

March 27, 2018

Dear Westerly Community,

As I sit here writing this, I am filled with both enthusiasm and a sense of earnest anticipation. While I have had the opportunity to visit campus and meet with many of you—including passionate faculty, engaged students, a dedicated administration and Board of Trustees, and the enthusiastic and committed parents of Westerly—I now have the tremendous privilege of getting to meet and know you as a member of this phenomenal school myself.



I am sure the process of searching for your new Head of School has been an informative and interesting one to say the least; for me these past months have allowed me the pleasure of discovering Westerly and all that you are doing on this unique and inspiring Long Beach campus. I am eager, over these next few months, to spend time not only getting to know the ins-and-outs of the school, but also getting to know each of you and your various roles in the Westerly community. While I have gotten a taste of the strong character and inherent curiosity of the student body, as well as all that you do as parents and educators to support the education and development of your children and students, it is with much alacrity that I look forward to being on campus, in classrooms, and connecting with each of you to understand the nuances of what makes this school so special and how we can partner to continue its growth and supporting the dynamic education Westerly provides.

Personally, I feel both a deep sense of responsibility and gratitude for the opportunity to work with such an engaging community. I share in our collective excitement about the coming 2018-2019 school year and moving forward together. As the Westerly community continues to evolve and grow, I am eager to collaborate with each of you to support our students' continued success both in and beyond the classroom walls.

It is in consideration of this sentiment that you may find the heart of my role as Head of School at Westerly. I come to you passionately driven towards helping facilitate a whole-school approach to educating our students. No single teacher, nor one coach, nor sole administrator or parent can support a child's development in the same way a community can. Research supports this concept: When all the constituencies of a school community work together to act as a unit of change, we best foster student success. I believe it is both our duty and our privilege to work with each other to support these children's various passions, physical development, intellectual growth, and the social and emotional health of these remarkable children. When we jointly recognize that all of these factors are significant and worthy of our attention and programmatic support, we are best able to support these awe-inspiring young learners in a meaningful and lasting way—indeed, our mission asks no less of us.

I look forward to meeting and working with all of you!



Dr. Lauren Plant
Incoming Head of School, Westerly School