Dear Lake Tahoe School Families,

As I enjoy the beginnings of my time here at Lake Tahoe School – even through the heat and haze – I wanted to take this opportunity to welcome you as well to the new school year.

On a personal level, the summer has been full of discovery for me as I get to know a number of you as you drop by the school, as well as become familiar with the campus. I have enjoyed my tour of our building and a growing feeling of comfort in finding my way around. My own measure of this new-found familiarity is that I no longer require leaving a trail of breadcrumbs behind me to find my way back to my office. I thought about using M and M’s as being more age appropriate - for the children, not for me - but I'm not sure that would have been the best choice given the heat...

Like most schools these days, the summer months at Lake Tahoe School are never idle ones. Our Director of Maintenance, Mark Brockway and his crew have spent virtually every day this summer cleaning, repairing, and generally doing everything possible to continue to make our school one of the cleanest and most highly functioning schools I have ever had the privilege of working in.

Most importantly, the construction of our new Athletic and Performing Arts Center is gearing up and taking shape. Upon completion next summer, the new center will be a cornerstone for our school and the larger community outside. For Lake Tahoe School, the new facility lifts our Physical Education and sports activities literally out of the basement and ends our reliance on outside sports facilities and rentals. The new center also provides us with a large gathering space suited for performances of all shapes and sizes for our students – from the arts to drama, music to Declamation – the possibilities are endless. In addition, the Athletic and Performing Arts Center will also provide us with a vital link to the outside community. Through rentals and other types of availability to community groups and organizations, we will be drawing both attention and people to our campus who may not have otherwise known about or visited our campus – thus positioning ourselves well for future enrollment and becoming an even more high-profile member of the Lake Tahoe region.

The end of summer also brings us several new members of the school community. With the addition of the new faculty and staff members listed here, each of them joins us in a commitment to not only the children who will be in their care, but also in a commitment to our school’s mission and vision. New staff and faculty members for 2018-2019 include:

* **Madelyn Rios, PreK-Grade 5 Science** - Madelyn lives locally in South Lake Tahoe with her husband and young son. She has a Bachelor’s Degree in Wildlife, Fish, and Conservation Biology from UC Davis and a Master’s Degree in Teaching from Sierra Nevada College. She has several years of teaching experience in addition to her work with young children through the Tahoe Institute for Natural Science and Tahoe Environmental Center Science Expos.
* **Danielle Snyder, Middle School Humanities** - Danielle comes to LTS with a Bachelor’s Degree in Television, Film, and Media studies from Cal State, L.A. where she played women's basketball. She also has a Master’s Degree in Education from Whittier College. With several years as a short- and long-term substitute teacher in the Yuba City School District, Danielle brings to us a strong background in working with children both in the classroom and in coaching - the latter she will also do at LTS.
* **Bill Devine, Director of Campus Safety and Security** – Bill - former Incline Village Sheriff - will be our new Director of Safety and Security. Well-known and well-respected in the area, Bill brings many years of experience to the position and to Lake Tahoe School.

The school year ahead promises to be full and exciting – and not just for the students. Throughout the year, I will be hosting a regular series of Coffee Chats on campus. As promised, these chats will address issues and topics of importance, as well as provide you as parents with the opportunity to ask questions and address concerns. More information will be forthcoming on these and other parent education opportunities.

Bob Graves

Interim Head of School