



June 28, 2024

Dear Dwight-Englewood School Community,

On behalf of the Board of Trustees, I am excited to announce the appointment of Preeti Fibiger as Dwight-Englewood's Interim Head of School commencing on July 1, 2024. Preeti is uniquely qualified to lead Dwight-Englewood at this point in our history and is a proven educational leader who understands the importance of unifying our community while continuing to build upon the academic excellence that first attracted us all to this campus.

As many of you know, Preeti has served as our Lower School Principal for the past three years and has been immersed in independent school education for the past 30 years, including leadership positions at the Ethical Culture Fieldston School and Bank Street School for Children. She is at heart a teacher, distinguishing herself as an educator who has a deep understanding of child development across all ages. Over the course of her career, she has been tapped numerous times to take on leadership roles due to her strong ethical moral compass and her compassionate, thoughtful approach to management and mentorship. Preeti has a nuanced understanding of our school's recent history and the challenges that we face. She has thought deeply about how to lead our school forward and is ready to take charge to ensure that a safe, nurturing, and inclusive campus is ready to open for the upcoming school year.

The Interim Head of School Search Committee worked with the executive search firm Spencer Stuart over the past six weeks to interview over 30 candidates for the position of Interim Head of School. Our rigorous process included in-person discussions with close to 100 students, faculty, parents, and administrators, as well as receiving over 300 additional survey responses and emails from community members. This process resulted in a slate of four experienced Head of School finalists, each highly qualified and capable of leading. At the same time, numerous community members spoke up in support of Preeti as a potential candidate who could adeptly meet the unique needs of our school. She ultimately removed herself from the committee and undertook the full interview process where she astounded the team with her authentic leadership skills, empathetic communication style, and, above all, her love for Dwight-Englewood.

Looking ahead, a new search committee has been formed to conduct the permanent Head of School search, and they have already begun working with Spencer Stuart on a process that will continue to involve the entire community. More information on that committee and process will be shared in the near future.

With Preeti's acceptance of the position of Interim Head of School, current Lower School Assistant Principals Susan Abramson and Julia Calantone have graciously agreed to act as Co-Principals of the Lower School for the upcoming school year. Both Preeti and the Board are confident that this leadership team will continue to carry forward the excellence embodied in our Lower School division. Upon the completion of Preeti's term as Interim Head of School, she plans to return to lead the Lower School as its principal.

Preeti will be starting her work as Interim Head of School immediately on July 1 and will be reaching out to the community directly to begin to share her vision and plans for the upcoming school year. In the meantime, she asked that I share the following message:

*Dwight-Englewood School is a special community that I chose intentionally as an educator, leader, and parent. I care deeply for its mission, faculty, staff, and students. I fully understand the responsibilities that have been entrusted to me and the work that lies ahead. I am humbled by the Board's trust in me and look forward to earnestly connecting with the different constituencies of the community as we move forward together in unity and strength.*

Please join me and the Board of Trustees in embracing Preeti and working with her to nurture the next generation of life-long learners. I am thrilled with the outcome of our Interim Head of School search process and am as optimistic as ever about the future of our school.

Thank you,

Dr. Ami Vaidya '91, P'24, '26

President, Dwight-Englewood School Board of Trustees

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**Dwight-Englewood School**

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