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Dear Friends of Headwaters School [*formerly The Khabele School*],

Our school year has begun with abundant energy and great enthusiasm! If you did not yet see our August announcement, I invite you to visit our website at headwaters.org to learn more about our new name and foundational language. While these give us a solid expression of what has always been true about our school, the people, operations, and learning environments that make it so remarkable all remain the same. Thanks to our faculty, our new name and foundational language have been embraced in ways we couldn't have imagined, even weeks ago. Original lyrics and melodies about the new Headwaters name have been created on our Creek (Elementary) Campus; our teachers and guides on the River (Middle & High School) Campus are exploring themes and issues related to water quality; and on our Springs (Early Childhood) Campus, our youngest students are exploring the river metaphor through play and movement. This is just the beginning.

Over the summer, I asked all faculty and staff to read Atul Gawande's book, *Better: A Surgeon's Notes on Performance*. As I explained to the faculty, when we reopened school, I chose the book because I want our guides and teachers to think of their profession as a "practice;" something we're always seeking to understand and improve upon. Near the opening of the book, Gawande wrote the following about the life of a doctor. You'll notice I substituted teacher where it read doctor.

"Yet, still, to live as a teacher/doctor is to live so that one's life is bound up in others' and in science, and in the messy, complicated connection between the two. It is to live a life of responsibility. The question, then, is not whether one accepts the responsibility. Just by doing this work, one has. The question is, having accepted the responsibility, how one does such work well."

As you know, teaching well requires a capacity for listening and paying attention that is rare in our culture today. It also requires stamina and resilience—emotional, social, physical, intellectual, and spiritual.

Time spent in the presence of a great teacher changes a student's life, and it bestows incalculable benefits. Through participation in the Annual Fund, help us tell our teachers we know what it takes, and we are deeply grateful.

Please join me in honoring our teachers and guides, by giving as generously as your means will allow. These funds support and inspire our educators, and they allow the school to provide opportunities for growth and support, so they can do their best work.

All the best,

Ted Graf
Head of School