



November 30, 2018

Dear Pingry Community,

When I last communicated with you on June 25, I announced that Nat Conard P '09, '11 would be completing his tenure as Headmaster at the end of the 2018-19 school year. Along with thanking Nat for his tremendous service and many positive transformations to our school over the last 14 years, I also announced the formation of a search committee. Co-chaired by Trustees Stuart Lederman '78 and Katie Procter P '22, '26 and assisted by Spencer Stuart, the committee set forth to identify and recruit our next head. Following a comprehensive, five-month search process, I am delighted to announce that the Board of Trustees has unanimously voted Matt Levinson to serve as Pingry's 16th Head of School, commencing July 1, 2019.

Matt brings over 25 years of leadership experience in independent schools, most recently as Head of School at University Prep in Seattle, Washington, and previously in senior leadership positions at Marin Country Day School and The Nueva School, both in the San Francisco Bay Area. He began his career in education at Princeton Day School and was active in summer programs at both New Jersey SEEDS and Prep for Prep. In addition to his leadership experience, he has taught Middle and Upper School history, served as department chair and grade level dean, and coached Upper School varsity soccer. Matt has established a strong record as an innovative educator who is dedicated to the health and well-being of his school community. Time and again throughout its process and in speaking with his former colleagues, the Search Committee confirmed Matt's leadership skills and fluency with the myriad issues facing independent schools today.

Matt holds a B.A. in History from Haverford College where he co-captained the men's soccer team for two years and an M.A. in Social Studies Education from Teachers College, Columbia University where he was a member of the Kappa Delta Pi Honor Society. His wife, Priyanthi Alahendra, is also an independent school educator with over 25 years at the elementary school level. Matt and Priyanthi have two children, Sanjay, a college freshman, and Maya, a high school sophomore.

Perhaps the most striking aspect of Matt's candidacy was his ability, through pointed questions, careful research, and thoughtful listening, to understand our community and the needs of our school. Of course, as a former soccer coach at PDS, he has been familiar with Pingry for nearly a quarter century!

On behalf of the Board of Trustees, I want to thank the entire search committee for their determined work, and especially Stuart and Katie for their exceptional leadership, in identifying an impressive slate of candidates and, ultimately, Pingry's 16th Head of School. I also want to thank *you* for *your* participation in the search process, including your completion of the school-wide survey distributed last summer and your attendance at the listening meetings that were offered, both on-site and remotely. Thanks to your collective feedback, a thorough search process has reached a wonderful conclusion. We are delighted to welcome Matt Levinson and



his family to our community. As Pingry embraces the next chapter in its 158-year history, we are confident he will shepherd the School skillfully, wisely, and compassionately.

We will now turn our attention to effectively transitioning Matt into his new role. Over the coming weeks and months, we look forward to welcoming him to our campuses and to introducing him to our community. We will communicate further—by email and by updating [pingry.org/headsearch](http://pingry.org/headsearch)—as these plans develop. In the meantime, best wishes to you all for the upcoming holidays!

Sincerely,

Jeffrey N. Edwards '78, P '12, '14, '18  
Chair, Board of Trustees