



Northfield Mount Hermon
Office of the Head of School

December 18, 2009

Dear Alumni, Parents, and Friends,

Many of you already have heard the news that the C.S. Lewis College will be established on the Northfield campus. On December 14, 2009, Northfield Mount Hermon sold the 217-acre core campus to Hobby Lobby, a benefactor of the C.S. Lewis Foundation and this new college. The C.S. Lewis College will be a four-year, coeducational, non-profit, Great Books college with special programs in the performing arts. Its mission is rooted in Christian values and informed by the example of scholar, Christian apologist, and author C.S. Lewis. This worthy mission will reawaken the campus and, by 2012, young lives again will be formed on that jewel of a campus, which was built for such a purpose.

We are pleased also that Hobby Lobby has committed at least \$5 million to support the start of this college and to restore key buildings, starting with Sage Chapel and the Auditorium. Additionally, Northfield Mount Hermon alumni will continue to have access to the campus, and we will use the Auditorium for Sacred Concert and the archives in Dolben Library.

The sale comprises 217 acres of land and buildings that we have called the “core campus.” The school retains D.L. Moody’s Birthplace, Homestead, and Round Top as well as many houses and nearly 2,000 acres of other property including the timberlands, the golf course, and the water company. In all, we sold 10 percent of our property—specifically, we sold the 10 percent that is most costly to own. The property we retain is not burdensome financially and has significant value to Northfield Mount Hermon. (Please refer to the enclosed map.)

Generations of alumni know the Northfield campus as a special place where education for the head, heart, and hand inspired students in profound and lasting ways. For nearly five years, Northfield Mount Hermon retained the Northfield campus while seeking a new owner whose use of the campus would align with its heritage. The accomplishment of this stewardship goal is a bittersweet milestone for Northfield Mount Hermon. A simple walk on the Northfield campus reveals the history and beauty of the landscape and architecture—and we know that the C.S. Lewis College will appreciate the powerful spirit of this place as generations of teachers and students before them have done.

Northfield Mount Hermon met its stewardship goal for the campus and also realized important economic benefits in this sale. In addition to the commitment from Hobby Lobby to invest millions of dollars in the C.S. Lewis College, we received \$100,000 for the core campus. The elimination of the heating and other costs for the idle buildings will save over a million dollars a year, preserving the school’s endowment. The 2,000 acres of land and buildings we retain in Northfield have relatively low ownership costs and are valued conservatively at over \$9 million. Overall this transaction improves our school’s future financial position significantly.



The economic implications of this sale are positive for the local community, as well. We welcome neighbors who will invest in a profound mission on this campus and, by extension, in the Town of Northfield and the Pioneer Valley. I am hopeful that the C.S. Lewis College will thrive, bringing new life to the Northfield campus and animating the community with the work of professors and students.

As I try to put this moment in perspective, my thoughts travel between the vibrancy of Northfield Mount Hermon and the still campus five miles away under a blanket of snow, just about to re-awaken to students and teachers. I am full of hope, expectancy, and the humbling reflection that the C.S. Lewis College will require many hands and much work to meet the promise of its mission. Among other things, I hope that the example of thoughtfulness and hard work at Northfield Mount Hermon will give the C.S. Lewis College strength and inspiration for success.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Thomas K. Sturtevant". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent initial 'T'.

Thomas K. Sturtevant
Head of School