

FROM THE

Head of School

Dear Members of the Pingry Community,



The Nobel Prize-winning Irish poet Seamus Heaney wrote, “Anyone with gumption and a sharp mind will take the measure of two things: what’s said and what’s done.” While I’ll leave it up to my family

and colleagues to decide whether I possess either one of those admirable qualities, I do know this for certain: we should all take tremendous pride in what was both said and done at Pingry throughout the 2022-23 academic year.

We prioritized finding ways to come together as a community. We embraced the importance of showing up, sharing our stories, listening to each other, and building a revitalized sense of Pingry pride. We placed a renewed emphasis on the Honor Code and spoke more frequently about how it serves as a lens through which we can examine life’s challenges and opportunities. We continued to champion lifelong learning and social responsibility, and we inspired students to confront complex problems in human ways that best serve the common good.

Each day was a reminder that Pingry is a total team effort. And that we’re self-motivated to work hard and work together because we’re fully invested in one another’s success. The true value of what happens at Pingry every day is not defined by sweatshirts and rear window stickers. It is defined by the relationships forged among students, teachers, colleagues, coaches, parents, and alumni. For those of us who work at Pingry, our jobs are fulfilling not because students graduate. Our jobs are fulfilling because students *come back* to visit, ask for advice, and update us on their lives.

Students like Henry Stifel ’83, whose participation in a clinical trial at the University of Louisville recently made it possible for him to stand on both of his legs for 28 minutes — with no support from either bracing or physical therapists — despite having been paralyzed over four decades ago in a tragic car accident during his junior year at Pingry. And students like Career Day keynote speaker Andrew Gruel ’98, who returned to campus for the first time since graduation to share his recipe for success with our juniors and seniors: perseverance, humor, empathy, and honesty.

The launch of our exciting rebranding effort is now going to highlight these human dimensions of the Pingry experience. The time has come to tell the Pingry story in our own words. To pull it off the shelves, dispel the exaggerated tales of fiction and fantasy, and trade misperception for reality. Although UChicago winningly embraced the slogan “Where Fun Comes To Die,” our community is embracing the fact that Pingry can be both a high-achieving and high-caring school. One where students and adults are as happy at the end of the day as we were at the beginning of the day.

And Pingry can do both because we’ve always done both. Our commitment to the values of Excellence and Honor remains steadfast. We’re not changing who we are — we’re simply reframing how we showcase what Pingry has always been. We’re not telling a different story. We’re just telling a more complete story. One that highlights not just some, but all of the ways in which the Pingry experience is the unrivaled, total package.

We have an extraordinary story to share — let’s get started.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tim Lear', with a stylized flourish extending to the right.

Tim Lear