Dear Parents and Friends of Cranbrook Schools,

Another school year has come to a close. It is my pleasure this year, as it is every year, to take the opportunity at this time to report to you on the state of Cranbrook Schools.

I doubt there are many people with any knowledge of Cranbrook who thought it would not survive the difficult times we have seen. But as so many independent schools in our area have had to face the difficult realities associated with reduced enrollment including reductions in scope, program, and real full-time non-adjunct faculty, perhaps it is only natural that concerns about the long-term situation of Cranbrook Schools should arise.

I am proud to report that Cranbrook Schools has done much more than endure. Truly, in this time of so many uncertainties, Cranbrook Schools has flourished.

As a resource for students and families, Cranbrook Schools has never been better. As a community of teachers and learners, our faculty and students have achieved significant accomplishments. As a resource for preparatory education on the state, national, and international levels, Cranbrook has risen to a position of true leadership. Today, Cranbrook’s faculty and administration are called upon by independent schools and independent school organizations at an unprecedented rate to help shape thinking, trends, and even teaching itself.

There has never been a better time to be a part of Cranbrook Schools.

I believe this is demonstrated, in part, by the fact that Cranbrook has never seen the level of popularity it now enjoys. We have had a year of record admission applications and record enrollment. As of this writing we have wait-lists in many grades. As the summary of their accomplishments will later show, we continue to attract some of the best and brightest students in Michigan and in the world.

The school has seen the start of an exciting new way to support the community and stay connected through the successful first year of Glow and @fterglow.

It is also a particularly exciting time to be a part of Cranbrook for our middle school girls. The opening of the Cranbrook Kingswood Middle School for Girls – Kingswood this past March has made a decade-long dream a reality. Funded entirely from sources outside
of tuition, including some of the most generous gifts to the school since the Booths, the new middle school is the first entirely new campus for Cranbrook since the 1930s. This unique resource is the fulfillment of a promise made to provide world-class, single-gender education for girls in a facility that matches the caliber of the students, faculty, and curriculum within its walls.

Programmatically, the Erb Collaborative has made possible some of the most unique educational opportunities in the independent school world today. Thanks to the Collaborative, students are enjoying unprecedented access to the resources at the Cranbrook Institute of Science in support of science, history, world language, and environmental education. In one example alone, the botany class provides a full textual guide to the CIS Michigan Garden, an outdoor guide to Michigan native plant species.

When the remodeled Cranbrook Art Museum opens in November of this year, its new collections wing will feature state-of-the-art classroom space. Here, Cranbrook Schools’ students will be able to encounter masterworks from the museum’s art collection “face to face” in an art education experience not possible in any other independent school in the country.

All of this exciting news, combined with Cranbrook’s ongoing commitment to recruit the best teaching faculty, remain at the forefront of educational technology, and continually innovate curriculum, make this one of the most exciting times in the Schools history since its founding.

We have truly wonderful students at Cranbrook Schools.

One of my favorite parts of my time at Cranbrook is being able to speak about the caliber of our student body. Year after year, they demonstrate their compassion, their character, their intellect, and their talent. This year, students from every grade distinguished themselves through their generosity from supporting local blood drives to providing a well for a village on the other side of the world. They distinguished themselves through their character as they embraced the latest anti-bullying programs. They distinguished themselves through their compassion as many dealt with the loss of one of their own earlier this calendar year.

Of course, our students also distinguished themselves both in the classroom and on the athletic field. For a brief overview of these distinctions, I invite you to read the summary at the end of this report. But I do want to take the time now to point out two of the areas
in which Cranbrook students truly have excelled: Advanced Placement testing and college placement.

Eighty-six percent of Cranbrook students who took an Advanced Placement (AP) exam in 2010 earned a score of 3 or higher compared to the national average of 16.9% and the State of Michigan average of 15%. Further analysis of Cranbrook Kingswood students reveals that:

- 95.5 percent who took either the Calculus AB or Calculus BC exams earned a score of 3 or higher, and 87 percent who took either the English Language or English Literature exams earned a score of 3 or higher,
- 91.3 percent who took the US History, European History, or World History exams earned a score of 3 or higher,
- 79 percent who took the Biology, Chemistry, or Physics exams earned a score of 3 or higher, and
- 92 percent who took the French, Latin, or Spanish exams earned a score of 3 or higher.

