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Chair, Board of Governors, Cindy TRIPP '82
September 12, 2017

Thank you, Judith.

The hiring committee responsible for selecting a new Head of School spent a lot of time this past year collaborating with our community - from staff to students to parents to Old Girls. And it's time that has paid off for all of us. We could not be more proud or pleased that Judith has become the 19th head of BSS.

As Judith mentioned, my daughter Annie Boright attended BSS. When she graduated in 2013, I watched her collect her diploma and felt enormous pride - both as an alum and a parent. As the Chair of the Board, I am particularly proud of the work we do to inspire girls to be fearless and educate them to be leaders. I see evidence of this mission in our students - as young as 5 years old, in my classmates - who remain ageless, and in the young women about to join the 6,000 alumnae out there changing their lives, their communities and this world, for the better.

Much of the energy and learning that fill the halls at BSS will now happen in this fantastic new building and, as Judith alluded to, it takes a great deal of passion and resolve to go from a good idea to an extraordinary realization of that idea. The innovation and strategy that went into the design of this new wing, and every nut and bolt that holds it together, is a result of measured, mature and meaningful collaboration between a very caring community.

I would like to tell you the story of how this building came about. About eight years ago, when former Head Deryn Lavell began her tenure, she met with our former Chair of the Board, Sarah Kavanagh, over drinks. During that meeting Sarah asked Deryn what her vision was for BSS. Deryn said that she wanted to build a new wing. They started to make sketches and plans on the back of a cocktail napkin. And from those humble beginnings arose the terrific building you see behind us.

I thank our brilliant architects, Elie Newman and John Kapov from Bogdan Newman Caranci and our special consultant Les Andrews, principal at Andrew Incorporated Architects. They were our architects for the Junior School - which was built in 2004 - and came to this project with a good sense of who we are. They worked closely with our faculty and community to ensure that the space reflected what our girls needed and the results, as you will soon see, speak for themselves.

I want to acknowledge and thank members of the BSS Board of Governors and Board of Trustees who served during the last eight years. You played a key role in this project from inception to completion.

We could not have accomplished what we did without the work of our dedicated Building Committee. I thank each member and, in particular, the Chair, Niall Finnegan, who devoted hours and hours of his time to overseeing this project - a gift that is evident in every corner of the new wing.

A building of this magnitude cannot happen without significant funding. I am proud and so grateful to say that our community stepped up in an unprecedented way. We had a fundraising goal of \$20 million for this building and, not only did we meet it, but exceeded it! The passion and belief our community has in BSS is reflected in the fact that we raised \$20.7 million. I know many of our donors are here today and I would like to express my



immense gratitude for what you have done for BSS. I cannot wait for you to step inside and see what you have helped create.

Mounting the largest fundraising campaign in our 150-year history takes a lot of volunteer work. I would like to thank all of you who played a pivotal role in the campaign and helped us reach this historic fundraising total. In particular, I would like to thank Campaign Chair **Robert Grundleger** and Honourary Campaign Chair **Linda Frum**, who led our Campaign Cabinet, and Jennifer and Richard Bradlow, who headed up our Leadership Gifts Committee.

We are almost in the new wing we keep talking about! Before we cut the ribbon and explore the building, I am honoured to introduce our next guest. This is a woman who has broken barriers in her professional life as a teacher, public servant and businesswoman, and knows the important role girls can play in our collective futures, not only here in Canada, but around the world. She is an Officer of the Order of Canada and a member of the Order of Ontario. Please welcome **The Honourable Elizabeth Dowdeswell, Lieutenant Governor of Ontario.**