

The Evergreen School Endowment

“Growing & Learning”

It was our family’s good fortune to find the Evergreen School some seven years ago. My wife Midori and I knew that Evergreen was special from the first time we visited the campus. We would not have done so if my younger sister Molly, an Evergreen alum (and current parent and past board member), had not insisted that we look further a field from our home in Magnolia for a school for our son Henry, now himself an Evergreen alum, and our daughter Hana now in Grade 3.

Over the years, we found that the more involved we became with the school and its vibrant community, the greater our satisfaction with the educational experience our children were enjoying. We both drove field trips, helped with cooking, assisted teachers with instructing reading and writing, and I even did some soccer coaching. The opportunity that Evergreen provides to get involved is really an integral part of what makes Evergreen excellent.

Finally, last Spring, I was asked to join the Board of Trustees, and assigned to lead the effort to establish an Endowment. I’d like to tell you why I think the Endowment effort is so important, and why it is so timely.

Since its founding in 1963, The Evergreen School has sought to challenge and nurture highly capable gifted children, to be a resource to the families of these children, and to the community and world beyond. The school has established itself within the community, has gone through its growing pains, and come to a high place in its history and development.

Like many other independent schools in the Seattle area, Evergreen enjoys the historically unique economic boom we have been in since the mid 1980s, when companies like Microsoft began to bloom, and Seattle’s unique geographical location, unmatched natural beauty, and importance to world trade all came together to increase the demand for high quality independent education.

The school has grown and prospered, developing its characteristic curriculum and approach to teaching gifted children. The school has survived economic ups and downs, and leadership changes. The school community has raised the money to build the campus we now enjoy.

Demand for admissions is at an all-time high. We have a beautiful campus and a strong balance sheet, and we consistently send our students on to the best of the High Schools academically ready to work hard, and be a contributing member of society. It might be easy to rest on one’s laurels under the circumstances.

However, I believe, that we now have the leadership, vision, and resources to challenge ourselves to grow and be even more. The establishment of The Evergreen School Endowment is one step toward meeting this challenge.

The purpose of The Evergreen School Endowment is to uphold excellence and provide enduring financial benefits to students, faculty, staff, programs and facilities. In order to carry out the school's mission over the long term, and meet nearer term goals outlined in the current strategic plan, the Board of Trustees created the Endowment to provide sustainable benefits to the school in four critical areas of need – Financial Aid, Professional Development, Enrichment/Outreach, and Stewardship of Campus Assets. An unrestricted fund is also being created to allow donors to make contributions toward the areas of greatest need.

I hope that you will join me in participating in the process of establishing The Evergreen School Endowment by pledging your support at whatever level you can, and encouraging others to do the same.

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