

January 6, 2009

To Leelanau Alumni, Parents, and Friends:



I am very pleased to announce that, based on the recommendation of the Search Committee, the Board of Trustees has offered, and Matt Ralston has accepted, appointment as President / Head of School of The Leelanau School effective July 1, 2009.

Matt comes to Leelanau as an experienced and skilled educator with a love for kids, and with full knowledge of the all important residential life side of boarding schools. In 1992 Matt and his wife Mary Beth located to the Hill School where he currently serves as Dean of Faculty. The Hill School is a well-respected 150 year old boarding school in Pottstown, Pennsylvania serving 490 students. Matt has served at Hill in leadership capacities, including the Chair of the Math Department, Dean of Studies, and Chair of Planning and other committees. He also taught regularly and coaches track.

Matt is a graduate of Ohio State with a Bachelor of Science in Education and a Master of Arts in Mathematics. He enjoys all sports activities, having played lacrosse at Ohio State, officiating, coaching cross country, and is himself a runner. He enjoys music and plays guitar – “novice” he says.

Matt's career includes the Gow School, a well-known boarding school in New York which, like Leelanau, serves students with learning differences; The Andrews School where he taught Mathematics and coached; and North Carolina State University where he served as Coordinator of Academic Support Programs for student athletes.

Matt, Mary Beth, and their two sons resided for fourteen (14) of their Hill years as residential life dormitory parents. They have a clear understanding and love for campus living and will reside in our President's home on campus. Son Zach is a senior majoring in Art History and Theology at Georgetown, while Kyle is a sophomore majoring in Classics at Harvard.

Matt Ralston is an individual who values Leelanau's culture of the past and is inspired by our mission of today. He is energetic and involved. We look forward to his building on the progress that Leelanau has achieved to date, while providing the leadership to take Leelanau to even greater heights in the education of non-traditional learners so that each may achieve fulfillment of their individual potential. Please join us in giving the Ralston family a warm welcome to Leelanau.

Sincerely,



Robert McNutt '55  
Chairman

P.S. Alumni: Matt is anxious to get to know you and is planning on attending the Alumni Reunion scheduled for June 26 & 27, 2009. Mark your calendar, and make plans now to attend, welcome Matt and help celebrate Leelanau's 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.