

A Letter From Tom McManus, Incoming Head of School

March 20, 2020

Dear Montgomery School Students, Families, and Friends,

It is with great joy and humility that I accept the Board of Trustees' invitation to become Montgomery's next Head of School. I am so grateful for the warm reception extended to me at each stage of the search process. Thank you for introducing me to your lives and the Montgomery community during my interviews and visits. I can't wait to see you again, and to meet many of you for the first time.

As I write to you, I am spending much more time with my own family as we all work and learn from home, adjusting to our new "normal." Each of my four children has a different set of needs and perspectives, and, though this time with them is precious, they all miss their teachers and friends from school. A great school -- one that is the right fit for your child -- is a partner in our parenting. Montgomery is that partner to you for so many reasons. Every child is known and encouraged to strive for their personal excellence in all facets of their education. Learning is embraced as an exciting, shared endeavor between teachers and students, and, most important, you are part of a community where everyone feels safe and welcomed. It is through these partnerships that we build a language of trust and understanding that magnifies our ability to ignite a love of learning, foster talents, and prepare our kids for success.

As the events unfolding around us demonstrate, there is power in community to tackle even the most formidable challenges. From practicing responsible distancing, to checking on neighbors and friends, to supporting first responders and local businesses, young people and adults alike can make a real difference. Montgomery is a special place precisely because of its belief in possibility and constant renewal. In the weeks and months to come, we all have an opportunity to express in our words and actions what is best about Montgomery School and its values. Even apart from one another, the Montgomery community can partner to hold up the ideals of personal integrity, responsibility and service to others.

Yet, like you, I look forward to crossing Pickering Creek once again. Although we don't know the exact date, the time to reunite and celebrate will surely come. In the meantime, I will be working closely with current Head of School Sally Keidel, the faculty and staff, and the Board of Trustees to ensure Montgomery's continued excellence and a smooth transition. An enduring image I have of my last visit to Montgomery was of children in school uniforms covered with grass stains, a representation of the promise of childhood under construction! At this time of rolling up our sleeves and working together as a community, I am honored to be part of your team.

With Gratitude,

Tom McManus
Incoming Head of School