

LOOMIS CHAFFEE

June, 2009

Dear Loomis Chaffee Community,

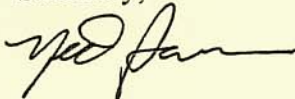
Each year, we select an all-school reading in addition to the list of books required for each class during the summer. This summer's selection, *Outliers*, by Malcolm Gladwell, explores the underpinnings of success through the lens of subjects ranging from the success of some Canadian Major Junior hockey players, to the rise of computer industry CEO's like Bill Gates and Bill Joy. Gladwell's exploration takes readers into the effects of cultural legacies and the relationships they bear on success as well, exploding along the way some of the myths surrounding the stereotype of the mythical "self-made" person, en route to delineating his central point about the interconnected nature of one's circumstances, one's cultural background and the communities in which we strive. This last point is especially poignant for a vibrant learning community like Loomis Chaffee.

It is our hope that students will be intrigued by Gladwell's explication of the origins of success, that they can begin to look at their own lives as students and as self-aware young adults in order to see the patterns that apply to their triumphs and their struggles alike. Gladwell's conclusions are intriguing and carry with them interesting implications for both teaching and learning across a campus like ours and beyond.

This year's all-school reading will again stand separate from the theme for the school year. Our theme for the year, "South Asia: India and its Neighbors," will give us a chance to explore social, political, economic and personal issues emerging in one of the most important regions in the world today. We'll delve into topics connected with places like Afghanistan, Pakistan, India and others in convocations with guest speakers, in faculty-led conversations and in smaller venues as well. We're excited about the ways in which the students and faculty can connect in meaningful exchanges on issues of contemporary significance as they prepare to graduate into a globalized world.

We're looking forward to the rich and rewarding opportunities promised by the reading and the theme next year. Until then, enjoy the summer!

Sincerely,



Ned Parsons
Dean of Faculty