December 2, 2015

Dear Members of the Brearley Community,

We are writing to update you on the exciting progress that has been made in planning for our new campus building at 70-74 East End Avenue.

Over the past months, the School has worked alongside our architect Marianne McKenna and her team at KPMB to develop a plan for our new facility that will resolve our chronic space shortage and advance Brearley’s legacy of excellence in education.

The educational and developmental needs of our students are at the heart of all our planning decisions, and we are designing the new facility from the inside out to ensure optimal support for the program. We are also committed to maintaining the intimacy and warmth that define the Brearley experience, and to taking advantage of environmentally sustainable opportunities.

Today, we are pleased to report that the new building will house state-of-the-art science laboratories for Classes VII through XII; a regulation-size gymnasium to augment the Field House; and a large, flexible auditorium with modern acoustics that will support the School’s burgeoning performing arts program and allow us to expand community gatherings.

The new building will also become home base for the Lower School. Classes K-IV will each have three homerooms, and our young students will also benefit from a dedicated library, common room and play space.

Once the new facilities are added to our campus, overcrowding will be alleviated for students and teachers in all divisions, and we will begin incremental upgrades and renovations to our historic 610 East 83rd Street schoolhouse, including critical work on the internal systems.

While the educational needs of our students are driving our design decisions, we are also eager for the new facility to reflect the character of our surrounding neighborhood, in which our two campus buildings will be located just 249 feet—or about 80 (adult) steps—away from each other.
As we move beyond the conceptual phase toward a formal design and construction plan, we are working through a series of important mechanical, structural, electrical and environmental considerations. We recently hired an owner’s representative, or expert project manager, who will partner with Brearley throughout the process. Among our priorities is the goal of minimizing the impact of our project (in terms of construction operations, pedestrian and vehicular safety, traffic and noise) on residents, students, businesses and workers in the surrounding community—with special attention to the immediate neighbors of our building.

At the moment, we are completing our due diligence phase and confirming the feasibility of our plans and their estimated costs. Once that process has concluded, the Brearley Board of Trustees will be in a position to review and potentially approve a plan that we can then share with the entire Brearley community, as well as with our neighbors on East End Avenue, East 83rd Street and beyond.

Brearley is extraordinarily grateful for the support, encouragement and patience of all of the constituencies in the school community. We couldn’t have reached this point without your help. We encourage you to continue to share your ideas with Doris Coleman, our Director of Construction and Facilities, at dcoleman@brearley.org, and we look forward to updating you again in the near future.

Sincerely,

Ellen Jewett ’77
President, Board of Trustees

Jane Foley Fried
Head of School