April 27, 2016

Dear Members of the Brearley Community,

We are writing to provide you with an update on the School’s exciting plans to construct a new campus building at 590 East 83rd Street.

Since our December update, we have continued to develop and fine-tune our designs for the new building with our architect, Marianne McKenna, and her colleagues at KPMB, as well as with the team of construction management, engineering and site safety professionals that we have assembled for this project.

Throughout this process, our goal has been to design an extraordinary educational facility that best addresses the needs and aspirations that have been so eloquently articulated by our community of students, faculty, parents and alumnae over the past year, while also ensuring that the facility we build is practical, environmentally sustainable and in keeping with the overall character of our surrounding neighborhood.

Over the course of a year, we have considered a number of scenarios, each capable of meeting the needs of our students and creating an outstanding space in which to teach and learn. As those of you who attended a presentation in January know, we considered a facility that would “cantilever” over the adjacent low-rise building on East End Avenue. While that approach showed promise, after extensive analysis we subsequently decided to pursue a more straightforward design within the envelope of the property at 70-74 East End Avenue. Our plans now call for a twelve-story schoolhouse that can incorporate the programming we envision for the new facility while minimizing the overall risk of unforeseen costs, schedule overruns and disruption to our neighbors.

As we noted previously, the upper portion of the building will house state-of-the-art science laboratories for Classes VII through XII; a regulation-size gymnasium; and a large, flexible auditorium with modern acoustics that will support the School’s flourishing performing arts program and community gatherings. Three lower floors will become home base for the Lower School. Classes K-IV each will 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 immediately 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.
The first physical step in the process, which should start shortly, is to safely and methodically remove the now-vacant structures at 70-74 East End Avenue. At this time, we anticipate that the initial preparations will commence before Last Day and that the demolition of the existing buildings will begin over the summer.

From there, we hope to move quickly to excavation, foundation work and then vertical construction with the hope that our new campus facility can be completed in time to welcome our community for the start of the 2019-2020 school year.

We would like to thank everyone who continues to participate in this extraordinary effort. The generous support and encouragement of our community is invaluable, and we greatly appreciate your interest and input. Please feel free to contact Doris Coleman, our Director of Construction and Facilities, at dcoleman@brearley.org with any questions or comments.

Sincerely,

Ellen Jewett ’77
President, Board of Trustees

Jane Foley Fried
Head of School