Dear Burke’s Community,

Happy New Year! We hope you and your families have had a great start to 2018.

The Board of Trustees provides our larger community with an update twice a year to highlight some of the key initiatives and priorities that we strive to support. Much of the work is fiduciary or governance-related, which we know doesn’t always make for the most exciting reading. But our ongoing work with implementing the current Strategic Plan is about to hit a big milestone, one that every member of our board has advanced through careful, intentional planning.

Burke’s is close to fully launching the community phase of its next capital campaign and a concomitant building project, and while you may not see a lot of evidence that it’s coming, there has been much hard and thoughtful work happening behind the scenes to get to this point — the point where we can announce it to everyone in the Burke’s community. We look forward to sharing these exciting plans in the coming weeks and months!

The capital campaign and building project are directly connected to our current Strategic Plan. Goal #2 of the plan reads: “Burke’s will examine, expand, and improve its facilities in order to meet current and future needs, including the potential renovation of the Lower School and Lunchroom spaces.” Similarly, Goal #3 says, “Burke’s will increase endowment significantly through a community-wide capital campaign effort.” And while Goal #1 doesn’t specifically call for fundraising, it does include a number of initiatives that will benefit from the sustainable sources of support that will be raised through a campaign. Keep an eye out for the big announcement!

Beyond planning for these two initiatives, work also continues on multiple programs launched by the Strategic Plan. These include the continued efforts of our Diversity Task Force, which will be initiating three new transportation pilots this spring; two of these will be focused on supporting our faculty and staff and the third will look to expand our already robust student transportation pilot program. We are excited to achieve further progress in our efforts to make Burke’s more accessible for everyone. We’ve already seen an impact on the length of the carline during morning drop-off; hopefully, our neighbors are noticing as well!

Another step forward has been the Burke’s Snapshots document that was made public earlier this fall. It took a huge amount of effort on the part of our faculty and administration to compile this piece, which begins to illustrate the ways that the Burke’s curriculum flows and connects throughout grades and subject areas. It makes it easier for us as parents to track what our children are learning, but the real upside is that it is already helping our teachers identify concrete opportunities to collaborate with each other and create deep, meaningful lessons that go beyond simple understanding of the subject matter. If you haven’t had a chance to view them on the Burke’s website, please do!

These are just a few of the areas that stand to benefit from a community-wide effort to keep pushing this school forward as we near the third decade of the 21st century. Stay tuned — you'll hear more soon, and we look forward to your involvement!
Sincerely,

Nel Ellwein  
President, Burke’s Board of Trustees