Dear Burke’s Community,

This is truly an exciting time to be part of Burke’s.

The 2013-2014 school year is off to a terrific start, and as the president of the Board of Trustees, I am excited to work with Michele in her second year as the Head of our school. Michele is focused on making Burke’s a magnet for innovative teaching, ensuring that each and every Burke’s girl feels known and supported, and enhancing this truly joyful learning environment. To this end, the faculty continues to implement our 21st Century Learning curriculum, the brand-new Makeries are busy with students tinkering and creating, and we just concluded our 82nd annual Family Festival season with a celebration that showcased our incredible community.

As you know, the Board is currently focused on planning Burke’s next strategic steps to advance our mission to educate, encourage and empower the present students and future generations of Burke’s girls. We are truly grateful to the hundreds of alumnae, parents, past parents, and former trustees who have contributed their thoughts and insights to this discussion. We are currently processing the feedback and ideas we received, and we look forward to sharing more with you in the spring.

As we have many new members of the community, I thought it might be helpful to say a few words about the role of our Board of Trustees. For almost all independent schools, the Board of Trustees exists primarily to formulate policy and to work to ensure the long-term sustainability and success of the school. The Board is charged with keeping and furthering the school’s mission, planning long-term goals and initiatives, and acting as fiduciaries for future generations of Burke’s girls by being responsible for its fiscal health, including the budget, fundraising, and endowment. The Board hires and evaluates the Head of School, but is not involved in the day-to-day operations of the school, such as personnel, program, curriculum, or admissions.

Burke’s is part of the National Association of Independent Schools (NAIS) and is accredited by the California Association of Independent Schools (CAIS). The Board’s activities benefit from the best practices developed and shared by the 1,700 member schools of NAIS and are formally reviewed by the regular accreditation process of the CAIS.

Given that the work of the Board may not be immediately visible, we would like to provide the community with as much insight as possible. A new section of the Burke’s website, www.kdbs.org/trustees, provides information on each trustee, board structure, and Board-related news and announcements.

Thank you for being part of Burke’s. It is truly an honor and pleasure to serve our incredible community.

Sincerely,

Evan Marwell
President of Burke’s Board of Trustees