



# CASTILLEJA SCHOOL

WOMEN LEARNING • WOMEN LEADING

JOAN Z. LONERGAN  
HEAD OF SCHOOL

Dear Karen,

I am writing to confirm that 2009-2010 academic year will be my last as Head of School at Castilleja. When I “graduate” with the class of 2010 next June, my years of service to Castilleja will match the age of many of my classmates.

Not long after beginning my headship in 1993, I realized that I had been given the professional opportunity of a lifetime. Serving at Castilleja has been a true calling for me—one I have embraced wholeheartedly.

I am tremendously proud of Castilleja and honored to have led the school for the 15 years leading up to the Centennial celebration last year. Our strong, vibrant and innovative school has become a leader among the best independent schools in the nation. The extent to which my tenure has been successful is a direct reflection of four interrelated factors: essential partnerships with visionary boards and seven board chairs who have been thought leaders and stewards of the school; the exceptional skill, dedication and good will of a faculty and staff focused on students; a shared leadership with a highly effective and devoted team of accomplished administrators; and the partnership and generosity of over 1000 loyal families whose daughters’ education and lives reflect the excellence and 5 Cs we all know and expect of Castilleja.

It is not easy to leave a place to which I am so deeply committed personally and professionally, but the rewards of my life and work here have been matched only by the demands. I feel it is the right time for me—and a good time for Castilleja—to choose to live my life differently. Meanwhile, we have much to do in the year ahead as we support current programs and implement our new Strategic Plan. Castilleja will be well prepared to transition to new leadership and the enviable challenges and opportunities that lie ahead.

I am grateful, beyond measure, for the outstanding support I have enjoyed from exceptional colleagues and friends in a community I have called home for a huge part of my life. I will always have profound respect and great affection for Castilleja.

Sincerely,