

**A MESSAGE FROM**

*The Board of Trustees President*

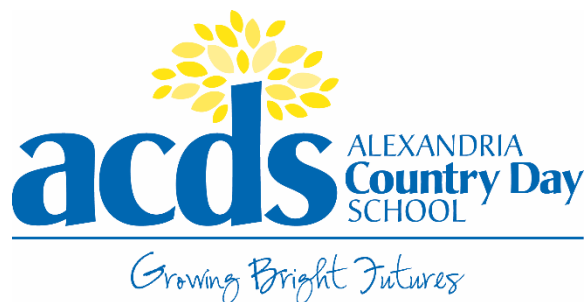
*Jonathan Peyton*

*and*

*Head of School*

*Nancy Rials*

March 13, 2017



Dear ACDS Community,

I am writing to inform you that after a transformational tenure, our Head of School, Nancy Rials, has decided to retire at the end of the 2017-2018 academic year. Nancy's passion for learning, commitment to our school, and never-ending pursuit of excellence has been instrumental to the success of our program.

Under Nancy's leadership ACDS achieved ISAS Accreditation, implemented Singapore Math, started our Pre-K3 program, placed our Academic Head, Charlotte Bihm, in a key role to help align and codify curriculum, furthered investment in our teachers through ongoing professional development, nurtured a spirit of collaboration, instituted numerous new literary programs, and much more.

We are grateful for Nancy's contribution to our continued history of distinction. Her growth mindset and focus on professional advancement has encouraged our faculty and staff to perform at the top of their abilities – positively impacting the lives of hundreds of children. Nancy's work at ACDS has built a solid foundation on which we can continue to "Grow Bright Futures."

A Head of School search is underway with a committee being formed and an independent school consultant engaged to help guide the process. ISAS and NAIS provide invaluable resources and we have been fortunate to develop a tentative action plan with the assistance of Rhonda Durham, ISAS Executive Director. We will continue to keep the ACDS family apprised of progress.

Over the years Nancy has always held herself to a high level of accountability; she has stressed that next year will be no different and her list of goals and objectives is lengthy! I hope you will join me in thanking Nancy with deep appreciation for her outstanding service over what will be a nine-year history. Thank you in advance for your support as we plan for a successful transition.

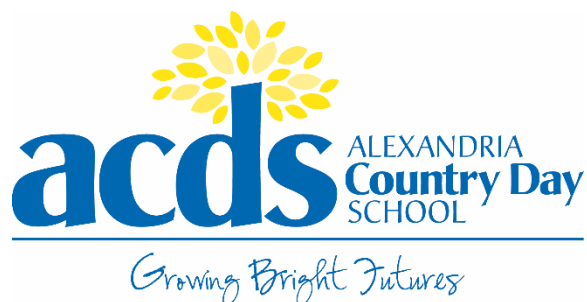
Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jonathan Peyton', is written over a horizontal line.

Jonathan Peyton

President, ACDS Board of Trustees

March 13, 2017



Dear Friends of Country Day,

It's been the opportunity of a lifetime for me to serve as the Head of School at Alexandria Country Day School. We've accomplished so much and we've done it with purpose, energy, and a wonderful collaborative spirit. So it is with great pride and no small measure of sadness that I write to tell you that the 2017-2018 school year, the 9<sup>th</sup> year of my tenure, will be my final year at ACDS.

Several months ago as I contemplated my 65<sup>th</sup> birthday, I began to think about retirement. We all want to retire while we are still enjoying abundant health and energy. After all, I am hoping that there are still a considerable number of learning adventures ahead for me. But more importantly, I want to leave while my love for Country Day and for the work of caring for this wonderful school remain the high central point of purpose, satisfaction, and joy of my professional life, just as they have been since June of 2009. In other words, I wanted to leave when I didn't want to leave.

The past eight years are replete with great moments: revitalizing our mission statement; tackling multiple strategic teaching initiatives in the curriculum; growing our commitment to increased financial stability by the inception of our Annual Fund; initiating the responsibility of the strategic planning process; expanding professional development opportunities for our faculty and staff; and elevating our accountability through the high expectations of ISAS accreditation.

Above all, the focus of our work has been the all-important relationship between teachers and students: to recruit and retain an outstanding faculty and to make student learning our top priority. Our remarkable students continue to go from strength to strength. The development of the intellect and character of our students, the critical benchmark of our success, has been fabulous to watch and appreciate over my years at Country Day.

I am deeply thankful for a Board of Trustees who is committed to excellent stewardship of ACDS. I remain humbled by the confidence that they placed in me eight years ago. Throughout my years of service, they have inspired and guided me; debated and collaborated with me. They and all of the trustees with whom I have served have my deep and enduring gratitude and friendship.

Our parents' devotion to their children and their education, their understanding and support of the mission of Country Day, and their generosity to our school have made us partners in a beautiful enterprise. I am more grateful to them than I can ever say.

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I'll close with inadequate words of thanks to those first in the hearts of our community – our faculty and staff. Their depth of caring for our beloved students, their eagerness to learn and hone their craft, their good will and support for each other create an exceptional learning environment to engage, challenge, cajole, and support our students every day. I am delighted to have fifteen more months to work with them as we pursue the work ahead of us during that time and as we inspire one another to “Grow Bright Futures!”

With deepest appreciation,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Nancy Rials". The script is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of each word being capitalized and larger than the rest of the letters.

Nancy Rials

Head of School