

2017 State of the School Address

Good evening everyone, I'm Frank Edwards, President of the Board of Trustees and I'm here to share with you the State of our School. Some of you may recognize me, This is my 11th year as a Japhet parent, 5th year as a trustee, and 2nd as President. On behalf of our Vice-President Sheila Chaps, Treasurer Jay Schmitt, and Secretary Erik Golbiw, as well as our entire Trustee Board, I want to thank you for being a part of the Japhet family. We truly hope the Japhet experience is as rewarding for you as it was, and is, for all of us.

To give you a little background on what the Board of Trustees does, as an Independent School, Japhet is governed by the Board, who holds the mission of the school in trust, defines and maintains the philosophical policy, provides financial resources, and hires the Head of School. We are so pleased with the leadership of Cathy Mohan and her team, and are excited to see the talented new faculty and staff added recently. As many of you know, Cathy has announced that this school year, her 30th at Japhet, will end with her retirement. Due to Cathy's thoughtful and generous advance notice, we were able to create a Search Committee which has been working diligently, advertising the position and as recently as last

night, interviewing qualified candidates. We anticipate a seamless, cooperative transition beginning in early 2018. We will be bringing one or more of these finalists to school to meet with the children, faculty and staff, as well as an opportunity for our parents to get to know them firsthand. More to come shortly.

We are pleased to let you know that the state of the school is strong. In the fifth year in our own building, we are attracting new students, aggressively working on filling classrooms, and working to graduate our excellent young students and leaders to the high schools of their choice. Most classrooms have room to grow, so we encourage you to help us share and spread the Japhet story whenever you can. Word of mouth is the best way for us to bring the Japhet difference to more young people.

I am proud to report that we just concluded a financially successful year, with a balanced budget. Although this is not unusual, it is never something we take for granted. You may already be aware that tuition only covers about 70 – 75% of the costs required to make this special place work. We are extremely fortunate that Japhet has made such a difference in people's lives that we receive support from current and former parents, alumni, business people, and others who

have been exposed to the children and the stories of Japhet that move them to continue to make Japhet possible.

We are so delighted you have chosen to be a part of the Japhet family. And you should never feel pressured to do anything more than pay for the tuition you signed up for. But please be aware of what will also be communicated to you in full disclosure of what needs to happen here. You will find out about our Lasting Legacy Campaign, designed to honor Cathy and Joe Mohan's tenure and impact here by leaving Japhet debt free by June 2018.

We also try to augment tuition income through events like the 18 Reasons for Hope lunch coming up on Wednesday October 25th. This is a great opportunity to spread the Japhet story. There is no cost or obligation to attend and it only takes an hour out of your day, but I've seen firsthand that a family member, financial advisor, insurance agent or colleague invited one time can become a multi year donor when they find out about this special place and the people who make it what it is. We can assign you and your guests to a table with an opening, or you are welcome to fill a table of your own as a Table Captain.

It is only through the efforts of all stakeholders that we can make Japhet truly successful. As can be seen by the recent closure of some of the other small private schools in the area, this is not an easy task. But Japhet is financially sound, your faculty and staff are dedicated, talented and energized towards the mission to provide your children with the best character, academic and leadership education available anywhere at any price.

Thank you again for coming tonight, and sharing your exceptional children with us on this incomparable journey building confident, intelligent, strong young people, ready to face the increasing challenges today's world throws at them. I've seen first hand what happens here from Pre-School through 8th grade graduation and what other families have experienced in just one year here. I'm so excited you've embarked on this path. We on the Board of Trustees will be constantly working to make this unique school the best it can be. And we will try to make ourselves as available as possible to you, as we are all in this together. Thank you.