Class of 2016: Legacy of Leadership
From the Head of School


Over the course of the past year we explored many “oceans of wonder” in our classrooms, on the fields, and through our expeditions. We took great advantage of our Pacific front yard as a laboratory, a canvas for creativity, and an opportunity for adventure. While many of these explorations of wonder and discovery are chronicled in the following pages, it’s hard to fully appreciate the value of the SBMS experience without truly knowing each of our exceptional students who walked down the stairs into Godric Grove to complete their 9th grade Rite of Passage ceremony last year.

One of the overwhelming, but often overlooked, needs of this age is to be authentically seen, heard, known, understood, and appreciated by their peers, parents, and teachers; not only intellectually as students, but as valued contributors and members of our community. The “returns” from the SBMS experience can often be difficult to measure in a traditional sense. As our students complete their SBMS journeys and return from their final expeditions, our adventurers are forever different with a greater sense of Self, wisdom, maturity, and resilience. But how do we really measure the value of these authentic learning opportunities? Like all schools we finish the year with customary finals, ceremonies, and accolades; grades are entered, transcripts are recorded, and GPAs are calculated. But when we attempt to evaluate the deeper meanings of our endeavors—whether it be in the realm of particle physics or in student learning outcomes—the best assessments are often expressed through our understanding of the relationships between the things we study, with those around us, near and far.

After a thousand days and nights of traditional assessments and countless circles of campfires, classrooms, team huddles, and conferences, the class of 2016 will be remembered by the Himalayan heights they achieved, not only in their classrooms, but through their legacy of leadership and the lasting relationships they forged. Through their roll calls, “slam” poetry, honorings, the number of bikes of others they pushed up mountains and so much more, they have emerged ready to embark on their next adventure. As this class walked down the stairs to complete their Rite of Passage into Godric Grove, I was overcome with wonder and gratitude for the difference each of student made for SBMS and for the difference they are going to make in their lives to come. For their final roll call, one word came to mind: “Ready.”

With love and gratitude,

Brian

40 Years, Celebrate with Us!

Join Santa Barbara Middle School for a year-long celebration of 40 years of campfires, education, community and magic. All members of our village will celebrate together . . . Current Students and Parents, Alumni, Alumni Parents, Current and Past Faculty, Current and Past Board Members. See page 35 for more details.

Announcing . . . Ernie Brooks Wonderships

In 2004, SBMS created the Access Initiative—a fund designed to provide scholarships to families of the greatest need. With the help of generous parents, alumni, teachers, grandparents, alum parents, and family foundations, we have raised almost $350,000 to allow students to attend SBMS who couldn’t otherwise afford tuition (even with the help of our generous Financial Aid program).

While we were busy fundraising for the Access Initiative, we were also deciding how best to offer a scholarship to the most deserving families in our community. Our elementary school neighbor, Franklin Elementary, and SBMS have partnered for several years, sharing signature programs including our 5th-grade Spanish Fairy-tales performance and Bike Monkey mentorship. Additionally, several Franklin teachers, who are also current SBMS parents, have helped us grow our relationships with the faculty at Franklin and understand the needs of their families.

In 2015, with the guidance of Franklin Principal Kasie Kilgore and our dedicated Board of Trustees, we launched the Franklin Pilot Scholarship Program, inviting students to apply with the greatest need who might never consider SBMS as an option.

We are thrilled to announce that two students were awarded our first scholarships—or “Ernie Brooks Wonderships!” The scholars will cover tuition for these students as long as they are enrolled. SBMS intends to award 1-2 scholarships every year, eventually opening up the program to students in neighboring elementary schools. The initiation of the Wondership program is a significant milestone in the school’s commitment to continue to “Cut a Grove” in advancing education to the greatest good, beginning at home in our own community.

Thank you to the tremendous support we have received! If you’d like to contribute to the Access Initiative, please contact SBMS Development Director Christine Cowles Bergamin at Christine@sbms.org.

Coming Soon: New SBMS Website

This fall SBMS will launch a new website, inside and out! We’ve got so much information to share, and we are excited to have a new platform which will allow us to bring a new level of organization to better serve our community.

Outside, we’ll have an easy to navigate site that will help prospective families and others with interest in the school to learn more about us. In addition to providing quick access to things like important news and calendar items, sbms.org will showcase the strengths of the middle school academic experience with a focus on our four-sided diamond philosophy.

