



FLINTRIDGE PREPARATORY SCHOOL

Peter H. Bachmann, Headmaster since 1991

January 17, 2019

To David Codiga, Chair of the Board of Trustees

Dear David,

When I first walked on to the Prep campus in December 1979 for a teaching interview, I was a single graduate student looking to return home to California. I was struck by the beauty of the trees, the intimacy of the spaces, the welcome of the people. Three months into co-education, the school was beginning to realize a new identity with girls. Although common sense suggested I accept an offer from another school with more money, facilities and reputation, my heart drew me to Prep. It still does. I remain a proud member of the faculty, looking forward to my 40th straight year in a Flintridge classroom next fall with relish.

When the Board of Trustees appointed me as Headmaster in 1991, it was the realization of a dream. Blessed with wise, patient, strategic trustee leadership, we worked quickly to define our priorities: balance, community and “people first.” Balance meant a dual commitment to intellectual and human development in equal measures. Community meant an alliance of adults and students bonded by values, respect and affection in joint purpose. “People first” meant a sustained strategic and financial commitment to faculty compensation and professional development, and to funding student financial aid. Those remain our priorities, and they are so organic to our community that we maintain them in daily life unselfconsciously.

Over these decades, Molly, Rob and I have ceased to separate our Prep and private lives, so intertwined are they on campus and everywhere we go. Dinners, book clubs, weddings, memorials, reunions, trips, golf rounds and appointments with alumni doctors, lawyers and financial advisors are a way of life, and always will be. As I look ahead, however, to the summer of 2020, when we hope to complete our collaboration building and capital campaign, it seems the right time for Prep to turn to new leadership and fresh perspectives. I intend, therefore, to retire from the headship on June 30, 2020.

As a charter member of “Prep for Life,” I will, of course, remain tied to the community, particularly with alumni and their parents. As Head Emeritus, I will serve and support the school, Board and my successor in all ways appropriate. The Board has already launched a highly promising search process that will result in a dynamic new head and a seamless transition.

But I’m getting ahead of myself. We still have a lot of work to do together in the next 18 months, and I plan on savoring every moment. I have been singularly blessed by the wisdom and devotion of trustees throughout the decades, and this Board is no exception. I thank you, my colleagues who are also lifetime friends, and most of all the thousands of students I’ve been privileged to teach and serve. It continues to be an honor and pleasure.

Best,

Peter Bachmann
Headmaster