

From the Leadership Team

Dear Parents, Caregivers, Students, and Friends,

The Principal Residency Network (PRN) is designed to create and inspire leadership. At BAA, we have had many different PRN interns, and all have taken on new leadership roles: Some play a role within the school, as evidenced by Anne Clark, our curriculum coordinator and Joy Bautista, our Summer School principal. Other Principal Interns are outside of the school, such as Sunny Pai at Media Technology High School and Ligia Noriega at Excel High School. PRN is run by the Center for Collaborative Education through Northeastern University. Those who complete the program earn their principal certification.

As this year's Principal Interns, we are both involved in this intensive experience but to very different ends. Danny Wilcox, native to the west coast, is interested in becoming a principal of his own school. Danny returns to the BAA as a PRN Intern to hone his leadership skills after working five years as a teacher in various states. His vision for education imports the community into the school building. He is involved in the day-to-day aspects of running a school. Examples involve team meetings, observations, hearings, teacher and intern mentorship, and system and policy-making meetings. He pays close attention to issues of equity and access, and feels that schools will have success when communities that house them have success.

Kathleen Marsh, founding faculty member, is interested in developing her leadership skills and using them as we transition into a new decade at BAA. Her projects include looking at greater unification in our arts curriculum, and building institutional bridges between BAA and Massachusetts College of Art. She is also looking at system and policy making decisions that will affect the school in the future. Kathleen believes that our work is only as good as our relationships, and she is working to extend our success beyond BAA's walls.

In our current roles, we are urged to walk the "high wire." The "high wire" is a metaphor for taking on a challenging issue that inspires personal growth. Danny often is charged with implementing new programs in the school. The "high wire" is finding himself mentoring teachers who are several years his senior. What he lacks in practical experience he must make up in technique. Negotiating this balance is his "high wire." For one of her high wires, Kathleen translates the personal to institutional in long-standing relationships between BAA and our partners. Institutionalizing our work ensures that we revise from year to year, and that the work continues beyond the people who began the projects.

Leadership skills developed through this approach allow the intern to thrive in a difficult, real-life school situation. This not only benefits the intern, but also continually challenges our school leaders and institution to grow. Our own personal projects are shaped by the goals of the school, and also help to shape those goals. Engaging in this program every year speaks to the beacon aspect of our mission statement. Danny returned specifically to share in the "beacon" and learn of the community partnerships that BAA has created. The beacon gives light to the understanding of our role in both the internal and external community. The beacon continually provides faculty the opportunity to grow professionally, and to try on and hold the big picture of our vision.

Sincerely,



Kathleen Marsh and Danny Wilcox



Principal Residency Network interns, Kathleen Marsh and Danny Wilcox.