

CAIS Welcomes 11 New Heads of School

Please join me in welcoming the 2018 Leadership Class of CAIS schools.

I wish them a mild (no more than 3 Snow Days) first winter.

Doug



Bob Whelan, Greens Farms Academy

Bob Whelan arrives at Greens Farms Academy after five years as the Head of School at Lake Forest Country Day School, a PreK-8 school in the suburbs of Chicago. Raised in a small town in Maine, he attended South Portland High School before Phillips Academy Andover. After graduating from Andover, he matriculated at Brown University where he earned his B.A. in 1991 as a double major in American Civilization and Philosophy. He also earned a M.Ed. in Education, Policy, and Management from Harvard University.

For several years after graduation from Brown, Bob's career was involved with music as founder, singer, songwriter, and director of a band that performed over four hundred concerts nationally and internationally. Bob signed a major label recording contract with Atlantic Records and a publishing deal with EMI Music. He returned to Brown in 2001 to serve in the University's well-regarded Development Office. In 2007, Bob accepted the position of Director of Development at Rippowam Cisque School in Bedford, NY, with additional duties as a teacher and coach. His responsibilities soon broadened, as he became Assistant Head of School for Institutional Advancement and then Associate Head of School.

Bob and his wife Annie, a veterinarian, have two children. Their daughter, Chloe, is a second-year student at Choate Rosemary Hall School and son, Ben, is a seventh grader at Greens Farms Academy.



Karen Eshoo, King School

Dr. Eshoo came to King from the Vistamar School, a private, independent high school located in Los Angeles, where she served as Head of School for the past six years. In addition to her role at Vistamar, Dr. Eshoo has an additional 20 years of experience in teaching and leadership, having served as Assistant Head of School at Lick-Wilmerding High School, and as Principal of Grades 1-8 at Sacred Heart Schools, both in California. She has two Masters degrees from Stanford University, in Education and History and a Doctorate in Education from the University of California, Berkeley.

Dr. Eshoo's work as a school leader has been characterized by a commitment not just to increasing access to more students - particularly students of color and students of lower socio-economic status - but also to building programs to ensure students' full inclusion in the school community. Her academic research interests center on the work private schools do to build a commitment to diversity, access and inclusion amongst their parent body.

Karen currently serves on the Boards of the California Association of Independent Schools (CAIS) and the California Teachers Development Collaborative (CATDC). She also is a member of the faculty of the National Association of Independent Schools (NAIS) Institute for New Heads.



Tom Dillow, Kingswood Oxford School

Tom joins the KO community from Shorecrest Preparatory School in St. Petersburg, Florida, where he was the Assistant Head of School and has been the Head of the Upper School for the past six years. Prior to his tenure at Shorecrest, Tom held a number of positions of increasing responsibility at the Lawrenceville School. First and foremost a teacher during his time at Lawrenceville, he also served as the head of one of the residence houses, was the founding Director of Lawrenceville's highly regarded summer program, and redesigned the Humanities curriculum. A lifelong educator and scholar, Tom holds his undergraduate degree in

Government and History from Georgetown University and a Master's degree in International and European Politics from the University of Edinburgh.

In his educational philosophy statement, Tom stated, "The end goal for our students is to create life-long learners who are respectful of others, capable of challenging their prior assumptions when confronted with better evidence to the contrary, yet steadfast when it comes to tackling a problem that seems insurmountable. They should be wary of the treacherous effects of entitlement and recognize that success should not be measured by how much they acquire or consume, but the extent to which they give back to their communities and make a difference."

At Shorecrest, one of the oldest independent day schools in Florida serving approximately 975 students from PreK-12th grade, Tom directly oversaw an upper school that consists of 315 students. During his tenure there, Tom spearheaded a number of initiatives including the implementation of a new academic schedule that meets the brain-based learning and social-emotional health needs of the students, and numerous project-based learning initiatives in the Upper School. In addition, Tom created and teaches senior interdisciplinary initiatives (Sub-Saharan Africa and Tribalism: Us vs. Them) and has chaperoned service learning trips to Haiti, Peru and Argentina.



John Ora, The Long Ridge School

John Ora is a seasoned school leader with experience as a teacher, administrator and Head in preschool-grade 12 independent schools. From 2007-2016 he served as the Head of School at the Woodland School in Portola Valley, CA. During his time at Woodland (preschool-grade 8) he increased enrollment, secured accreditation with the California Association of Independent Schools and the National Association of Independent Schools, secured and oversaw construction of facilities, created a faculty leadership program, enhanced curriculum, and founded a culture of philanthropy

from scratch.

