Dear Past and Present Thorne Parents,

Big changes at the Thorne School!

As some of you already know, Marilyn Henkelman, Thorne’s beloved long-time Director, retired at the end of last year. We were sad to see her go, but also happy to wish her our best in this next part of her life. Thorne has been very fortunate to appoint Amanda Ulrich as the new Director. Amanda has been the lead teacher in Thorne’s Toddler program since 2007 and therefore has worked very closely with Marilyn and will easily carry on Thorne’s developmental philosophy.

The other big transition for the school is this: Within the next few years, the Thorne Preschool programs are going to need a new building. Bryn Mawr College has completed an architectural study of many older buildings on campus and concluded that maintaining West House as a school building would require a seven million dollar renovation to meet future code requirements. Because retrofitting the building for use as a school is so expensive and funds are not available for a renovation of this scope, we must look to other space options. Fortunately, the College’s senior administration recognizes the important ways in which Thorne contributes to the College’s mission and has expressed a commitment to working with us to find a viable alternative space nearby. Although everyone will miss the “classic” West House surroundings, the Thorne staff is excited at the prospect of a new and updated space. And we want to help—to both invent a new home and to re-create the home we all love so much.

We are asking Thorne’s friends and families to join us in raising the funds necessary to begin this new chapter. Although the exact cost of renovating and occupying a new preschool space is still uncertain, we have set a goal of $350,000 to help finance this necessary and exciting move. Although Marilyn officially retired at the end of June, she has agreed to help with the Thorne School Building Campaign. And we can think of no better way to honor Marilyn’s 30 years at Thorne than by ensuring its future.

As parents of Thorne students, we deeply value the contribution Thorne has made to our children’s education. We chose Thorne because of its play-based, child-centered program, its talented teachers, and its strong support for children and families. For those of us whose children attended the Language Enrichment Preschool Program at Thorne, the combination of Thorne School’s philosophy with the focus and attention to early language/learning difficulties made a huge difference in the development of our young children.
We hope that you will give generously to our campaign so that this unique school can continue to serve children for many more decades. Contributions to the Thorne School Building Campaign are tax deductible as charitable donations. Please find attached the details of our proposed gift levels and details about how to contribute.

Finally, we hope that both past and present parents will “Like” the Phebe Anna Thorne School page on Facebook. This will enable you remain connected to the Thorne community, keep abreast of things that are happening at Thorne, and stay updated about the progress of the fundraising campaign and the renovation plans as they unfold.

Thank you!

Kelly and Jeffrey Beh
Kate and Fraser Brown
Alison Frisbee and Charlie Reed
Dr. and Mrs. Mark Kotapka
Susanna Lachs and Dean Adler
Marcia Leithauser and Seth J. Gillihan
Kirsten and Joe Mudd
Laura Sauer Palmer
Alison and Joe Preisser
Kari and Justin Richards
Colleen Quinn Scharpf