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## Press Release

**For immediate release**  
**May 26, 2009**

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### **Vermont Commons Announces New Head of School**

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**PRESS CONFERENCE -- Tuesday, May 26<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 pm**  
**Vermont Commons School -- 75 Green Mountain Drive in South Burlington**

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The Board of Trustees of Vermont Commons School in South Burlington is pleased to announce the appointment of **Peter Gilmore** as the new Head of School. Gilmore has 25 years of experience in independent school education ranging from administration and development to teaching and coaching. “I was really intrigued by the mission of Vermont Commons,” says Gilmore. “The focus on people, community, experiential learning, global citizenship and academic rigor is so timely and so appealing. Even the school’s website has a good feel.”

Gilmore earned his B. A. in History from Holy Cross and his M. Ed. in Administration, Planning and Social Policy from Harvard. He has worked in a wide variety of independent schools including a boarding school, a day school, a religious school, a single-gender school and a school for students with learning disabilities. For the past seven years, he has served as Upper School Principal at the Friends School in Baltimore, Maryland, where he supervised 45 faculty and more than 400 students in grades 9-12. He also coordinated the expansion of the curriculum and renovation of facilities, improved communications, and increased student enrollment by 25%. Prior to his tenure at Friends School, Gilmore served as Head of the Upper School at Berwick Academy in Maine, and Director of Admissions at The Carroll School in Massachusetts.

Gilmore also has a wealth of experience in fundraising, marketing, diversity training, maintaining IT systems, and managing capital campaigns. “Peter really impressed the hiring committee with his depth and breadth of experience in the world of independent school education,” notes Mary Hamilton Homer, Chair of the Board of Trustees at Vermont Commons. “We feel very fortunate to have him on board.” The hiring committee consisted of a cross section of people from the VCS community -- trustees, faculty,

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parents, students, and alumni. “It was a very inclusive process,” explains Hamilton-Homer, “one that seemed to resonate with Peter’s experience working at a Quaker school where group problem solving and reaching consensus are important elements of the mission.”

During the interview process, candidates were asked to describe their philosophy of educational leadership. Gilmore stressed four main points in his response: “to espouse the shared mission of the institution, create a community invested in the life of the school, guide teachers in their craft, and promote an atmosphere where people love to work and students love to learn.” His philosophy includes the idea that teachers must agree to be students in some capacity and allow educational experts, experienced administrators, fellow faculty and even their own pupils to give them insight into the best ways to teach. Gilmore also believes that it is important for leaders to be willing to participate in the daily functioning of the school in direct service.

“Peter’s beliefs and educational philosophy are in total alignment with Vermont Commons’ mission and vision,” notes Hamilton-Homer. That mission includes the belief that students' mastery of communications, mathematics and the sciences will enable them to weave the information learned into the context of past, present, and future, of cause and effect, of individual and community, and of actions and impact. “We are excited and honored to have someone of Peter’s caliber help our school pursue its mission and lead Vermont Commons into the next decade.”

Gilmore and his wife, Cynthia, will make the move to Vermont this summer. Their son, Nate, is a sophomore at Tufts University in Boston, and their daughter, Eliza, will be a freshman at Middlebury College this fall. “We’re all excited to return to New England together,” says Gilmore.

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**About Vermont Commons School:** Vermont Commons School is an independent day school for students in grades 7 – 12. The school offers a rigorous, college-preparatory curriculum that includes a focus on community service and experiential education. The mission of the Vermont Commons School is to provide a vision of education that crosses traditional boundaries and develops ecological citizenship, with the goal of empowering students with the knowledge, character, skills, and moral vision necessary to become responsible, pro-active members of the world community. For more information, please visit [www.vermontcommons.org](http://www.vermontcommons.org).

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