Before moving to California, John was the Head of Middle School at Princeton Day School in Princeton, NJ; Assistant Head of School and Science Department Chair at Fountain Valley School in Colorado Springs, CO; and Science Department Chair and Physics and Chemistry Teacher at The Community School in Sun Valley, ID. John has completed doctoral coursework in Educational Leadership at Teachers College, Columbia University; holds a Master of Arts in Educational Administration, Policy and Analysis from Stanford University; teaching credential from the University of Washington; and a BS in Biology from Seattle University.



Beverly Smith, Montessori School of Greater Hartford

Beverly Smith (Bev) is a passionate Montessori administrator and educator, who has 26 years of experience working in Montessori schools. Her Montessori career began at Washington Montessori School in New Preston, CT, where she worked for 20 years, first as a middle school educator and later as an administrator. From 2012-16, she served as the Head of School at Acorn Montessori School in Lebanon, NJ, where among many accomplishments, she significantly increased enrollment and re-established an upper elementary program. Wanting to move to a larger school, Beverly took a position as Assistant Head of School at West Side Montessori

School in New York City with responsibility for teacher evaluation and professional development.

Beverly has a BS from Central Connecticut State University and an MA in Counseling from Saint Joseph College in West Hartford. She recently completed her term as President of the NJ Montessori Association Corporation and has been an adult educator for administrators for over fifteen years. Beverly is thrilled to be returning to Connecticut to serve as the Head of School at Montessori School of Greater Hartford.



Aaron Cooper, New Canaan Country School

On July 1, 2018, Aaron Cooper officially stepped into the role of Head of School of New Canaan Country School, and he and his wife, Kara, along with their two daughters, Julia and Charlotte, officially joined the Country School community.

While serving as Head of Elisabeth Morrow School in Englewood, N.J. for the past six years, Aaron guided the school through a successful capital campaign and long-range campus master plan, and the development of a sustainable financial model. He also developed and implemented a comprehensive integrated STEAM program, a renowned instrumental music initiative, and an interconnected diversity and inclusivity program.

During his 15 years at EMS, Aaron also served as Assistant Head, Dean of Students, and coached and taught math, Latin, ethics and public speaking, and led middle school advisory groups. Aaron was actively involved in the school's reaccreditation process and an initiative to expand the school to include grades seven and eight. Importantly, throughout his time at EMS Aaron demonstrated his ability to face challenges with

creativity and confidence, steering the school through a revitalization that has bolstered financial sustainability and resulted in a 20-year high in applications and new enrollees as well as increased annual giving and engagement across all constituent groups.

Aaron earned an Ed.M. in Private School Leadership and an M.A. in Educational Leadership from Teachers College, Columbia University; he received his B.A. in the Growth and Structure of Cities from Haverford College, and a diploma from Groton School. He served on the board of The Community Chest of Englewood, has served on five re-accreditation visiting committees and is a member of the Elementary School Heads Association.



Tom Main, Ridgefield Academy

Ridgefield Academy is pleased to welcome new head of school Tom Main and his family to its 42-acre campus this summer.

Main has an accomplished history as an educator, administrator, and leader. He began his career at King School, a PK – Grade 12 independent school located in Stamford, Conn. in 1983 as a middle school teacher and Athletic Director, followed by 6 years teaching at Rye Country Day School, where he also served as Dean and Interim Division Head. After serving as Upper School Head at Cincinnati Country Day School from 1996-2002, he returned to King as Head of School. The King School was

transformed under Main's 16 years of leadership, and Ridgefield Academy is excited about the level of experience and skills that Tom brings to the school. As a former 8-year member of the Ridgefield Academy board of trustees, Tom joins the school with insight into its programs and people.

Main began partnering with the school's administration last year, and this summer has spent time getting to know families and meeting with each faculty and staff member at the school's three Landmark Preschool campuses and Ridgefield Academy campus. "I believe that effective school leadership is grounded in strong, honest relationships with community members, and a deep knowledge of the culture, programs, strengths, and challenges of the School. I look forward to working with the school community in this new role and contributing to the continued growth and development of a school that so many others have poured their heart and souls into for years."



Matthew Quinn, St. Thomas More School

Matthew Quinn '00 was appointed the third Head of School in St. Thomas More's history in March of 2018 after serving as the Interim Head of School the preceding two months and at numerous times in his career. Matt graduated from Bucknell University and earned his Master's in Educational Administration and Human Development from the George Washington University. As the son of long time basketball coach Jere Quinn, Matt grew up on campus and has a deep understanding and fondness for the school.

Matt began his career working for PeacePlayers International in Northern Ireland and the Middle East. There he developed and directed programs to teach youth from divided societies that through the power of sport they could learn to unit, educate, inspire, and create a more peaceful world.

Matt returned to St. Thomas More in 2008 to serve as a teacher and coach, and from 2010 to 2012, he held positions of Math teacher and Head Basketball Coach at the Winchendon School. He returned once again to St. Thomas More in 2012 to serve as the Academic Dean and Director of the Summer Academic Program. In the summer of 2016, he was promoted to Assistant Head of School.



