



March 6, 2013

Dear Members of the Pingry Community,

One of the most famous lines in sports movie history declares the following: *"If you build it, they will come."* Well, we are building it—and we hope you will come!

We are very excited to announce that Pingry is bringing a glass squash court to the Basking Ridge Campus. This full-size, regulation squash court will be assembled in the Wilf Family Commons in the Middle School, and it will remain there for three weeks (March 25-April 12). In case you think the court is simply for display, to be blocked off with red velvet ropes like a museum exhibit—think again. This glass show court will be in active use when classes are not in session, and it will serve as the centerpiece—literally!—of numerous squash events and exhibition matches now being planned. Owned by McWIL Courtwall in Washington, D.C., the glass squash court is just like the one from the Tournament of Champions matches played in Grand Central Terminal. Pingry is joining a prestigious list of venues where the court has been used, and this marks the very first time that McWIL has brought the court to a middle school or high school in the United States.

This will be the first time squash has ever been played on a Pingry campus, and it will give our entire school community a sense of the true "home court advantage" that our student-athletes will enjoy once our new athletics center and its six squash courts is completed. The Pingry squash program has developed into one of the nation's best—one that is ready to take its success to a new level. We consistently have players with Top 50 U.S. Squash national rankings for their age group, and this year is no different: ten Pingry players currently hold such high rankings. Our club team also scored an unprecedented victory in the 2013 United States Middle School Squash Team National Championships.

The sport of squash is growing at an exponential rate across the country, and that popularity is evidenced by the shared enthusiasm for the sport among our faculty, staff, students, parents, and alumni. Such growth is fueling a corresponding need for court facilities and playing time. The opportunity for Pingry to serve as a host site for this glass squash court demonstrates our commitment to our squash players and to the future of our squash program. As a recognized leader in high school squash, it is also incumbent upon Pingry to do our part to showcase the sport itself and promote the fitness benefits of this true lifetime sport.

We will share further specifics with you once our schedule of squash court events and exhibitions is finalized. In the meantime, please mark your calendars for March 25-April 12 and plan to visit the Basking Ridge Campus in order to see our fun "home court advantage" for Pingry squash in action.

Sincerely,

Nathaniel E. Conard – Headmaster
Ramsay W. Vehslage – Varsity Squash Coach