Greetings,

Another successful school year at the Bishop John T. Walker School for Boys (BWS)! As I reflect on all we have accomplished, I'd like to acknowledge a few key highlights of our past year and some of the exciting things we have to look forward to in 2015-16.

Two key external groups validated the work of the school:

We were included in the 2014-2015 class of the Catalogue for Philanthropy, Greater Washington, acknowledging us as one of the "best small charities in the metropolitan area". BWS was among a group of more than 200 applicants whose programs and finances were reviewed including a site visit. Only a third of applicants passed the rigorous vetting process.

One of our biggest achievements this past year was being honored with the 2015 Coalition of Schools Educating Boys of Color (COSEBOC) School Award, which annually recognizes and rewards three schools serving students in preK-12 nationally who have demonstrated strong track records of academic success with male students of color. In addition, COSEBOC selects schools that promote the replication of promising practices and demonstrate to the public that schools can effectively educate male students of color. The award is given after a highly-selective competitive process. As part of the awards process, BWS representatives were invited to Memphis to share our promising practices with an audience of educators and practitioners from around the country. I am delighted that the stellar work of our dedicated faculty and staff was recognized in such a public way. Thank you all for your hard work!
One measure of success for which COSEBOC recognized BWS is our 2014-15 academic testing results for Literacy and Math:

- 82% of our students were at or above expectation in Literacy
- 74% of our students were at or above expectation in Math

In addition to our success within the classroom, our devoted donors, student sponsors and board members once again supported our work in an incredibly generous way, enabling us to increase our fundraising by 18% over the prior fiscal year. We were able to achieve and surpass our fundraising goal of $1,957,830, by raising $1,971,049. We extend our deepest gratitude to all who contributed to this milestone achievement!

With the addition of sixth grade, this fall marks the launch of our middle school, the final phase of our development into a pre-K through eighth grade program. In order to fulfill our mission for the coming school year, we have set an ambitious fundraising goal of $2,352,298. At this exciting time in our development we look forward to the continued support of the BWS community and to making new friends who are inspired to help boys in underserved neighborhoods reach their full potential.

New Faces and Roles within the BWS Community - WELCOME!

Tawana Cook Purnell: Interim Head of School

I am thrilled to announce that Tawana Cook Purnell has joined the Bishop Walker School leadership team as Interim Head of School. Tawana is certainly no stranger to BWS as she was one of our founding board members. Tawana’s professional expertise and stellar reputation, passion for the mission of BWS, clear sense of vision and track record of success, uniquely qualify her to lead the school’s academic program at this stage of our development. Throughout her career, Tawana has distinguished herself as an educator and a leader. She taught English and Humanities at St. Albans School for 12 years. She then served as Director of the Lower School at the National Cathedral School for 10 years. Most recently, Tawana was Lower School Principal at the highly regarded Environmental Charter School in Pittsburgh, PA. A graduate of Spelman College, Tawana was a
Klingenstein Fellow at Columbia University Teachers College, where she earned her MA in private school leadership.

**Robert Phillips: Chaplain.**

As an Episcopal School, nurturing our students’ spiritual development is a key component of our work. I am pleased that, beginning in September, The Rev. Dr. Robert Phillips will serve as our Chaplain and Religion teacher. A graduate of the University of Notre Dame, Vanderbilt University and Louisville Presbyterian Theological Seminary, Rev. Phillips was recently ordained to the diaconate in the diocese of Washington. Rev. Phillips spent the past year volunteering as a lunch buddy with our kindergarten class. That experience helped fuel his passion to serve our students in a deeper, more comprehensive way.

**Yonnette Moore: Interim Director of Primary School.**

I am delighted that Yonnette Moore has agreed to take on the role of Director of Primary School (JK-2) for the 2015-2016 school year. A veteran educator, Yonnette has taught 2nd grade at BWS for the past four years. During her tenure at BWS, she has created a peer teacher mentorship program, directed the after school program and coordinated the summer academy at BWS. Before coming to BWS, Yonnette taught kindergarten and 2nd grade for 12 years at St. Anthony Catholic School in Washington, served as Dean of Primary Faculty for 2 years, and directed summer learning programs for 10 years. In 2013, Yonnette was selected as a participant in the Fulbright Japan-organized Japan-US teacher exchange program. Yonnette is a graduate of Howard University and Marygrove College.

**New Governing Board Members.**

We are pleased to welcome four new members to our Governing Board and look forward to working closely with them to continue to fulfill our mission to provide an education that emphasizes character and achievement.

- Calvert S. Bowie
- Dory Clark
- Nicole Solomon Mitchell
- Robert E. Steele

Enjoy the rest of your summer!
P.S. Please save the date for our Evensong service at the Washington National Cathedral on Thursday, October 1 at 5:30 pm. Our student choir will sing and individual students and teachers participate in the service to bless the new school year. Come join us!