Carney O'Brien, Washington Montessori School

Washington Montessori School appointed Carney M. Heavey O'Brien as Head of School. Carney is the second head in the school's history, having replaced Pat Werner who retired this summer after 43 years of service to Washington Montessori School. Carney joins WMS from Chatham Hall in Virginia where she was the Assistant Head of School for Enrollment Management.

From 2010-2014, Carney served Indian Mountain School as its Director of Secondary School Advising, Ninth Grade Dean and taught English. Carney began her independent school career at Mizzentop Day School (Pawling, NY) where she taught a variety of subjects including Early Childhood Art, Dramatic Lit and Theater Arts, Public Speaking/Debate and Writing. Carney also held a number of administrative roles through her time at Mizzentop, including Director of Admission and Assistant Head of School. Carney earned a BA in English from Vassar College and did her graduate work in Educational Psychology at Marist College. She has been an active volunteer for Vassar, served as the Director of Volunteer services for The Children's Museum in Poughkeepsie, NY, and co-produced several professional productions at Bardavon Theater. Carney is the mother of four grown children.



Jamel Keels, Waterside School

As of July of this year, Jamel Keels transitioned into the role of Head of School at Waterside. While this is his first year in the new role, it is the beginning of his 15th year as a member of the Waterside School Community. Prior to taking on this role, Jamel served stints as the Assistant Head of School, Dean of Students and grade level teacher. From the moment he stepped foot in this one-of-a-kind school, he knew it was the place for him. The idea of educating students and providing them with exceptional opportunities spoke to Jamel from the very beginning.

Jamel is a native of Norwalk, Connecticut. He graduated from Sacred Heart University with a degree in psychology and obtained his Master's Degree in Education from Manhattanville College. Jamel spent his first two years after graduation teaching at New

Canaan Country School. In search of a change, he joined the Waterside teaching faculty as a fourth-grade teacher. Jamel is fiercely proud of his school's accomplishments, and looks forward to serving the School, its students, parents and colleagues with his fullest and finest effort.

Jamel and his wife, Mariana, live in Greenwich with their three children – Emma, Brooks and Willow.



Jason Anklowitz, Whitby School

Though a native of New Jersey, Jason first learned to read and write in Spanish while attending a Montessori school in Madrid. The experience left such an impression that Jason later returned to Spain where he worked at the American School of Madrid following his graduation from George Washington University.

Upon his return to the United States, Jason worked for Teach for America in Washington D.C., while simultaneously working towards a Master of Education from Harvard University. He entered the independent school world for the first time in 2004 and, following terms at schools in Boston and Washington, D.C., Jason spent seven years at the International School of Trieste in northeastern Italy, the last five of which he was the school's Director.

Jason has spent the past five years at Carlthorp School in Santa Monica, California, most recently as the Associate Head of School. This past June, Jason completed his Master of Business Administration at UCLA's Anderson School of Management with a Certificate in Entrepreneurialism.



Blythe Everett (Interim), The Marvelwood School

The Board of Trustees of The Marvelwood School is proud to announce the appointment of Blythe Everett P'14, '16 as Interim Head of School, effective Friday, June 1, 2018. A graduate of Trinity College and the University of Pennsylvania, Blythe has been a long-term key member of the senior administrative team at Marvelwood. She is a skilled professional, a brilliant and compassionate person, and one who deeply understands the mission of the School.

In her 28 years at Marvelwood, Blythe served as Assistant Head of School, Dean of Faculty, Dean of Students, Director of Residential Life, Director of Studies, English Department Chair, and Summer School Director. She coached softball, coordinated the recreational skiing program, was the faculty advisor to the literary magazine, and participated in the theater program, both directing and acting. Blythe served as co-coordinator and lead author of the School's 2018 and 2007 NEASC Self-Study projects. In 2008, Blythe received a Commendation from the Board of Trustees for her work on the re-accreditation and was awarded the Anita Brean Cup for Longtime Dedication to the School; she has been named Female Faculty Member of the Year four times. Most recently, Blythe has served as the Senior Dean for Academics & Curricular Development and World Languages Department Chair.

Outside of school, Blythe enjoys acting in community theatre and is an avid fan of the Philadelphia Eagles. She and husband Mike, also a veteran faculty member at the School, have two children, Sam '14 and Maggie '16, both of whom excelled at Marvelwood and are currently in college, Sam at Western Connecticut State University and Maggie at Roger Williams University.

The Marvelwood community is thrilled that Blythe, a consummate education professional, will lead and continue to shape the School as we work to fulfill our mission to deliver a first-rate college preparatory educational experience, teach our students the value of compassion, empathy and service to others, and prepare young adults for the opportunities and challenges of an increasingly diverse and rapidly changing world.