

Introducing Matt Horvat



In October 2022, we were delighted to announce that Matt Horvat would become ASL's ninth head of school, and take the helm at One Waverley Place in summer 2023. The head of school search committee, led by trustees Hahnah Seminara P '24 '27 '30 and Kavi Thakrar P '29 '31, was confident that Matt possessed the relevant experience and personal characteristics needed to successfully lead ASL into our next exciting chapter.

The appointment followed a worldwide search, lasting a number of months, which saw three candidates visit ASL in the final interview stage. All constituencies, including parents, employees and students, had an opportunity to hear from the candidates, before providing feedback to assist the committee in its important task. The committee was unanimous in its decision to offer the role to Matt Horvat.

Our new head comes to ASL from The Overlake School in Redmond, WA, a grade 5-12 independent school, where he served as head for 11 years.

During his first visit to ASL, Matt praised our students' enthusiasm and passion for ASL, and described his meetings with students as "particularly inspiring." Matt was also impressed by how much joy our students experience from the friendships they have nurtured at ASL. He believes that "our relationships are what lead us to learn, to feel a sense of belonging and trust, and to thrive."

Matt returned to ASL the week before Spring Break, attending a leadership retreat with the Board of Trustees and Senior Leadership Team, and spending a great deal of time meeting parents, employees, and of course, students. Middle and high schoolers enjoyed their own divisional lunches with our incoming head and had lots of opportunity to engage with Matt about his new role. At an informal tea for employees in the Mellon Library, Matt reported that he had spent a very happy stint at Overlake, and only a school such as ASL would have been able to tempt him from the Pacific Northwest.

Parents enjoyed morning and evening

events to welcome Matt, and student journalists from the middle school newspaper, *The Scroll*, and the high school newspaper, *The Standard*, seized their time with Matt to ask him about his move to London and the challenges and opportunities ahead.

Matt shared that he was eager to return to an international school that serves students across 14 years, K-12, writing in a letter to the community in November 2022, "It's mind-boggling to think about the growth that takes place for each individual over these many years, whether in their physical transformation or how they develop as readers, thinkers, writers, problem solvers, and so much more."

After his visit in April as incoming head, Matt commented, "I've thoroughly enjoyed my time at ASL this past week, and I'm eager to return this summer with my family to take my place as the head of ASL. The welcome I have received has been warm and inviting, and, as expected, the most challenging questions have come from the students! I'm looking forward to joining this collaborative,

inclusive and diverse community and making a difference at this wonderful school. So long, ASL—I'll be back!"

Matt's credentials are stellar and varied. He earned his undergraduate degree in history from the University of Pennsylvania, and followed up with a master's degree in mathematics and teaching from Boston University. Matt has also completed significant coursework in nonprofit management at the Kellogg School of Management at Northwestern University.

Prior to his time at Overlake, Matt served in administrative positions at the Collegiate School and Browning School in New York City, before taking on the role of high school principal at University of Chicago Laboratory School. Additionally, Matt has significant teaching experience in mathematics and information technology at independent schools, both nationally and internationally, including Taipei American School. Ever the teacher, Matt reports that he thoroughly enjoyed teaching Grade 7 algebra at Overlake during his time as head. His professional associations include board service for the National Merit Scholarship Corporation and the Northwest Association of Independent Schools.

Members of the search committee were impressed with Matt's track record with intercultural competency work, informed by a deep understanding of Overlake's community, and are confident



that his considered approach will be equally as successful at ASL. Given his extensive knowledge and experience of curriculum, accreditation, strategic planning and implementation, finances and fundraising, Matt is perfectly equipped to take our school into its next chapter.

Matt has a proven reputation as an excellent listener, strong collaborator and insightful decision maker, grasping a solid understanding of all perspectives before settling on an appropriate course of action. As well as embodying our

mission and core values, and fostering a culture of innovation, Matt brings inspirational leadership skills to ASL and a deep commitment to student learning.

An accomplished rower, marathoner and triathlete, Matt looks forward to exploring London and getting know the ASL community. Matt has two sons, Alex and Matteo, and is joined in London by his wife, Susan Fine, herself an educator.

Welcome to ASL, Mr. Horvat! From an Overlake Owl to an ASL Eagle—we are so happy to have you join our community. ■

