



October 6, 2013

Dear Friends of Horace Mann School,

With the school year now underway, we wanted to keep you apprised of developments relating to the School's handling of past incidents of sexual abuse.

As you will recall from our last correspondence in May, our School participated in a mutually agreed upon mediation process with those survivors who wished to participate, all of whom were represented by counsel, and issued a sincere apology for the harm that was caused by the teachers and administrators who abused anyone during their years at Horace Mann School. We were able to reach legal and financial settlements with all but four of the survivors, one of whom has filed a lawsuit against the School.

Our School has cooperated fully with the various government authorities in their reviews of the abuse. Moreover, the independent mediator offered to prepare and publish a summary of the reported abuse to provide additional transparency on this painful chapter in Horace Mann's past without identifying or jeopardizing the privacy rights of the survivors. The Board was prepared to accept this proposal, but counsel representing many of the survivors requested on their behalf that no such report be prepared or published, and out of respect for their wishes, it will not be.

As you may have read, a group of alumni known as the Horace Mann Action Coalition has hired a retired judge to conduct another investigation and issue a report, and that report will no doubt receive media coverage. While we do not object to someone else gathering information about the abuse, as a school we cannot share confidential information about past or present students or employees with third parties. As a result, we are not participating in this investigation.

The School has accomplished much with those in search of closure and has been providing today's students and employees with important training, but we anticipate continued media coverage in the coming months. That is why it is important for you to hear directly from us about developments relating to our past.

To each and every one of us who loves the School, the ongoing media coverage can be distressing, particularly when the media distorts or misstates the facts. Despite what was first reported in the New York Post, the thirty-five members of our Board of Trustees have been in near unanimous agreement on all of the steps we have taken in response to the reports of abuse during the 1960s, '70s, '80s, and '90s, and were unanimous in their vote to accept the settlements last spring. Our Board has met many times, often with outside advisors, to consider different

approaches to addressing the situation and to have thoughtful discussions about the appropriateness of each response. While acknowledging the complexities and emotions surrounding these matters, the members of the Board stand as one in full support of today's School, the students it serves, and the employees who breathe life into the lessons taught each day, and they share everyone's desire to help our alumni community heal.

Please rest assured that the Board and administration will continue to strike a healthy balance between the need for any additional responses about our past and the commitment we have to educate and care for the 1,782 children in our classrooms. While we grieve for those hurt, we will continue to celebrate the many accomplishments of our alumni, our students, and our faculty members.

On so many levels, there is very much to be proud of both in terms of the student and school accomplishments of last year. In 2012-13 we saw a record number of admission applications, raised a record amount for the Annual Fund, and our academic and interscholastic activities continue to receive national recognition. And much good work already is underway in 2013-14. Please visit www.horacemann.org/news to learn more.

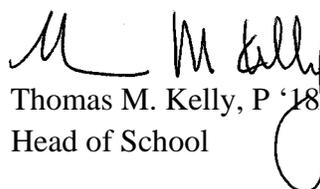
We will, of course, continue to keep you informed of further developments, and we thank you for your ongoing expressions of support for Horace Mann School.

With great respect we remain,

Sincerely yours,



Steven M. Friedman '72
Chair, Board of Trustees



Thomas M. Kelly, P '18
Head of School

cc: File