



Montcrest School

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April 24, 2018

A Message from the Chair of the Board of Governors

Dear Montcrest School Community,

I am writing to let you know that David Thompson will be taking his planned retirement at the end of the 2018-2019 academic year. We have been incredibly fortunate to have David as Head of School since 2011. He has led us through a very important time at Montcrest, facilitating investments in our students, our faculty, our staff and our community. Under his leadership, the Building Together project, which is already benefiting our Grade 7 and 8 students and faculty, will be completed by the end of 2018. One of David's many admirable qualities is the way he leads the school community with great empathy and heart, knowing each student, greeting families each morning in the driveway, and maintaining strong relationships with faculty and staff, as well as donors, alumni, neighbours, and others in the Montcrest community. We know many of you will want to join us in honouring David after 45 years as an educator and leader in the Canadian independent school community. We will begin plans in the fall and keep you apprised of opportunities to participate.

To support us during this upcoming transition, the Montcrest Board of Governors has released the 2018-2021 [Strategic Plan](#) which lays out a clear roadmap for Montcrest over the next three years. David will lead us through the first year of that plan, and he will play an instrumental role in the successful transition of his successor. Montcrest's next Head of School will be hired to fulfill the goals of this plan and achieve our vision of being recognized as the leading elementary school community in Canada in realizing the unique potential of each child.

The Board has created a Transition Committee, chaired by Cynthia Eldridge, to lead both the search and the transition to the new Head. Cynthia is a Board member and a parent of students in Junior Kindergarten and Grade 2. She is also a Montcrest alumna, and daughter of a former board member. Molly Pocklington, Rod Davidge, Ian Robinson, Michèle Andrews, and I are also on the committee. Together we bring decades of experience in the Montcrest community and independent schools and we represent parents, faculty and staff, and alumni.

The Board has appointed Colleen Keenan of Odgers Berndtson to advise and support us with the search for the new Head. Odgers Berndtson is one of Canada's largest search firms, and part of a global firm that spans 26 countries. Colleen brings 18 years of experience working with over 35 schools across Canada, Bermuda, and the northeastern United States. Some of her recently completed assignments include the Head of School positions at Saltus School (Bermuda); Ashbury College; and Lakefield College School. She also worked with Montcrest on the search that led to David Thompson's appointment.



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In preparation for the search, Colleen and the Transition Committee will be conducting consultations this spring with faculty and staff, students, parents, alumni and others in our community. Your input will be enormously helpful in informing the direction of the search, and I thank you in advance for your participation. You will be receiving more information on these consultations in the coming weeks.

We will share updates as our transition process progresses. We have created a [webpage](#) where this letter and all other updates will be available for your reference.

We anticipate that the appointment of the new Head will be announced in 2018 and that individual will begin in the summer of 2019.

I speak for the whole Board when I say it has been an honour to work with David, and we look forward to one more exciting year at Montcrest School under his leadership.

Sincerely,

Don Durno,
Chair, Board of Governors