

December 11, 2014

Dear Springwood Families,

During the Wednesday Sessions before the Thanksgiving break, Sessions being the once-a-week time for grades 7-12 to come together as an academic community to share common experiences, memories, plaudits, and aspiration and goals, our Headmaster invited the group to identify the things, people, and events for which they are especially thankful. Several students, rather endearingly, expressed thanks for fellow students, for opportunities, for faculty, for the Springwood spirit, and for the family members who provide them the means to be a part of the greater Springwood family. That prompted many of us old-timers among the faculty to reflect on the essential value of each parent and grandparent and relative whose vision, dreams, and aspirations have made Springwood the viable educational institution that it has for more than forty years been -- and continues to be. Some of us presently teach sons and daughters of Springwood alumni, that fact itself testimony to our tradition of excellence. And perhaps, most significantly, it affirms the confidence placed in us to "stand and deliver."

After Sessions was dismissed and we headed to regularly scheduled classes, one of the old grey heads remarked, "We should all be thankful now, at a time when confidence in educators seems to be at an all-time low, that Springwood is recognized as an asset to the area, a valued alternative." And, indeed, we are thankful! Thus was born the notion of the Springwood faculty's acknowledging -- in a united voice -- profound gratitude for your contributions to the Springwood tradition of excellence.

We missed the opportunity to express our thanks at Thanksgiving, but Christmas, the season of renewal and re-affirmation, provides another; hence, we hasten to express not only our appreciation for your confidence, but also to assure you that we take seriously our responsibility to prepare student(s) for success beyond Springwood. Among the oldsters, there is a determination to perform more effectively than ever before; and among the young on the faculty, there is the drive to measure up to the Springwood standard. Throughout the school abides the goal of making each successive year better than the one preceding it.

So we greet you at this Christmas time with genuine appreciation and with sincere commitment to you and yours. Had you been present at Sessions, we know that these sentiments would have been expressed.

From the Springwood Faculty to you -- "Have a blessed Christmas!"

Dale Freeman

*Barbara Willes
Delaine Hone
Anthony Layle
Mary Andrews
Denny Wall
Karen Hill
Patti Slade
Cynthia Miller
Gene Triss*

*Alane Duncan
Amelia K. Mickerson
Murphy Wood
Marie Ward
John M. Byls
Jana Ross
Sheila Carter
Pam Lyons
Ann M. Hison*

*Waverly Nolen
Jennifer Jones
Thomas O'Hair
Molly Allen
Shirley Hays
Seven Dault
Brandi Drake
Deborah Hamer*

*Ann Thomas
Jennifer Ewing
Alex Brumby
Maraanne Ashley
Mary A. Spears
Donald Koon
Walter Banks
Suzanne Lavin*

Our appreciation to Mr. Dale Freeman for writing our Christmas message