May 7, 2014

Dear Members of the Brearley Community,

Assessing the School’s excellent options for additional space has been a significant focus of the Board of Trustees this spring, and we are pleased to provide an update.

Led by real estate expert and Trustee Nick Bienstock, the Building Committee has been working since the end of last year with a real estate consultant, Studley, Inc., and an architectural, design and planning firm, Gensler, to identify and research all viable options—from the renovation of 610 East 83rd Street and construction of a separate academic building on property we own at 70-74 East End Avenue, to the purchase of a new site in which to consolidate the entire school.

Over the past four months, Studley has presented the Building Committee with a large number of sites with at least some potential for constructing a new building that would accommodate all parts of the School. The Committee identified 20 properties for further consideration and is currently evaluating a few of the most promising sites in greater depth.

Any new site would need to allow Brearley to create a school building that frees our academic program from our current space constraints, promotes the emerging goals of the Strategic Plan and provides flexibility for the future. Ideally, the structure would include athletic facilities and be located close to public transportation, parks and other attractive spaces. Financial and logistical considerations are also very important. All potential opportunities to house the School in one new building are being evaluated relative to the costs, benefits and challenges of reconfiguring our existing properties.

Brearley is in the enviable position of being able to address its space needs within its existing portfolio of real estate. Therefore, if the decision was made to acquire a new site, it would be because the School has identified an even more attractive option.

Nick Bienstock has kindly agreed to give a brief update at the Parents' Association meeting on Tuesday, May 13, at 8:30 am in the Common Room. A livestream of his presentation will also be available to alumnae and members of the school community at www.brearley.org/buildingupdate at that time. (You may log on in advance.)

The Board is continuing its deliberations and aims to make a decision early in the next school year. As always, we encourage your feedback and will continue to update you as the process moves forward.

Sincerely,

Ellen Jewett ’77
President, Board of Trustees

Jane Foley Fried
Head of School