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Dear St. Andrew's Episcopal School Families,

Greetings from St. Andrew's Episcopal School, where summer's mid-point finds us at once enjoying the relative quiet of the season yet in the midst of several exciting facilities and programmatic renovations.

If you have not yet, I encourage you to take a walk or drive along Carrollton Avenue, where you cannot miss the remarkable progress being made on our exciting field turf project. Jeff Amann of Amann and Associates has done a first-rate job for the School, and we are on schedule to complete the renovations by early August. This project's impact on our campus and our program will surely be profound.

Calling All Dads: I encourage all dads to heed the request for volunteers from Dad's Club President John Barousse. We are counting on the Dad's Club to assist with the final touches of the project, including spreading over 20,000 lbs. of crushed rubber infill into 10,000 square feet of turf over the July 30-31 weekend. Please see the July 12 e-mail from Mr. Barousse for details.

In addition to managing this and other renovations on campus, St. Andrew's has been busy finalizing our Faculty and Staff team for 2011-2012.

In May, I introduced you to new 7th and 8th Grade Spanish Associate Teacher **Beth Nazar**, new 4th Grade Associate Teacher **Kristin Rich**, new Associate PE Teacher **Patty Strikmiller**, and temporary Development Coordinator **Michelle Wuttke** (filling in for Natalie Treadway, on Maternity Leave).

I am now pleased to introduce the following new members of the St. Andrew's Faculty and Staff.

Meg Blevins is the School's new Pre-Kindergarten Associate Teacher. Mrs. Blevins comes to St. Andrew's with several years of teaching experience at the high school level in Virginia and Kentucky as well as tutoring and substitute teaching experience for students in Kindergarten through 12th Grade. Mrs. Blevins has a B.A. in Education from the University of Kentucky and is working toward a Master's Degree in Counseling from Loyola University. She has most recently been a regular Lower School substitute teacher at McGehee School. In addition to welcoming Mrs. Blevins to St. Andrew's, please join me in welcoming her daughter, Anne Porter, who will join the 1st Grade class at St. Andrew's in August.

Staying in the KinderCottage, **Tommy Haney** will serve as the School's new Kindergarten Associate Teacher. A native of Texas, Mr. Haney comes to St. Andrew's following a successful Fellowship year of teaching Kindergarten at the Greenhill School in Dallas. Mr. Haney holds a B.A. in History, with a minor in Religious Studies, from Austin College, where he was a four-year member of the soccer team and its captain during his senior year. While focusing his work in Kindergarten, Mr. Haney will also support our growing soccer program at St. Andrew's.

Stephen Breen is the School's new Math Department Chair and Teacher and 7th Grade Advisor. Mr. Breen has taught Middle School math locally at Esperanza Charter School and at the East Side Middle School in New York just after Katrina. He has also served as a Music Teacher and Camp Counselor at the Metairie Academy for Advanced Studies. Mr. Breen is a *magna cum laude* graduate of the University of New Orleans, where he received a Bachelor's degree in Elementary Education.

Greg DeRosa is the School's new Aftercare Teacher and part-time 5th Grade Assistant Teacher. Mr. DeRosa will join **Venessa Jones** as an instructor in our Aftercare Program five days per week, and for two mornings each week, he will support **Chris Sedgwick** as a second instructor in our 5th Grade classroom. Mr. DeRosa comes to New Orleans from Connecticut, where for the past five years he was a PE Teacher and Athletic Coach at the Washington Montessori School. Mr. DeRosa earned a B.A. in History from the University of Connecticut.

Mrs. Jones, who runs our Aftercare Program, our growing Afterschool Programs, and our Pre-Kindergarten Extended Day Program, will soon claim another hat as our new part-time Business Office Assistant. As the School has grown (close to 40 additional students in just two years), the demands on our business operations have increased. Mrs. Jones will join Business Manager **Rene Gignac** in our Business Office for two or three mornings or afternoons per week to ensure seamless financial, personnel, and facilities operations for St. Andrew's.

Once again, St. Andrew's has been blessed to receive dozens of qualified applications for every vacancy. On certain days this spring and summer, we received over ten applications, per position, per day. Such massive interest is a positive indicator for both St. Andrew's and New Orleans, and it allowed the School to be extremely deliberate and selective in its hiring.

In early August you will receive a back-to-school letter from me with other key School details. For now, please be sure your calendars are marked for **Wednesday, August 17**, the first day of School (with a noon dismissal). And please be sure Mrs. Nason (office@standrewsepiscopalchool.org) has your proper e-mail and mailing address in our database.

Have a wonderful remainder of summer, and I look forward to seeing you and your children next month.

Yours,

Mason Lecky
Head of School