

Dear Neighbors,

We invite you to join us on January 25 at 7:00 PM in the Lillard Living Room at Tabor to learn about our vision for adding lights to Tabor's football field to enhance our students' athletic and community experiences.

On November 18, 2016, Tabor's football team accomplished something extraordinary! For the first time in 15 years, they earned the right to be called New England Champions by winning the Hugh Caldera Cup, one of 7 New England Championship Cups played across the region. The game was spectacular – a fun night for the players, a great community gathering for the school and folks from town, a spirited hosting of our rival (St. George's School in Newport), and of course the win. It was a perfect and inspiring setting in countless ways, and while the team was very good all on its own... I think the atmosphere had a lot to do with their Champion spirit that night.

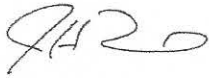
To generate that spirit and to engage the town and our whole campus, Tabor rented lights to be able to have the Championship game on our home field. We wanted to attract a big crowd to cheer the team on...and given that it was a close 49-42 match, I was glad we made the effort. The kids came out. The town came out. (The Championship trophy came out!) It was an incredible community event. This vision of community possibility got me thinking that it would be great to have more of these types of moments at Tabor. There are many possibilities that lights on our field can bring about, but I also know that lights at Tabor are lights in the neighborhood. As a result, I thought I should start by sharing my hopes with you, our friends and neighbors.

Over the past few months I've shared my thoughts with various people, my hope being to understand both the complicated history of past light proposals and to ascertain what the reaction to such a request might be. At the same time we've researched a host of issues related to such projects – from the products available to us, to the appropriate lighting levels, to the appropriate safeguards against unnecessary impact to others. I believe we can make a good and appropriate approach to the town for the special permit we might require, but I don't think we could or would reasonably proceed without hearing other perspectives. I wanted to invite you into this conversation on the evening of January 25 at 7:00 PM in Lillard Living Room to learn more about our plans and our needs.

As a preview of this gathering, the lights we are envisioning are much improved over the ones we rented that night last fall. They are LED lights with the capability to be focused more directly on the field with very little splash over. To share all the information, we have invited the lighting contractor to join us to present the options and answer any questions we may have as we move along with this project. We also intend to present usage parameters, to give the best possible sense of the consequence of adding these lights. The main goal will be to give a "view" of what an illuminated field might be like, to hear concerns and share excitement, and to arrive at a place of sincere collaboration on what might feel like a very big change to some.

As in all things at Tabor, our primary goal is to enhance our students' athletic and community experiences. We also believe we could have a lot of fun together with our fellow townspeople, enjoying a few events each season under the special spell the lights create. We hope you can envision the fun we have in mind and will come out to learn more on January 25 at 7:00 PM.

Sincerely,



John H. Quirk
Head of School