Inside, through a log-in feature, we’ll have state-of-the-art academic tools for teachers and students, with up-to-date resources for parents. New features will include user-friendly items such as on-line directories, photo galleries, and easy to find packing lists! This is a comprehensive upgrade that will integrate information from multiple departments into a single database, streamlining our communications and business efforts. The office team has spent a good deal of time on this through the summer, and will keep working through fall and beyond to make our new systems as responsive as possible. Efficient administration is important to us, because we want every available minute to be spent hands-on, with students, doing what matters most! —Laura Camp ’82
Academics

RITES OF PASSAGE

Celebrating Our 9th Graders as They Embark on to the Next Adventure

An SBMS education culminates with experiences that help students to solidify the knowledge gathered over the past few years into wisdom that will stay with them for a lifetime. In between the Channel Islands expedition in the fall and the Rite of the Wheel expedition in June, 9th graders learn about the world’s religions in Brian and Jenna’s World History class, which is the current incarnation of a class called Novus that was begun nearly 35 years ago by former headmaster, Kent Ferguson. As our 9th graders earn their rite of passage from SBMS, they demonstrate and share the wisdom they have gained with our community. Here is an excerpt from Miranda’s study of the Tao Te Ching.

In these past three years, I have learned many things that seem to follow the Taoist religion and beliefs without realizing it. Santa Barbara Middle School has taught me how to be like water by being generous to everyone that comes my way, and to realize that those who reject kindness are those who need it more. I have learned no matter how others treat you, to always treat them with respect, and try to understand their story. I have discovered how to think five times deeper from the surface, and to ‘go deep in the heart,’ just as the Tao Te Ching demonstrates. Santa Barbara Middle School has also taught me to appreciate and admire nature and everything within this Earth. By acquiring a love of nature, it has taught me to want to preserve and protect the world we live on, so we can continue to see its beauty. Although I have learned many things these past three years, I still have many concepts yet to grasp. In the many years to come, I will hopefully be able to know how to speak truthfully, rule justly, be competent, and watch my timing. And with luck, I will be able to be in balance with the Tao, and live a very harmonious life.

—Miranda Starkey

Celebrating Our 9th Graders as They Embark on to the Next Adventure
Academic Leadership Transitions

Welcome New Staff!

Jonathan Davis
Social Studies Teacher

As a graduate of SBMS ’86, Jonathan Davis is honored to return as a social studies teacher. Part of his inspiration to become a teacher and his passion for the outdoors came from his years at SBMS. After graduating from UC Santa Cruz with a B.A. in History, he traveled through Latin America before returning to the Bay Area to earn his teaching credential at San Francisco State. There he met his wife, Dena, and they decided to move back to Santa Barbara to work at the Open Alternative School. At OAS, he helped expand the middle school program and led wilderness expeditions. After five years at OAS, Jonathan and Dena started on a new adventure and moved to the Midcoast of Maine. There, Jonathan worked as a middle school language arts and social studies teacher. He also earned his MS in Education from the University of New England. They returned to California last summer with their two sons, Benjamin (10) and Noah (6).

Maida Smith
Business Manager

Maida Smith graduated from UCSB with a Bachelor of Science in Environmental Studies and a minor in French. She started providing bookkeeping and accounting services for various businesses while still at UCSB. Maida owned her own bookkeeping and small business consulting firm, operating with a philosophy of integrity, dependability, and flexibility, making sure her clients had the accounting system that fit with their business and personality. She has served as a finance and human resources director for several businesses and nonprofits in Santa Barbara and was a board member of Wilderness Youth Project for many years. For the past ten years, she has been finance and administrative director at Las Cumbres Observatory, a nonprofit that has built and is operating a global network of telescopes.
REPORTS FROM THE 2015-16 SCHOOL YEAR

The Arrow Fletchers

I shot an arrow into the air, It fell to earth, I knew not where; For, so swiftly it flew, the sight Could not follow it in its flight.

I breathed a song into the air, It fell to earth, I knew not where; For who has sight so keen and strong, That can follow the flight of song?

Long, long afterward, in an oak I found the arrow, still unbroke; And the song, from beginning to end, I found again in the heart of a friend.

