



*A Message from the
Head of School
Chrissy M. Aull*

Dear Friends of WRUS:

Usually I write about the kids. It's all about the kids. Why not? They deserve recognition for their accomplishments. Each one of them has created their own wonderful story.

Yet with this issue, I will write about a growing number of adults who have worked with incredible dedication to grow and strengthen Wye River Upper School, for the kids. It all comes back to the kids.

Six months ago the Board of Trustees of WRUS formed a Strategic Plan Committee and charged the group with critically examining our growth, our strengths, and our needs. We have many exciting opportunities ahead, and we'll meet them with great success if we are well prepared.

For anyone who has been involved in strategic planning, you know that it is a rewarding yet time-consuming process. To do a good job requires considerable commitment and effort from the committee members. This group of nine has dedicated over 400 collective hours of meeting time, plus the hours of homework that is required in between meetings. They have given up evenings with their own families and a Sunday, all for the good of the students of Wye River Upper School. And we are not yet done.

The final strategic plan is to be delivered to the WRUS Board in January. As a member of the committee, I know it to be a strong plan—well considered, well written, with goals that are attainable. There is not enough paper in this newsletter to write about the plan, but that is not the point anyway. The point is to acknowledge the dedication of the committee members. Some are directly connected to the school via paychecks or students; most have absolutely no connection other than their personal passion for our kind of kids. If you are a parent of a current or prospective WRUS student, you should know of the dedication of this group on behalf of your child. If you are a friend and supporter of WRUS, you can feel confident knowing that the school is in such committed, capable hands.

And so we dedicate this edition of Connections to the members of the Wye River Upper School Strategic Development Committee: John Devlin, Chair, Jamie Foster, Linnie Marshall, Tom Mendenhall, Joe Rabenstine, Laura Richardson, Beverly Tilghman, and Greg Wannewetsch. On behalf of the students and families of WRUS, thank you for what you have done for us.

Sincerely, Chrissy M. Aull, Head of School

New students at WRUS this fall included seven freshmen, four sophomores, and one junior. Total school opening enrollment: 36. Enrollment at WRUS is open with rolling admission.

WRUS Head of School Chrissy Aull recently announced the 2009 First Quarter Honor Roll. Earning High Honors are J. R. Bauer, 10th grade; Megan Smith, 11th grade; and Jake Wilkes, 12th grade. Earning a place on the Honor Roll are Favi Bautista, Nadiya Bohonowicz, Jacob Cooper, Cooper Dixon, Courtney Dragovich, Grace Gallagher, Tim Gooding, Zak Lucas, Alison Sanger, Patric Strauel, Kelvin Thompson, Chloe Tong, Shriver Winebrenner.

Jeff Moran Departs

Jeff Moran this fall resigned in order to spend more time with his family. Said Head Chrissy Aull: "Jeff came on as Director of Admissions in 2006 and later assumed the vacancy as Director of Development. He has always been a staunch and passionate supporter of the mission of WRUS. His unique appreciation for the value of our work, combined with his strong skills in personal contact and follow through, made for strong outcomes in his work. We all will miss Jeff and wish him great success as he dedicates more time to his family, to whom he is totally devoted."



Students ready themselves for trip to colleges. See story in *Winter Connections*.

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Architect Winebrenner Joins Relocation Effort

Peter Winebrenner, AIA and parent of WRUS student Shriver Winebrenner, has joined the Relocation Committee. A principal with the firm of Hord, Coplan, Macht of Baltimore, Winebrenner has over 18 years of experience in public and private school design. "

We are thrilled to be a part of the WRUS family," he says. "Our son Shriver has never been so excited about school as he has been this year. This has translated into his making the Honor Roll - a first for him in his years of schooling. It tells us that the right school CAN make all the difference. Now I am thrilled to be able to help WRUS find a permanent home through my involvement with the Relocation Committee. It is the perfect meshing of my devotion as a parent and my passions as a professional architect."

For Board Chairman Wannewetsch,"Peter has been a gift for us as we plan our new home."