



Dear Community,

Earlier this week, I found myself thinking about the duality of my end-of-week letter to all of you. I wanted to convey the happiness and joy of our first week back on campus and share a few updates on the campus improvements wrapping up over the next month. But I also felt the need to pause and remember the day that changed my generation, and so many others, forever.

Growing up, I remember my Uncle Harry showing me where he was sitting when the radio program was interrupted to announce the bombing of Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941. I can still hear my mom sharing where she was and who she was with on November 22, 1963, when John F. Kennedy was assassinated. Like many young people, I never really thought about what an event like that would be like for “my generation.” There was the Challenger disaster during my high school years, when we all watched on TV in Mr. Palmer’s history classroom, but nothing like what we were about to experience on that fateful day 25 years ago.

The world changed that day, in many different ways. For Springside and CHA, one of their own was taken. Johanna Sigmund, Springside Class of 1994, never came home from work. Her classmates, family, and friends came together to do what Johanna would have done: they brought the community together. From that came the Johanna Sigmund Scholarship Fund, which has raised more than \$972,000 and provided scholarship support to young women who carry a piece of Johanna’s Springside spirit with them. I encourage you to read [this full letter](#) from the Johanna Sigmund Scholarship Committee.

Pia and I were living in Milan and teaching at the American School when the planes struck the towers. It was during school dismissal, and just like my mom

and uncle, I have shared with countless people exactly how we learned of the tragedy, how we tried to learn more, and what those days immediately afterward felt like. I can still see the countless Italians in our neighborhood stopping me and sharing their compassion, camaraderie, and support for the United States during this unthinkable time.

Continuing to pass on history, learn from history, and honor those most impacted by it is essential to a healthy society. I hope we will have these conversations at dinner, on the drive to and from school, and with the young people in our lives—and that we will hold our loved ones a little more closely.

Rather than trying to make an awkward transition to campus updates, I will leave us all with the hope for a peaceful and prosperous future.

The campus updates can wait.

Thank you and take care,

Steve

Dr. Steve Druggan
Head of School