

## **Weekly Eagle News – Head of Schools**

My Favorite Parents:

So I am torn this week about what to write to you about:

The beginning of the week included 9/11 and on that day I reflected on the poignant memories I have of being in NYC on 9/11, working in the next tallest building, the Empire State Building. I have two vivid memories. The first is standing outside the Empire State Building looking down the two miles to the World Trade Center and seeing the smoke pouring from the buildings. In that moment, we were struck by this sense that we were under attack from an unknown enemy.

I had ended up on the street because I had a 9 am meeting and had seen TV screens showing smoke coming from the tower that was first struck as I had gone from my lower lobby office to our 15<sup>th</sup> floor space. When I connected with my colleague on the 15<sup>th</sup> floor, I suggested we take the executive pass that we had and use it to go to the observation deck at the top of the ESB to see what was happening downtown. When we had gotten back to the lobby to go to the elevator bank that takes you to the observation deck, the second plane hit, and the Empire State Building was shut immediately. I then exited onto 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue.

My other strong memory from that day happened a bit later. I had taken one of the last PATH trains that ran that day to Hoboken to get on the commuter rail train to go home. Rather than leaving on a schedule, they had simply waited to fill the train and then had us leave the station. My train had many people who had come from the World Trade Center area. This was evidenced by their ash covered faces, hair, and clothes. As our train pulled out of the Hoboken station, we could look back at the Manhattan skyline. There was this collective scream from so many on the train as we realized in horror that one of the towers had fallen. Two very vivid memories, even after all these years.

The end of my week brought my other topic to write about: the upper school retreat.

If the beginning of the week made me reflect on the brokenness of this world, the second half of the week was an opportunity to witness the redemptive work of Christ in the hearts and minds of students and staff. Three days and two nights at Forest Home were filled with a powerful outpouring of God's Spirit, lots of fun activities and chances for relationships to grow.

One week, two very different stories.

### **Extras:**

Our Fall Parent Society will take place on Monday, October 30<sup>th</sup> at 7 pm at the lower school gym. This is an opportunity to hear updates from each principal and a state-of-the-school address from me. Typically, there is a brief report from a couple of board committee leads too. While there are opportunities for questions from the audience, if you have a personal issue or frustration, this is typically not the best place to address it. Set up an individual appointment with the person involved and, if that does not resolve it, escalate it to the division principal.

Enjoy your week!

Brian