



December 2022

Dear W+H Parents and Families,

As we embark on our Winter Break, we also prepare to say farewell to 2022 and look ahead to a New Year. The turn of the calendar year always seems to arrive somewhat suddenly, although we know all along that it is coming as we mark off days on the calendar.

Remember how old movies sometimes showed the passage of time? On the screen, we would see a page of a calendar, representing a day or perhaps a month. Then it would fly away and another month's page would appear. And another, and another – December, January, February, March, each ripped away to take its place in the past. Whatever we left back there will just have to stay there. We can't go back to retrieve it. Calendars only move forward.

And so do we. Probably the most immediate indicators are the students themselves. They change so much in the course of an academic year. They grow inches. Voices deepen. Tastes change. Skills and knowledge accumulate. They can do things and know things now that were beyond them just a few months ago. Come June, they will know more that is now still a mystery.

In classrooms, on courts and fields, in the PAC, and beyond campus, students will be called upon to demonstrate their new mastery, while developing skills and continuing growth. They will strive for higher scores on tests but will also learn resilience in the face of failure or setbacks, which are sure to come as part of being human. There will also be challenges with friendships and the complicated feelings that one must navigate as a result. They will feel the type of pressure we remember from having been their age once.

We may ask ourselves how we can help. There is much we can do together to support the 463 students who call Wardlaw+Hartridge their home away from home.



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We cannot shy away from challenges but instead must instill in students the perspective of a challenge as a unique opportunity. At home, you provide the love and absolute support a person needs in order not to be discouraged by the daunting task of growing up. Home is the bedrock of life, the beloved place with caring people who will remain present in their lives, even when we are long gone.

Here at school, with teachers and peers who can provide reassurance and support, we reinforce the message of hope and perseverance. Belief in oneself can be tricky business in our younger years when it seems adults have so much figured out. If they only knew our secret! We don't have all the answers, but we do know we must keep forging ahead. The New Year beckons with hope, opportunity, and challenge. Let us meet it head on and with one spirit: the can-do spirit.

I wish you all a joyful and restful Winter Break.

Onward!

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Corinna Crafton".

Dr. Corinna Crafton  
Acting Head of School