

Word from the Headmaster

Achieving Our Goals

By Daren M. Houck

This past January, the MSW Board of Trustees approved our strategic plan for the next five years. Each of the seven goals was written with our children in mind. Under each goal are six or seven action steps to help attain the corresponding goal over the coming years.

This year, I set seven very specific action steps, corresponding with each goal, to be completed by the end of the 2011-2012 school year. These steps include:

- To enroll 70 students;
- To raise \$100,000 in the annual giving campaign;
- To end the year with a surplus and add to our endowment for future sustainability;
- To create a Trustee Facility Committee to work closely with the Select and School Boards of Winhall;
- To create a Trustee evaluation;
- To increase the number of Winhall/Stratton K-8 students at The Mountain School; and
- To recreate the Math Specialist position.

I am happy to report that five of these seven action steps have already been reached. MSW opened its doors to 70 students, with a potential of more on the way; a Facility Committee is already underway and looking forward to working closely with the town; the Board's first-ever Trustee evaluation was created and completed; MSW enrolled five more K-8 Winhall and Stratton students than last year; and a Math Specialist has been hired. We also have \$50,000 in pledges to help us reach our \$100,000 annual giving goal. However, much work still needs to be done - especially in this economic climate - to help us reach not only that goal, but also the goal of ending the fiscal year in such a positive as to allow us to add to our endowment. Our ultimate endowment goal is \$1,000,000 by 2016, adding to our long-term viability by providing \$50,000 to the school each year in perpetuity.

As the year just gets underway, I am humbled by the excitement and commitment already shown by the school community. I thank you in advance for joining me and helping us attain all of our goals, not only this year, but for years to come.

Daren M. Houck,
Headmaster