

From the Head of School

Dear Members of the Pingry Community,

As you might remember from my October letter, our cross country course was dedicated this fall in memory of Edward Scott, Jr.—a beloved Hall of Fame coach and Magistri faculty member for nearly three decades (1968–1995). A special marker noting Coach Scott’s commitment to the personal growth and development of his runners now has a prominent and permanent home in front of the signature footbridge on the cross country course.

As a former English teacher, I am intrigued by the symbolism of the bridge itself. Bridges provide support and take us forward—and they also bring us back. Coach Scott was one of my mentors and bridges at Pingry. Who was yours? Who supported you and sent you forward in life—and who brings you back to campus?

No one ever succeeds alone, so we all have people who made a difference for us and helped us succeed. As we head into the New Year, I encourage each of us to take some time to reach out to those people—a teacher, a coach, a friend, a colleague, an advisor, a fellow parent—and express our gratitude. Drop them a note. Send a card. Tell them in person. There’s never a wrong way or a wrong time to say “thank you,” and these small gestures will continue strengthening the bonds of our Pingry community.

Since the cross country course dedication, I’ve also found myself thinking about the various plaques and signs found around our campuses, both indoors and on our athletics fields and courts. They remind us of cherished members of our community, people like John Taylor Babbitt ’07, Barbara Berlin, Ted Corvino, Milton Perlmutter, and so many others. How easy it is to walk past these names as we hurry from one place to another. They often just disappear into the background.



Another way to express our thanks is to take a moment to stop and read these important plaques and signs. It’s the equivalent of taking time to really see each other, show up for one another, and learn each other’s stories. The cross country course joined a long line of dedications, each celebrating a special person whose rich life was filled with choices that made a difference for Pingry. These plaques are reminders of lives well-lived and the true meaning of success. I hope we can always hold space for remembering the special people whose sacrifices and dedication to Pingry continue to shape our community.

Let’s not wait for plaques and dedication ceremonies to thank the important people who’ve made a difference in our lives. Tell them now. Thank them now. Let’s continue to support and appreciate each other—as well as the school we create together.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tim Lear". The signature is stylized and fluid, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Tim Lear