have a student and parent body that takes school very seriously, resulting in low absenteeism. However, in the case of Swine Flu, discretion is the better part of valor. Please help keep all our students and community healthy by keeping your student home if flu symptoms appear.

We look forward to a terrific year, and appreciate the gift of your children and the trust you place in us.

Take care,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tom". The letter "T" is tall and thin, with a horizontal top bar. The "o" is a simple circle, and the "m" has two distinct humps.