Dear Seattle Waldorf School Community,

I am humbled and honored to accept the opportunity to be the next Head of Seattle Waldorf School. During our visit to SWS, my husband, Eric, and I were struck by how alive the school’s mission is in the daily program of each division and in the decisions made by leadership. I am inspired by the collaborative faculty and staff. These individuals shared their desire to hold true to the ideals of Waldorf education while embracing the important conversations needed to serve all students well in an increasingly global and ever-changing interconnected world. I am excited at the prospect of what is and what will be.

I look forward to partnering with parents and students, along with faculty, who all expressed an unwavering commitment to the Seattle Waldorf School community and to the importance of pursuing diversity, equity, and inclusion work. The time is always right to do what is right. I hope that together we will strive to ensure SWS continues to provide children with an educational journey that enables them to become joyful, lifelong learners who are courageous and kind. During the interview process, I was awestruck by the children in each age group deeply engaged in work that was fulfilling to them. Some of those highlights included:

- Young children, in full rain gear, trudging uphill for a forest walk. Walking from one area to another with wood chips (aka fresh fish) pretending they were sea captains, and happy individuals sweeping and moving water from walkways.
- Early learners quietly knitting cases for their flutes while other children, slightly older, concentrated on Eurythmy or rapid-paced basket weaving.
- Middle school students engaged with one another outside on the basketball court -- some playing while others were actively socializing. There were those in a class studying Mandarin. Then there were the grade 8 students who were playing their string instruments individually for assessment.
- High school students who asked thoughtful interview questions and engaged in conversation about what my role might be in their school.

In each observation, it was abundantly clear to me that SWS is a school that takes children from where they are and guides them to becoming their most authentic self. I shared with the search committee that I admire Mr. Rogers and that something he once said rings true to me when reflecting on what I experienced at SWS. He said, “Knowing that we can be loved exactly as we are gives us all the best opportunity for growing into the healthiest of people.” Seattle Waldorf School has so much to stand on and be proud of and I am most delighted to join you!

I look forward in the months to come, and years that follow, to build meaningful relationships with faculty, parents, trustees, and most importantly, students. Thank you for this opportunity.

Warmly,
Raquel