

## New Head for Saklan Valley School

By Jean Follmer



Saklan Valley School's incoming Head David Hague with outgoing Head Jonathan Martin  
Photo Jean Follmer

After nine years as Saklan Valley School's Head, Jonathan Martin is turning over the reigns to Assistant Head, David Hague.

Martin has reason to be proud of the many accomplishments Saklan achieved during his tenure. The school population "well over tripled" and five years ago Saklan was able to purchase the campus it had rented for many years. Construction efforts at Saklan included the addition of two middle school classrooms and the substantial renovation of its impressive science laboratory. Martin also helped introduce the laptop program with the goal being a laptop for every student. A Strategic Plan was developed for the period 2007-2012 and Saklan has enjoyed "6 years of strong surplus." Martin said Saklan benefits from "strong community and parental involvement" and is known for its "lean administrative profile." Martin believes strongly in "global" education. Saklan offers both French and Mandarin to its students as well as "International Day." The middle school offers courses in both "historical and contemporary Chinese culture."

Martin "had the honor of being at the Klingenstein Center at Columbia University" last January. According to the Klingenstein Center, the Klingenstein Heads of Schools Program "gathers twenty Heads from around the world for intensive study and reflection among professional peers." The experience "was eye opening for me about new fields into which to venture." Martin looks forward to the coming year. He will be running his own website and blog, interviewing for 2009 positions and

traveling with his family to both Europe and Central America.

Assistant Head David Hague said, "I want to build on what Jonathan has built." Hague came to Saklan last year after five years at The Pegasus School in Huntington Beach. As an East Coast native, Hague boasts degrees from New England College, Castleton State College, Harvard University and Vanderbilt University. He said, "When we came to interview (at Saklan), we were really struck by the sense of community here." One of the things Hague is impressed with is the "Trips and Travel" program at Saklan. All travel expenses are contemplated in advance so are part of the tuition. This saves the parents from having to pay extra money for outings like the 6th grade trip to Yosemite and the 8th grade leadership trip to Camp Caritas.

In his free time, Hague is an accomplished lacrosse referee. He is currently a referee for Major League Lacrosse as well as a trainer for other lacrosse referees. Hague has been extremely impressed with his first year at Saklan and looks forward to his new role as Head in the coming academic year.