FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
November 1, 2011

Packer Moves to Protect and Guide Younger Students while Online

With the expansion of non-educational online media, as well as the proliferation of harmful software that is distributed over the web, The Packer Collegiate Institute will soon implement web content protections for our Middle, Lower and Pre-school divisions. The goal is to enable our Middle School students to focus on using computers for school and educationally related activities, while also protecting our youngest students from accidentally accessing age-inappropriate media. We plan to have our network filter installed and operational by November 28th, the Monday following our Thanksgiving holiday.

This decision was not taken lightly, as Packer has a long tradition of open internet access with clear individual and community guidelines around how that access is used. That tradition will be continued in our Upper School, where students are allowed more freedom with their use of digital media and resources.

Over the course of this year, in our Upper School, a student-led conversation will work to refine our communal definition of appropriate media use and online behavior for students in that division. The goal of that process will be to strengthen and update the community standards around acceptable use of digital media and resources in our Upper School and for students to provide meaningful input to decisions around internet access and use. As always, Packer believes in using our digital resources — and the conversations around their use — as tools for student learning. We encourage our students to self-advocate for their needs, to self-actualize solutions and to self-monitor their behavior, both online and off. This year’s conversation around appropriate use will provide an opportunity for our Upper School students to demonstrate all those abilities.

For additional information, please contact:

- Dr. Bruce L. Dennis, Head of School (bdennis@packer.edu)
- Bill Knauer, Assistant Head of School (bknauer@packer.edu)
- Teri Schrader, Head of Upper School (tschrader@packer.edu)
- Noah Reinhardt, Head of Middle School (nreinhardt@packer.edu)
- Andrea Kelly, Head of Pre and Lower School (akelly@packer.edu)
- Jim Anderson, Director of Technology (janderson@packer.edu)