



To: The Perkins School Community
From: The Perkins School Board of Trustees

June 4, 2010

Welcome Barry Wright, New Head of School!

The Board of Trustees of The Perkins School is happy to announce the appointment of Barry Wright as our next Head of School. Barry will become Head of School effective July 1, 2010.

From a pool of highly qualified national and international applicants, four finalists were invited to visit Perkins during the month of May. All constituencies of the Perkins community were involved in the process and provided valuable input and feedback before the Task Force met to make a formal recommendation to the Board of Trustees last Thursday evening. The Head of School Search Task Force and the Board of Trustees is delighted to make this announcement.

The Board believes the combination of Barry's personality, his philosophical alignment with the mission, approach and core values of Perkins, his leadership style, and his experience best meets the needs of the school at this time. During his visit to the school and in contact with members of the Search Task Force, Barry was engaged, enthusiastic about Perkins, and demonstrated an immediate ability to connect with students, staff, and parents. He impressively conveyed a deep understanding of progressive educational philosophy and an abiding passion for child-centered education. In Barry's words:

The children, staff, and board members I met showed clear and profound enthusiasm for your school. The integrated curriculum, child-centered philosophy, outdoor education, and differentiated instruction resonated with me immediately, and mirror my own philosophy in numerous ways. Your teaching staff made a particularly strong impression on me: The way they talked about your school was striking, and the depth of their belief in your mission is contagious. I would love to work with them.

Barry is looking forward to being a part of a school affiliated with the Pacific Northwest Association of Independent Schools (PNAIS) and working with Perkins as the school moves toward full accreditation. We believe that he has the ability both to lead the school and to dynamically represent the school and its mission within PNAIS and the greater Seattle community.

Barry will be at Perkins on Monday, June 7th, from 8:15 a.m. to mid-morning, and again on Thursday, June 10th, from 2:00 p.m. to late afternoon, to meet with students, staff, and families. Please join us in welcoming Barry to the Perkins Community!

About Barry Wright

Barry Wright was raised in Albuquerque, New Mexico. He is a graduate of University of New Mexico in Albuquerque where he earned a B.S. in Biology with a minor in Psychology. He received his teaching certification through the University of Washington and holds an endorsement in Elementary Education (grades K-8) and Biology (grades 4-12). He has been at The Valley School in Seattle's Madison Valley for the last 16 years: 10 years as a 5th grade teacher; 6 years as Director of the school after a transitional year as Assistant Director and attendance at the National Association of Independent Schools Institute for New Heads of Schools. As Director, Barry worked closely with the staff on curriculum development, refinement of thematic teaching, actively participated in and streamlined a highly successful admissions and moving on program, and oversaw the IT needs of the school. He managed all aspects of a substantial capital campaign as well as the design, construction, financing, and permitting of the school's largest capital project to date. He has continued to teach at all grade levels during his tenure as Director. Some of his outside interests include competitive badminton, fly fishing and creative endeavors of all sorts. Barry is also happy to be bringing his kid-loving little sidekick "Bunny the Dog" to her new school.