Dear High School Parents,

As I prepare to return to SAS to assume the role of Interim Deputy Principal, I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself.

In my career, I have been an educator for forty-two years, two of those, 2014-16, spent here in SAS as a member of the High School English Department. I may have taught some of your sons and daughters in ninth grade English or have been their advisor. Prior to that, from 2010 until 2014, I held the position of High School Vice Principal in Jakarta Intercultural (International) School. I believe that I can build upon the varied skills and experiences acquired during those years and utilise them to pave a smooth transition into the interim deputy position at SAS.

On a more personal note, another factor that I believe will serve me well in this position is that IASAS schools have played a vitally important role in my own family. My son, Andrew, spent 10 years as a student at JIS, graduating with the Class of 2000 to return to university in Scotland. I know first hand the empowering nature of the outstanding education and support an IASAS school provides academically, emotionally, and socially. I also know first hand the "blood, sweat, and tears" that can form part of our sons and daughters high school journeys, in particular with the varied challenges facing young people today. I have found it extremely helpful, on many occasions, to step into my "parent shoes" as a means of empathising and connecting with families and of supporting you as you travel through those important but at times stressful high school milestones.

As I look forward to next school year, my heart's desire is that, in the interim deputy role, I can help SAS continue to construct a safe, welcoming, stimulating culture where your sons and daughters know that they are supported to make responsible choices, to develop resilience, to reflect on their learning, to relate well with their peers and their teachers and, above all, to enjoy their varied learning experiences.These thoughts lie deep in the core of my educational philosophy.

At this point in my life, I remain "restless" in the best possible sense of that word. I welcome challenges; I respond enthusiastically to new and demanding situations; I will seek out ways to support you as parents and to walk with your sons and daughters as we travel through these joyful yet challenging high school days.

I look forward to laying the foundations of caring, positive relationships with you: to chat with you during open house; to greet you on the walkways; to welcome you in my office; to enter into dialogue during parent coffee mornings. Please do not hesitate to come and introduce yourselves to me. I am eager to listen to your stories about your sons and daughters.

Sincerely,

Doreen McCarthy