



SAINT JAMES SCHOOL

29 August 2017

Dear Parents and Friends:

I write to you at the end of a very busy summer and at the beginning of our 175th year at Saint James School. As you know from my letter in June, we have made several promotions within the faculty and several promising appointments, so there is a lively spirit of change and improvement in the school. Add 69 new students and 170 returning students, and we are ready to go! This certainly was the feeling in chapel on Sunday morning and again Monday morning for the first full day of school.

Over the summer, we were able to make many substantial improvements to our campus. We replaced the roofs on Cotton, the Owens Library, Coors, Holloway, Bonner, and Pipkin. We also built the new faculty duplex, although there are some finishing touches yet to be addressed, and demolished Rich Cottage, preparing the site for the new Pohanka Fine Arts Center, which we hope to begin building this fall. We replaced the floors in the two Onderdonk faculty apartments, and re-painted and prepared several other faculty apartments and houses for their new occupants. We rebuilt the sidewalks in the front and rear of Powell Hall, replaced the air-conditioning and repainted the interior of the Chapel, and replaced the scoreboard on Turner Field with a new one given by the Parents' Association.

And these were just the visible improvements. Invisibly, we made a major repair to the water system, made additions to the kitchen, repaired the sewage line out of the locker rooms, replaced our phone system, made major improvements to our fiber connections, and upgraded our Blackbaud software programs.

Finally, we were able to purchase and install the first five Smart Boards for our classrooms with twenty more to be installed by the end of Christmas Break. This significant technological upgrade in our classrooms was made possible by a generous gift from Mr. and Mrs. Roland F. Young, III, in memory of Mr. Young's father, Roland F. Young, Jr., who just recently died. This gift is particularly appropriate because the elder Mr. Young was one of the original programmers of the Federal Aviation Agency's computer system at Logan Airport back in 1964. Mrs. Young serves on the Board of Trustees, and the Youngs' son Taylor graduated in 2009.

I also want to report to you some additional faculty and administrative appointments.

We were able to make a part-time appointment in Spanish: **Alicia Ruiz**. A graduate of the Monterrey Institute of Technology and Higher Learning in Querétaro, Mexico, Ms. Ruiz has several years' experience teaching English to Spanish speakers, so is well prepared to teach Spanish I to English speakers. Replacing Andrew Howard, **Camilo Andres Fiore** is joining us as a full-time teacher. A graduate of George Washington University with a BA in Spanish and Latin American Languages, Literature and Cultures, he has been teaching English for the last two years in Bogota, Colombia. Mr. Fiore will teach Spanish I and II, coach jv volleyball and boys' lacrosse, and serve as a dorm master in Onderdonk.

Replacing Amy Painter, **Kim Dudash** has joined us as our new Director of Communications. A graduate of Slippery Rock University with a BS in Communication, Mrs. Dudash comes to us highly recommended from the Charles E. Smith Jewish Day School in Rockville, where she served in just about every communications capacity over the last eight years. Before that, she worked in communications at Healthy Directions, LLC, and in admissions at Penn State, Beaver Campus. She lives in Middletown with her family, so has gained with her appointment a much more manageable commute.

Finally, I was disappointed to learn in late July that our Athletic Director Jim Fahey would be leaving to pursue a new career in banking. Happily, **Scott Barr '78** has agreed to replace him. Mr. Barr is of course no stranger to Saint James, as he grew up as a faculty child on campus, graduated from Saint James, and was a Saint James parent. He also is no stranger to Saint James Athletics, as his father Dave Barr was the Athletic Director from 1965 to 1993, and Scott was himself was a very successful athlete, playing football, soccer, basketball, and baseball. He went on to play basketball all four years at Johns Hopkins. He also coached jv boys' basketball here at Saint James.

Mr. Barr's son Jordan '09 was also a very successful athlete at Saint James, who played football, basketball, and lacrosse, going on to play lacrosse at Franklin and Marshall College, and so was his daughter Ellen '10, who played field hockey, basketball, and lacrosse. This is, therefore, a real return home for him, and we look forward to welcoming him back to campus in this important new role. Mr. Barr will begin as Athletic Director on September 8, and he and his wife Alice will live in Old Orchard House, once it has been renovated. Happily, Mr. Fahey will stay in place through September to help with the transition. We are also grateful to our Assistant Athletic Director, Laurie Douglass, whose steady hand, organizational skills, and good eye for detail will prove invaluable during the transition and beyond.

So this is our news: substantial good work over the summer, and some unexpected additional changes in personnel which have turned out remarkably well. The happy result is a great deal of excitement for continued growth and progress through this academic year, and though all our "years to come." We are, after all, only 175 years young!

My thanks and best wishes, as always,

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Father Dunnan", with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Father Dunnan