



# A MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

March 27, 2023

Dear Madeira Community,

It is with immeasurable enthusiasm that I share with you that The Madeira School Board of Trustees has appointed Christina Kay Kyong as Madeira's 11th Head of School. Christina was unanimously approved by the Board to succeed Gretchen Warner in July 2023.

Christina brings 30+ years of educational experience to Madeira as a school leader, teacher, collaborator, and curriculum specialist. Her work with teachers and learners is rich and deep, and her talent for building relationships with all members of her community is demonstrable. Along with her keenly honed professional skills in many areas, the Madeira community was drawn to her warmth and delightful sense of humor. Christina's authenticity and steadfast commitment to the communities she has served profoundly resonated with the Search Committee.

## About the Search

The Head of School Search Committee began the process of actively seeking a new Head of School last August. The response to our search from all corners of the country and globally was resoundingly positive and attracted 150 applicants.

Community feedback and constituent meetings helped the Search Committee determine the most important qualities for Madeira's new Head to embody:

- A passion to inspire and build community
- Capacity for innovative, strategic leadership
- Organizational/operational management
- Commitment to DEIJB
- Champion for girls' education

We believe we have found these qualities and more in Christina and are excited to bring this inspiring leader to our school.

## About our next Head of School

In her current role as the Associate Head at Wildwood School in Los Angeles, California (K-12, 750 students), Christina has had multiple opportunities to understand the role of Head. Having just arrived at Wildwood in July 2020, Christina became the school's Lead Pandemic Coordinator. She has overseen both curricular and co-curricular programming at Wildwood and has had direct involvement with college counseling, athletics, and community outreach. She is also part of Wildwood's DEIB Leadership Team and co-leads the DEIB Curriculum Committee.

Prior to Wildwood, Christina spent 10 years as Director of Maret's Middle School in Washington, DC where she oversaw the implementation of the division's social-emotional curriculum for 200 students, taught multiple courses, and established affinity groups.

## Head of School Search Committee

### Chair

Misti Mukherjee '84, P '13

### Search Committee

Gaither Smoot Deaton '88 ex-officio,  
*Board Chair*

Carrie Southworth Johnson '95,  
*Board Vice Chair*

George Kaczmarczyk, P '19, '22  
*Board Treasurer*

Anita Patel Tolani '91, P '24  
*Board Secretary*

William Eric Clark, P '18, Trustee

Emi Kolawole '00, Trustee

Tracy G. Savage '66, Trustee

Stacy Tippens, Faculty

Becky Zahradnik, Staff

Christina's girls' school background stems from her six years as Director of Studies and then Assistant Head of Upper School at Stone Ridge School of the Sacred Heart in Bethesda, Maryland, and her time as a dorm parent, coach, and teacher at The Masters School in Dobbs Ferry, New York. The institution she credits with having the most impact on her life, though, is her beloved Smith College. According to Christina, "At Smith, I found my voice."

With a B.A. in History from Smith, Christina also earned her M.A. in Education, Teaching, and Learning from the Harvard University Graduate School of Education and a Certificate in Administration and Supervision from the Johns Hopkins University School of Business and Education.

### **Joining the Madeira community**

"Christina's expertise, innovative approach, and leadership experience will advance Madeira's strategic priorities and promote the deep sense of community that defines our School," notes Misti Mukherjee '84, P'13 Head Search Chair.

A native of the DC metro area, Christina and her husband, John, look forward to relocating close to friends and family. Christina is eager to be a good neighbor on the Madeira campus and to connect with students, parents, faculty, staff, and alums who together make up our broad, dynamic community.

### **In Gratitude**

Selecting a new Head is among the most important responsibilities of the Board of Trustees. I am extremely grateful to Head Search Committee Chair Misti Mukherjee as well as to our dedicated committee members, for their unwavering commitment to ensure outstanding leadership for Madeira's next chapter.

On behalf of the Search Committee and the Board of Trustees, I am grateful to the Madeira community for your collective, thoughtful support of our School. Your engagement in this process has been critical to the successful outcome we have reached together. In the appointment of Christina Kyong, and because of it, we believe we have an exceptional leader who is uniquely qualified to lead our School at this pivotal juncture.

We are energized by the promise and potential of Christina's leadership and we know you will join us in embracing Christina as she begins her tenure.

With excitement for the future,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Gaither S. Deaton". The signature is written in black ink and has a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

Gaither Smoot Deaton '88