

The Gifts of Headship: Maintaining the Joy and Passion for the Work



We Know Most of the Challenges

- ▶ Parent demands/conflict
- ▶ Staff/colleague issues
- ▶ Managing Board
- ▶ Financial Challenges/ Fund Raising
- ▶ Enrollment Challenges
- ▶ Leading Change in the face of Resistance
- ▶ Scope of the Job/Time Demands
- ▶ Managing Crisis
- ▶ Student Issues
- ▶ Legal Issues
- ▶ Stress



The Challenges are Real.
But What Brings You Joy/Satisfaction?



Results From Recent VAIS Survey on Same Question

- ▶ Primary role in school growth and improvement
- ▶ Growing/supporting good teachers and staff
- ▶ Leading change for the better
- ▶ It's never boring
- ▶ **IT'S THE KIDS, STUPID!** And it was probably the kids that got you started in this career in the first place.



What's helped for others?

- ▶ Increasing time with kids?
- ▶ Getting greater support from Board and staff for fundraising?
- ▶ Tricks to get exercise in your life?
- ▶ Strategies to get out of the office, away from email, and connecting with staff?
- ▶ Setting aside time for reflection/planning/reading?
- ▶ Techniques for greater balance between work and personal/home?

You Can't Eliminate/Ignore the Challenges. You CAN Intentionally Balance Your Focus/Attitude.

- ▶ “I’m a very positive thinker, and I think that is what helps me the most in difficult moments.” Roger Federer
- ▶ “Attitude is a little thing that makes a big difference.” Winston Churchill
- ▶ “Let us rise up and be thankful, for if we didn’t learn a lot today, at least we learned a little, and if we didn’t learn a little, at least we didn’t get sick, and if we got sick, at least we didn’t die; so let us all be thankful.” Buddha

