Announcement from the
Board of Governors of Collingwood School

Appointment of Head of School

November 2015
November 20, 2015

Dear Members of Our Collingwood Community,

I am delighted to tell you that the Board of Governors has approved the recommendation of the Head Search Committee that Mr. Robert Anthony Lake become our new Head of School on July 1, 2016.

Rob brings an impressive background in independent school education, most recently at Head-Royce School in Oakland, CA, where he served as Head of School for the past five years. Head-Royce is a top-ranked US preparatory school, hosting 875 students from kindergarten through grade 12 in lower, middle, and upper schools. Prior to leading Head-Royce, Rob spent five years as Head of the Upper School at Wilmington Friends School in Wilmington, DE.

Rob’s appointment follows an extensive and thorough international search that began in May, after Rodger announced that he would be retiring from his role as our Head at the end of the 2015/16 school year. Our search yielded the significant interest of candidates from across Canada, the US, UK, and Asia. The search committee was, and remains, incredibly humbled by the calibre of individuals attracted to the Collingwood opportunity. This is a reflection of the reputation of Collingwood in independent school circles, the momentum we have gained in recent years, and the ambition of our community as articulated in our recent Strategic Plan, Vision 2020. It is also a clear reflection of the very high regard in which Rodger is held, and the work he has done in bringing us to such a position of strength. In the end, the Board, on the strong recommendation of the Head Search Committee, reached a unanimous and enthusiastic decision to appoint Rob Lake.

The son of two independent school educators, Rob was born in Toronto; however, he grew up in the United States, moving from Canada at a young age and attending independent schools in the northeastern U.S. Rob graduated from Milton Academy in Massachusetts, went on to earn an undergraduate degree (English Literature) from Williams College, and later received his master’s degree from Dartmouth (English and History).

Rob began his career in education in 1995, and in the years that followed served as Director of Financial Aid, Associate Director of Admissions, Dean of Students, and Head of Upper School at a number of outstanding schools in the northeastern United States. He moved to California in 2010 as Head of Head-Royce School in Oakland. Founded in 1887, Head-Royce is recognized as among the top preparatory schools in America.
Throughout his career as an administrator, Rob taught History and English. Complementing his academic training, he has a background in finance, having been a credit analyst at Bank of Boston, and athletics. Rob was a varsity soccer and lacrosse star at Williams, played semi-professional soccer in Germany, and remains active, with golf and tennis as particular passions.

Importantly, Rob is a visionary and charismatic leader, bringing a passion to his work that is evident to all that meet him. We are highly confident that he will carry on Rodger’s commitment to the mission and values of our school, passion for instilling in our children a joy of life and learning, and ambition for excellence.

In appointing Rob, Collingwood is also welcoming his wife, Heather, and their boys, Casey (‘18) and Tucker (‘20). Like Rob, Heather has a diverse background in education, having served as an Academic Dean, Associate Director of Admissions, and a teacher of AP French and art history in a number of independent schools.

The Board would like to thank everyone who participated in the process, and in particular the search committee for their extensive and thorough work. We would also like to acknowledge all those that provided input into the process; the Board benefitted greatly from the insights of faculty, parents, students, and alumni. Finally, we are grateful for the incredible support and guidance of our search consultant, Colleen Keenan of Odgers Berndtson.

Please join us in congratulating Rob, and in welcoming him and his family to Collingwood.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

David Bustos
Chair, Board of Governors
Collingwood School
Board of Governors

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