—Henry Wadsworth Longfellow

What we learn, how we learn, and the spirit and comradeship of the learning environment are powerful sources of causation that have far-reaching effects, and are like high-flying arrows. The arrows of thought must be fashioned straight, like clear and accurate thinking based in universal principles. They must have careful guidance provided by a three-feather fletching—like the self-guidance of a well-balanced person who develops not just the head, but also the heart, and purity of aspiration. The head of the arrow must be carefully weighted and engineered into a point to minimize air resistance—like a person with deeper values and goals. All of this reminds me of the profile of our students to think far more critically.

In 2015-16, 8th graders experienced so much! Through our outdoor expeditions, they biked in Monterey, hiked on Catalina, climbed Mt. Whitney in the snow, mule-packed in the Santa Barbara backcountry, explored the Gaviota coast, and pedaled from Bend to Ashland, Oregon. And more. In fact, there are simply too many experiences to name here. What a group of kids—what a group of teachers—what a school.

—Jesse Wooten, Dean of 8th Grade, 2015-16

Santa Barbara Middle School’s educational program is based on the premise that in order to truly learn something, to really know something, one has to experience it. One has to experience being a scientist or historian, being a positive participant in a community, being a leader, and one has to experience all of the challenges and rewards of those roles in order to remember and apply their learning to new situations. This type of learning occurs on all four sides of the SBMS program: in our classrooms, in the creative and arts and arts program, in our community activities and events, and through our outdoor expeditions.

In 2015-16, 8th graders experienced so much! Through their academic classes they researched, filmed, and edited their own documentary films, dissected a pig, performed Shakespeare, applied linear equations to real-world business problems, and made Spanish language films. Through the creative arts and sports program, they competed on sports teams, performed at Songfest, surfed in a surf contest, created visual arts and crafts, worked as journalists at the Telluride Film Festival, and acted in a play.

In the outdoor program, they biked in Monterey, hiked on Catalina, climbed Mt. Whitney in the snow, mule-packed in the Santa Barbara backcountry, explored the Gaviota coast, and pedaled from Bend to Ashland, Oregon.

—Russ Lewin, Dean of 9th Grade, 2015-16

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My Haiku
By Alex Moosbrugger

Vibrant waters,
The yellow lily pad floats,
In the stagnant lake.

Brown rocks,
Magnified color,
By studying water above.

Mountain peaks,
surrounded by blue,
And white clouds

Green grass sprouts,
Foliage rising from pond,
A living ecosystem.

Cold eels twist two feet,
Slippery underwater rocks,
Body makes large splash.

—Jesse Wooten, Dean of 8th Grade, 2015-16

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—Russ Lewin, Dean of 9th Grade, 2015-16
Walk for Water

3.8 billion people, or 57 percent of the world’s population, get their drinking water from a piped connection that provides running water in their homes or compound.
Source: World Health Organization (WHO)

Math Counts

On March 27, six 8th graders (Jayden, Parker, Alex, Tali, Riva, Finnian) and one 7th grader (Jonny) represented SBMS and participated in the MathCounts team and individual competition. These seven students, among others, spent their Diamond Time on Monday mornings throughout the year developing and practicing their problem solving skills. The team was fortunate enough to have problem solving guru Steve Francis volunteer his time and energy on Monday mornings to coach and help strengthen the team’s knowledge and readiness for the competition. The competition was hosted by defending champion Sycamore Canyon School in Thousand Oaks and was the most successful one for SBMS in recent memory. Tali, Riva, and Finnian were the first SBMS females to have participated in the MathCounts competition in a number of years. The SBMS team finished 5th overall out of approximately 15 teams. Additionally, Parker May improved on the previous year’s success (he finished 12th as a 7th grader). As 8th grader, he finished in 2nd place out of over 75 competitors and qualified for the state competition in Irvine for the second year in a row. Thank you, Steve and team, for your hard work, commitment and dedication.

Explore, Discover, Apply

The 6th grade class of 2015-2016 is one for the record books. As a class, we embarked upon some amazing adventures together in the nine short months together! Our Academic Fair is a time when students enjoy showcasing their academic abilities. Danielle, Martin, Marco, and I decided to create a project involving all four of our classes. Inspired by Danielle’s buoyancy project, Marco’s country report, and the study of sweatshops in Humanities, we came up with Shark Tank! Students were divided into groups of 4-5 and had to decide on a Latin American country to research. Then they had to determine the biggest “problem” that country faced and come up with a project to solve the problem. The project ranged from water filters, to bug-zapping mosquito nets. Students had to calculate the cost of shipping, fuel, boat size, and many other factors. Then, they had to creatively present the project to the “investors,” aka parents, to get their project funded.

