Dear Stanley Community:

We are thrilled to announce that Sumant Bhat has been selected to be the next head of school of Stanley British Primary School, effective July 1, 2020. Sumant succeeds Tim Barrier, whose service to Stanley will conclude June 30, 2020, after skillfully leading the Stanley community as head of school for thirteen years. Tim and the rest of the school administration will work closely with Sumant in the months ahead to ensure a seamless transition of leadership.

Sumant joins our community from his position as head of middle school at St. Anne’s Episcopal School in Denver, where he has served for five years. Prior to that he served as middle school dean, middle school math teacher and basketball coach at the Alexander Dawson School, also in Colorado. Sumant received his bachelor’s degree in economics and psychology from Williams College in 2003 and his master’s degree in education leadership from Columbia University in 2011. Among other honors, Sumant received the NAIS E.E. Ford Fellowship for Aspiring School Heads and, during his tenure at Meadowbrook School of Weston, Massachusetts, was honored by the faculty with an endowed teaching award in his name that has remained an annual tradition at the school. Sumant has spent time in many facets of school leadership, beginning with teaching elementary school students while earning his master’s degree. Sumant and his wife are the proud parents of two boys, ages three months and three years, whom they hope will attend Stanley in the future.

Sumant is a proven leader who looks forward to nurturing the mission, values and culture of our school. Fully embracing Stanley’s mission of joyful, lifelong learners prepared to make a positive difference in the world, Sumant is excited to begin building, expanding and deepening his relationships at Stanley and understands the importance of cultivating community both within the school and beyond. His professionalism, humility and enthusiasm were felt by all constituents at Stanley during his two-day visit in September.

Sumant’s selection is the result of a long and thoughtful search that began last spring when Stanley’s Head of School Search Committee launched a national effort to recruit the strongest and best matched candidate for our school. We are so grateful to the Stanley community for its exemplary responses to the survey. The volume of responses was robust and the responses were very thoughtful. On October 1, the Head Search Committee unanimously supported Sumant as its nominee to the Stanley Board of Trustees, and on October 2, the trustees enthusiastically accepted that recommendation.

Please read a letter from Sumant (attached), sharing his appreciation with the Stanley community.
On behalf of the board, we extend our deep gratitude to all members of the Stanley community for your commitment to the search process and for your invaluable and thoughtful feedback. We are especially grateful to Search Committee members Chris Bock, Bruce DeBoskey, Joanna Hambidge, Craig Jones, Brooke O’Drobinak, Tom Thorpe and Joanne Venable, for their countless hours of dedicated service to this search and our school. We are also grateful for the guidance and support of our search consultants, Joan Beauregard and Doug Jennings of Educators' Collaborative.

Please join us in celebrating and welcoming Sumant, Courtney and their family to Stanley British Primary School. We are delighted they are joining us and look forward to a bright future with Sumant as our next head of school.

Best regards,

Garth Jensen
President, Stanley Board of Trustees

Katie Varholak
President-Elect, Stanley Board of Trustees
Chair, Head Search Committee