Dear HS parents,

I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself to you. In my eight years as a high school math teacher and soccer coach at SAS, I have had the opportunity to foster many deep relationships with students and I am greatly looking forward to doing so with parents, too. By the time I assume my new role of acting deputy principal, I will have two sons in the high school at SAS—my eldest, Liam, is currently a tenth grader and my youngest, Connor, is in grade 8. My wife, Rhian is also a high school math teacher; in fact, we have had classrooms next door to each other for four years now, and I am really looking forward to not seeing the disappointment in the faces of students who realize they got the "other Murgatroyd."

I am very excited to be moving into my new role, not only because it will provide me with opportunities to broaden the depth and breadth of support I can offer your children, but also because it will allow me to engage much more frequently and deeply with our parent community. I am looking forward to getting to know many of you, learning from you, and providing support for you. As a high school parent myself, I believe I will add a unique and important perspective to the administrative team. As a member of the team, I will be able to contribute to discussions leading to decisions, and as a parent, I will, along with my children, be directly impacted by those decisions.

This year marks my 24th as an international school educator. In addition to my time at SAS, I taught for 11 years at Jakarta Intercultural School in Indonesia and for five years at the American International School of Johannesburg in South Africa (where I was born). During that time I have served as a math department chair and also as an IB/AP coordinator. Teaching was not part of the plan when I went to university, as I studied law for several years, but thanks to a part-time job teaching math on the weekends, I realized that teaching was what I loved.

I feel privileged that my children are able to attend a school like SAS, and I am proud to be a member of this staff and of this community. As I have begun to think about the transition to my new role, I would like to share a little bit about what I hold dear and what I aspire to. Integrity, fairness and consistency are of fundamental importance to me. I believe there is great value in healthy conflict, and I believe we all have a role to play in creating the culture we want at SAS—a culture founded on trust.

It is with great excitement and anticipation that I look forward to working with you to create a welcoming, safe and inclusive environment for all members of our community.

Sincerely,
Mr. Lance Murgatroyd