

Ruth C. Bailey
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Orinda, CA 94563
925 254-3378

February 18, 2008

I am writing on behalf of Jonathan Martin who has decided to leave Saklan Valley School to pursue new opportunities. I have worked with Mr. Martin as both the Chair of the Board of Trustees for five years and as a parent of two Saklan graduates. The Saklan community has been greatly enriched by his nine years of leadership and Mr. Martin will be missed.

Having recruited Mr. Martin as Head of School nine years ago at a time when our school was struggling on many fronts, I look back with appreciation for the great leadership he provided through some very difficult years. Jonathan stabilized and significantly improved teacher retention and student enrollment. He helped purchase our building and upgraded our facilities with a new playground, middle school facility, library, computer equipment and science lab. In order to accomplish these improvements, Jonathan spearheaded many successful capital campaigns and has helped greatly improve our annual giving and other fundraising efforts. The financial condition of the school has become secure as a result of his leadership. We have moved from significant deficits to healthy current ratios, strong surpluses and a solid balance sheet. He helped educate our board and improve its organization and effectiveness and became a leader in the Bay Area independent school community and in the community where our school is. Jonathan helped develop and worked on a marketing committee and implemented some very successful marketing initiatives. Saklan's accreditation was on probation when Mr. Martin joined the school. Under his leadership we secured a maximum length term of accreditation by CAIS with glowing report of commendations. Jonathan spearheaded a comprehensive and exciting Strategic Plan in 2001 that was recently reviewed and updated. Mr. Martin has also enhanced our sense of family and community at the school with strengthening school traditions and rituals such as our weekly flag on Fridays, graduation, Auction Gala, Family Fun Night, Caroling for Cans and the Head's dinner for Graduates.

Most importantly, under Mr. Martin's leadership, the education program has been significantly enhanced each and every year. Saklan Valley School provides an excellent education and the ERB scores, high school admissions and future success for our students are impressive. Jonathan has a great ability to recruit and retain outstanding teachers. Since he has been at Saklan, the student travel programs, which are core to our philosophy for experiential learning, have doubled. Mandarin language has been added and he has expanded French, Music, Art and technology education. He launched and developed the middle school advisory program and new community service, multi-cultural and global study initiatives. Jonathan has pursued every educational opportunity available to him and has used new ideas and opportunities to benefit Saklan Valley School. Mr. Martin is a well-respected educator both within the Saklan and the greater independent school communities.

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Jonathan is an outstanding, devoted and tireless leader, confident, caring and thoughtful educator and valuable colleague. We have been very fortunate to have Jonathan Martin as Head of School for these past nine years. I am very sad to see him leave Saklan Valley School but I am confident he will be hard working and successful in whatever opportunity he pursues. Please do not hesitate to call me at 925 254-3378 if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ruth C. Bailey', written in a cursive style.

Ruth C. Bailey