289 Cranbrook Kingswood students took at least 1 AP exam in 2010. The average number of AP exams takers per public school in the US was 103 and the average number of AP exams takers per Michigan school was 79. Cranbrook Kingswood offers 14 AP courses and students took 24 different AP subject tests.

Cranbrook Kingswood recognized 119 AP scholars in 2010. This includes:

- National AP Scholars: 7 (average grade of 4 or higher on eight or more AP exams; average grade of 4.0 on all exams taken)
- Scholars with Distinction: 48 (grades of 3 or higher on five or more AP exams; average grade of 3.5 on all AP exams taken)
- Scholars with Honors: 22 (grades of 3 or higher on four or more AP exams; average grade of 3.25 on all exams taken)
- AP Scholars: 49 (grades of 3 or higher on three or more AP exams)

These results are extraordinary. Equally remarkable are the results of the college enrollment process for the class of 2011. With the number of students applying to college still near record highs, and changes to college application process such as the “common app” providing for the number of applications to many universities to be even higher still, Cranbrook seniors have gone against the national trend of lower acceptance rates and have achieved some of the most impressive results in school history.

The class 2011 placed 1929 applications to 255 colleges and universities. Of the 255 colleges and universities that our seniors applied to, 222 (87 percent) offered admissions
to the applicants. Our 216 seniors received 201 total admissions to the Most Competitive schools in the country (as defined by Barron’s 2011).

To date Cranbrook Kingswood students have reported earning $7,520,154 in scholarships.

In one more remarkable achievement for our seniors, more than 80 percent of them went on a “Senior May Project” this year. This is, as many of you know, and internship program open to seniors as an opportunity to further explore a profession, industry, or cause that interests them. Not only is this a testament to their drive and motivation, it is also a testament to how connected the Cranbrook Schools community is in the larger community as many students found internships in prestigious local organizations.

The most remarkable thing about this year, I believe, is the extent to which Cranbrook Schools has been called upon to play a role in educational leadership, both in Michigan and across the country. This is not a new phenomenon for us, but it is one that has grown and expanded steadily. Over the past year alone, Cranbrook faculty and administration have, among other achievements:

- accepted the awarded Evergreen status award through the Michigan Green School Initiative on behalf of Brookside,
- presented summer and fall workshops in 2010 at the Michigan School Vocal Music Association (MSVMA) Conference in Lansing on music play activities for infants, toddlers, preschool, and kindergarten, as well as creating an age-appropriate performance experience for elementary students,
- received a grant from the Freeman Foundation to attend an East Asian Workshop for a week at Grand Valley State University and a follow-up assembly February 2011,
- participated in a Fulbright-Hays Group Study Abroad in Russia under the sponsorship of the University of Michigan and Kuban State University, and presented their experiences and how they are being utilized in the classroom at the 55th annual conference of the Michigan Council for the Social Studies,
- completed the first year of interdisciplinary Worldviews and Civilizations for the ninth grade, a cutting-edge merging of history and religion of the ancient world,
• collaborated with the University of Michigan School of Social Work to create student leadership retreats and build community and leadership experiences with students from Horizons-Upward Bound, international students,
• presented at national independent school conferences (People of Color Conference, National Association of Independent Schools Annual Conference) on student leadership in public-private partnerships using our student collaboration (BRIDGE) model,
• teamed with the University of Michigan School of Social Work to create the “Down Woodward” curriculum, an inter-disciplinary study using bus tours of Detroit as a laboratory,
• joined the Global Online Academy with leading independent school leaders,
• been selected as graders to College Board Advanced Placement readings in Spanish, physics, biology, and history, and
• been appointed to state and national college counseling leaderships positions and serve as president-elect of Michigan Association for College Admission Counseling (MACAC), delegates to MACAC, and a national delegate to the National Association for College Admission Counseling (NACAC).

Faculty and administrators are likewise regular members of Independent Schools Association of the Central States (ISACS) accreditation teams, providing expertise and insight to the accreditation process for independent schools throughout the Midwest.

Cranbrook has outstanding faculty, curriculum, and values.

Over the recent Reunion Weekend, the most common theme (from both older alumni and recent grads) was how much of a difference Cranbrook’s faculty has made in their lives. I know the faculty today makes that same difference in the lives of our current students.

