

## Headmaster's Message

March 2010

Dear Parents:

Thomas Friedman of the *New York Times* so often gets it right.

He said, "My parents told me, 'Finish your dinner. People in China and India are starving.' I tell my daughters 'Finish your homework. People in India and China are *starving for your job!*'"

Friedman feels the world is becoming Hot, Flat and Crowded and that a rising middle class in places like the China and India will compete on a much more level playing field for economic rewards that perhaps we felt would always come to us as entitlements. We're learning as we wade through the current recession that the honorable and profitable middle class jobs in places like the automobile industry have gone by the wayside. I correspond on Facebook with high school classmates (from 1965) who forsook college for the assembly lines of paternalistic, old IBM Corporation. Many had a home, family and a boat by their mid-twenties—then were forced into early retirement soon after they turned fifty.

The world has not been kind to those who denigrated or ignored higher education. Friedman explains that we are educating today's high schoolers for jobs that do not yet exist—in what he calls the Energy/Climate Era. Along with a scarcity of energy supplies and natural resources we may see a scarcity of appropriately educated workers. The current skepticism about the ability of "big government" to solve persistent problems, and the shortsightedness and selfishness of many of our largest financial institutions, suggest a modest awareness and incomplete answers where strategic thought and action are needed. Educated individuals in this 21<sup>st</sup> century are going to need to see and act from both a global, national and personal perspective.

I think the best training for the "jobs that do not yet exist" remains a well-rounded and rigorous program where the past is learned and respected—and the future is met with an optimistic drive to control events. As an historian I have always reminded students of the folly of preparing to win the last war, and losing sight of emerging technologies and strategies for the next challenge. The next opportunities are becoming more apparent. We have mitigated great power conflicts and even cooperate in many areas against the petro-dictators and terrorists. We learn from and suffer with instant communications and need, I feel, to train students to be perceptive and caring in their use of new technologies.

As my direct involvement in the education of young people mitigates I am confident that they can become technically advanced and aware through hands-on experiences and will learn through a cooperative educational setting many of the skills of "getting along." Our kids will learn to meet tomorrow if we cultivate their "hunger" for knowledge, community and meaningful communication. What more appropriate role for a school!

Sincerely,



Dick Heath  
Headmaster