



Dear Friends,

I fell in love with St. Ignatius School (SIS) in 2009 while studying for a Masters in Education at Fordham University. While versed in the positive impact of a Jesuit education, I was not prepared to be so personally overcome by my placement at SIS. Not only did I find myself unable to leave then, but even now, as I announce the end of my presidency of the school, I find myself committing to the next chapter of SIS – to serving a new president who will shortly take my place.

Thanks to the unified efforts of faculty, students, staff and trustees, the last four years has been a time of academic renewal. SIS alumni are graduating high school at more than double the rate of their Hunts Point peers. Last year, 100% of the St. Ignatius Class of 2013 graduated from high school compared to 40% of their peers in Hunts Point; 92% of those students enrolled in four year colleges this fall. These shared successes are made all the more miraculous considering our doors almost closed four years ago.

SIS has also undergone a financial transformation and currently even maintains a modest financial reserve. But there is no room for complacency on either front. For success to be sustained, it must be fought for anew each year. As we all know, funding for Catholic schools is a major issue, which has led to the closure of many schools in the New York metropolitan area. Raising funds for a school such as SIS is a challenging, but vital, task. The support of generous donors has proven that funding SIS can and will be done.

I believe that it is now the right time for me to focus primarily on fundraising and recruit an experienced professional who will continue the school's evolution and growth that has been witnessed over the past four years. With your ongoing support, we can ensure that this little gem in the heart of the South Bronx will continue to create life-changing opportunities for the Hunts Point community. Our past successes, as well as our expectations for the future, are a testament to the extraordinary community of committed families, faculty, donors and supporters. I am confident that the Board of Trustees will find a leader to propel us forward into a stable, but educationally exciting future.

SIS has been the most enriching experience of my life, but it is time for me to allow someone else the privilege of serving this amazing community. Our students, parents, teachers, staff and volunteers have not only survived but excelled in spite of extraordinary odds, and continue to develop in the Jesuit spirit to be men and women for others. This therefore is not an end, but a punctuation in the ongoing inspirational story that is SIS.

Gratefully,

Eavan O'Driscoll
President