Through the ongoing evaluation and development of curriculum and program, the faculty has worked hard to keep Cranbrook at the forefront of education. The process of curriculum review and mapping continues to ensure the continuity in education, by subject matter, throughout every division and grade. And rather than cutting programs, there are more opportunities than ever—inside and outside the classroom—at Cranbrook Schools for each and every student thanks to the hard work and vision of our teachers.
Our seniors’ acceptance rates to the most competitive universities is, on its own, a testimony to the effectiveness and relevance of Cranbrook’s curriculum and the caliber of its teachers.

Just as important as the quality and rigor of the curriculum is, in many cases, the responsiveness demonstrated by our faculty and staff in the face of student and parent concerns. Our families are obviously the first, best measure of how well the school is doing.

To that end, Cranbrook is committed to taking your comments and concerns to heart. As Cranbrook Schools shapes the young women and men it enrolls, so too do our families shape us. We will continue to learn from all of you as we continue to evolve and improve what we do here from the smallest issues to the largest. Indeed, parent input though our values survey was a valuable part of the search process that led us to the appointment of Kirk Effinger as the new head of the Boys’ Middle School. I know the input provided in the more recent survey concerning the search for the new Girls’ Middle School head will prove to be equally as valuable.

The standards our faculty set in curricular development, in giving back to the school (now with eight consecutive years of 100 percent faculty participation in Annual fund), and in devotion to their profession and their students, and their leadership, make them unique in the Michigan independent schools world.

Cranbrook Schools has flourished over the past year as an educational resource and as an educational leader. Cranbrook Schools’ students have, once again, flourished as well, achieving extraordinary accomplishment in the arts, athletics, academics, and—most singularly—in college acceptance. Long recognized as a local leader in education, Cranbrook is fast becoming recognized as a national leader in education.

Every year brings its own challenges. Some, like this year, bring the retirement of beloved faculty. But I believe that this year will be remembered for being outstanding. Truly, there has never been a better time to be a part of Cranbrook than today. I look forward to the years to come and to watching Cranbrook Schools continue to rise as a standard for preparatory education.
I wish each of you a very safe and enjoyable summer break. Although the time will go by all too soon, I already look forward to another great school year when we all return this fall.

In the meantime, thank you as always for your belief in and support of Cranbrook Schools.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Arlyce M. Seibert
Director of Schools
Overview of Student Achievements in 2010-2011

Science and Math
• 15,000 attendees at Cranbrook’s World of Robots event
• Competed in Robotics World Championships in Orlando, FL, and St. Louis, MO
• Nine students placed in the Top 100 on the Michigan Math Prize Competition for the 2010-2011 school year (out of 12,000 competitors)

Publications
• Gallimaufry, the Upper School’s student literary arts magazine, won a Gold Crown Award—the third year in a row—from the Columbia Scholastic Press Association; only ten other schools in the nation received this award
• Crane-Clarion: Gold Medal for 2009-2010 from the Columbia Scholastic Press Association

Athletics
This was another outstanding year for CK athletics. Highlights include;

• 2 State Championships and 2 runners up,
• 5 Regional Championships and 5 runners up,
• 1 District Championship and 3 runners up,
• 3 Catholic League Divisional Championships,
• 8 Academic All-State teams,
• 2 All Americans,
• 8 Academic All Americans,
• 28 individual state qualifiers, and
• 21 individual state champions.

Additionally, 60 students were recognized on the all state team and 22 recognized on the academic all state teams, 11 on the all region team, 20 regional or district champions and 21 on the all district/county team, 21 on the all Catholic League team, 34 on the all-league team and 12 on the academic all Catholic League team.
Cranbrook also boasted Miss Hockey, the State’s Girls Hockey Goalie of the Year, the Girls Hockey Scholar Athlete of the Year, the Division III Boys Swimmer of the Year, MHSAA Scholar Athlete recipient, and the Catholic Scholar Athletes of the Year for Field Hockey and Girls Golf.

Our Ski Coach also received State and District Coach of the Year recognition.

Art

- Two students were awarded at the National Scholastic Art Awards ceremony at Carnegie Hall.
- One student completed a second year as a violist for Itzhak Perlman Youth Conservatory.
- Cranbrook students completed a second successful year of Docent Club, which researches and presents the art and architecture of Cranbrook to student and faculty audiences at all divisions.