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Dear Parent,


This letter is about the financial aid application procedures for the 2012-13 school year. We anticipate a high demand for available funds, and urge families to complete the process as promptly and thoroughly as possible. All interested families must complete the School and Student Service for Financial Aid (SSS) process and complete the Parents' Financial Statement (PFS). Financial aid awards are made on a case-by-case basis and reviewed annually based on a family's demonstrated need and the availability of funds at the time of application. Funding is also dependent upon a student's being "in good standing" in academics and citizenship.

If a family enters the school paying full tuition, it is the expectation that the family will continue paying full tuition for each subsequent year. However, if a family's situation changes significantly, they are welcome to apply for aid, but they must additionally document the change in their circumstances. Likewise, financial aid may be adjusted or withdrawn if the parents' financial situation changes during the course of the year. The outlined deadlines apply to re-enrolling students. New families should submit their financial aid applications as soon as feasible, and by the February deadline if possible.

In cases of family divorce or separation, **both** parents complete and file the Parents' Financial Statement (PFS) as described below. Tuition assistance at The Country School is determined by a family's ability to meet educational expenses. It is the position of The Country School that divorced or separated parents retain the obligation to contribute to the education of their children whether or not there is a legal agreement between them to do so. In cases of family divorce or separation, we **must** receive financial information from both parties.

The following is the process for applying for financial aid for your child for the coming academic year.

1. Apply online at sss.nais.org/parents by **February 15, 2012**, in order for your request to receive the fullest possible consideration by the school. Limited paper copies of the Parents' Financial Statement Instruction Booklet are available and may be requested through the Admissions Office. All financial aid information may be found on our web site by visiting "Admissions" and "Financial Aid."

2. Please note item numbers with the symbol  require further explanation in section F Notes. **If an explanation is necessary and none is given, the amounts entered will not be allowed. Be certain to answer question 20, and you must provide explanation for item 24.**

3. Submit with **your PFS:**

- **signed copy of your 2011 1040 tax form and all schedules**
- **IRS form 4506** (enclosed) Your request for financial aid cannot be considered without your completing this form. The school will pay any applicable fee.

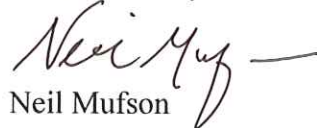
4. Submit to the Admissions Office all of the forms listed above, including a copy of your PFS. Mark your envelope "confidential."

5. If you are a returning family and are applying for financial aid for the first time, as mentioned above, you must document the change in your circumstances. As a minimum, in addition to the other required materials, you must send to the school your 1040 tax forms and all schedules for the prior two tax years.

Please be sure to complete these steps by the deadlines and as carefully and thoroughly as possible. Financial aid funds are limited, and late filing may jeopardize funding. Be sure to speak to me if unusual circumstances exist. Please keep me informed if any of the documents will arrive after the deadline.

If you have any questions about the financial aid process, please call the Admissions Office.

Yours sincerely,



Neil Mufson
Headmaster

enclosure