

**Greetings to the RPC Community  
from Sarah Derman, Chair,  
RPNS Advisory Board and Deacon**

John F. Kennedy said, "Change is the law of life and those who look only to the past or present are certain to miss the future." With the New Year, change comes to RPNS, and with it, an opportunity to step into the future of our school. Shortly before Christmas, the RPNS Board received the resignation letters of Cheryl Flood, the RPNS Director, and Deirdre Winters, Assistant Director and Teacher, effective June 2014.

As many of you know, having been RPNS parents, graduates or past Board members, Cheryl has been at the school for 31 years and Deirdre for 38 years. Deciding to retire now was not easy for either of them. While we will miss them dearly, we fully support their decision and wish them all the best in their well-deserved retirement as they go on to enjoy time with grandchildren and pursue personal goals. As Cheryl expressed in her resignation letter,

*"Thirty years ago this September, I began a journey that has largely defined my life. Besides my role as a wife, mother and grandmother, nothing has meant more to me than serving as Director of the Rye Presbyterian Nursery School. As we go through our individual lives, if we are fortunate, we find the path of fulfillment, leaving a legacy that we hope was meaningful and productive. I have had the great fortune of discovering that path at the Rye Presbyterian Nursery School.*

*RPNS has been a haven of friendships and collegiality, a caring community offering me leadership opportunities and continued professional development. Most important to me has been the opportunity to provide exemplary early educational experiences for the hundreds of young children who have attended RPNS. It has been the greatest privilege to be a part of the lives of little children as they explore their world with wonder and delight.*

*I have cherished the partnership with their supportive and caring parents who have given to us the greatest gift imaginable...that of entrusting us with their young children. I have been privileged to have had the leadership of talented visionaries and supportive members of each Board of Directors with which I have worked, as well as the guidance and support of the RPC Pastors under which I have served. Finally, I have been honored to work with the many talented and caring teachers and professionals who have walked the teaching path with me."*

The RPNS Advisory Board is undertaking the search for a new Director. Our Board is comprised of current and former RPNS parents, half of whom are RPC members. In addition, the Board has in its membership as Trustee Representative, Chris Manning, as Session Representative, Kim O'Connor Stacks, and as Deacon Representative, Tara Kaplan. While we cannot replace Cheryl and Deirdre, we will be looking for candidates who embody their spirit and ideals and will be able to carry us forward into a new and exciting chapter at RPNS. The teachers and staff at RPNS have a combined total of 331 years at the school, leaving us a wealth of wisdom and leadership at RPNS.

For those of you who would like the opportunity to say goodbye and thank you to Cheryl and Deirdre, we will be planning a very special event on the Great Lawn in the Spring. Thank you, on behalf of Cheryl, Deirdre, myself, and the entire RPNS Board, for the kind wishes and support many of you have already expressed.