Dear Members of the White Mountain Community,

I am writing today to announce that 2017-2018 will be my last year as Head of School at White Mountain. I have accepted a position to lead the Watershed School in Boulder, Colorado beginning in July 2018.

This is a bittersweet moment. Julie and I have lived on campus for the past 17 years. Our children have grown up here, playing on the fields and exploring the trails. In many ways, White Mountain will always be our home. Yet we feel called to respond to the rhythm of professional life, and the opportunity to serve and to learn in another setting.

My 12 years working at White Mountain have been the most rewarding years of my professional career. I have been blessed to work with remarkable colleagues in service of helping students learn and grow. Together we have built an academic program that draws on the best research on learning and teaching. Our focus on student-driven inquiry helps students develop the skills and habits they need for success in college and beyond, and puts White Mountain at the forefront of educational thought. Together we have built a remarkably diverse community, and maintained a strong commitment to our community values. Together we have spread the word about the value of a White Mountain education – leading to increased admission interest. We now have a full school, with engaged students seeking the best of the White Mountain experience. And together we have increased fundraising to levels never before seen at our School. I am very proud of the work we have done together, because I know it serves students well – helping them grow into themselves and become more curious, more courageous, and more compassionate. This is truly fulfilling work.

While this is a letter about moving on, I am very excited about the 2017-2018 school year at White Mountain. As always, our program continues to evolve to better serve student learning and growth. This year we are revamping many of our faculty/staff committees to include students – giving them direct opportunities to shape the evolution of their School. We are also deepening our engagement with the skills and habits that correlate with success at college and beyond by asking ourselves, “How can we best help students see their progress in the development of these skills and habits?” And we continue to refine how we help students learn to ask great questions and pursue them well.

As we leave, I know I will miss the laughter and support at Morning Meeting. I will miss seeing students present their LASR projects – sharing their knowledge and passion. I will miss the energy of community weekend (especially the 200 foot long slip and slide!). I will miss sharing dinner in the dining hall together as a full community. I will miss coffee house nights in Dickey House. But perhaps more than any particular moments or events, I will miss the underlying strength of this community – the students with their energy and engagement, the teachers and staff with their remarkable dedication to their craft and to our students, the alumnae/i and parents with their genuine gratitude for our School, and the trustees with their unwavering support and leadership.

Julie and I will be forever grateful for the opportunity we’ve had to serve White Mountain.

Warmly,

Tim Breen P ’17
Head of School