For our March expedition, we looked north to Big Sur and enjoyed five days of camping, backpacking, swimming, hiking, and cooking delicious meals around the campfire. We came back stronger and more inspired as a class.

After Shark Tank, we returned to our individual classes. In Humanities, we studied Ancient Egypt, built our own mummies (out of oranges), read real life stories of humans overcoming obstacles (such as Malala and Unbroken), had weekly book club meetings (complete with tea and scones of course), and studied the Ancient Greeks—their gods, democracy, and myths.

In science students continued to study buoyancy and density via density demonstrations, observations, and write-ups. We then studied states of matter and how substances change phases based on energy increase or decrease, particle placement and movement culminating in making ice cream in a bag. We also studied atomic structure and elements.

In math support, we’ve been focusing on working with positive and negative integers, adding/subtracting/multiplying/dividing fractions with like and unlike denominators; using percents, fractions, and decimals; order of operations; and solving variable equations.

Since winter break, the enrichment math group has been comparing fractions and generating equivalent fractions, recognizing ratios in tables and graphs and solving corresponding problems, using ratios to describe relationships, using models and standard algorithms for computations with fractions and decimals, simplifying variable expressions by combining like terms, evaluating variable expressions, and solving simple equations, distance, rate, and time problems. In the MAC class we have been accelerating through the 6th-grade into the 7th-grade curriculum, working on advanced, self-created math binders full of challenging problems, using models and standard algorithms for computations with fractions and decimals, simplifying variable expressions by combining like terms, evaluating variable expressions, and solving simple equations, distance, rate, and time problems. In the MAC class we have been accelerating through the 6th-grade into the 7th-grade curriculum, working on advanced, self-created math binders full of challenging problems, and completing our STEAM project on solar-powered vehicles.

As the 6th grade class become 7th graders, I can only wish for the love and continued kindness of this class as they move through the rest of their years at SBMS.

—Jenna Newburn, Dean of 6th Grade
During the Authors Alive project, 7th-grade English students conduct research and report on an author of their choice. This could be a novelist, a poet, a screenwriter, a songwriter—anyone who has chosen writing as their career. Students write in journal form, from the first person point of view, writing about “their” lives. Then they become the author (or a character created by the author), in costume, and share their life with the class. On the night of Academic Fair, they present their authors in the Authors Alive Wax Museum. This past year we were able to enjoy presentations by Judy Blume, Mark Twain, Chris Colfer, JK Rowling, Malala Yousafzai, RR Tolkien, Orson Scott Card, Adele, Danielle Haim, James Patterson, George Lucas, and Dr. Seuss, to name a few.

**Malala**

*By Ella Kenly*

I choose Malala as my author because when I heard she was shot in the head for advocating for girls’ education in Pakistan, she inspired me to create change in my community. Malala has definitely influenced the way I think about large problems such as world hunger and the wars in the Middle East. She has given me a broader view of the world from the eyes of a girl not much older than me. I have learned from Malala that knowledge can come from anywhere.

**Dr. Seuss**

*By Isaac Lewis*

Hi! My name is Isaac Lewis. I am the author behind the author. I chose Dr. Seuss as my author of interest because I have always loved Dr. Seuss stories. I learned that Dr. Seuss’ parents made up stories and weird inventions. I think that his parents really inspired him to write and draw creatively. My author, Ted Seuss Geisel, influenced me when I was younger because the first book I read was one of his books. My favorite Dr. Seuss story is *Green Eggs and Ham*. It was the first book that I ever read by myself. It made me proud.

**Shakespeare Project**

Four hundred years after his death, The Bard is alive and well at Santa Barbara Middle School. Every spring, 8th graders read *Romeo and Juliet* aloud in class, learning as they go about the life of Shakespeare, becoming familiar with the language he uses, and loving the masterful storytelling that has made his work stand up against the test of time. The unit culminates in “Recitations” in which students pick tracts of text to memorize and perform for an audience of classmates and parents. In the 9th grade, the class chooses a Shakespearean play to read, analyze, edit, direct, and perform for the entire school community. Over the years, this student-driven program has put on *The Tempest*, *Macbeth*, *Hamlet*, *A Midsummer Night’s Dream*, and *The Taming of the Shrew*. Each year, 8th and 9th graders become fluent in their respective plays of study and learn to perform some of the most famous lines ever written in a fun and celebratory way.

There are many reasons the English department chooses to focus two full units of study on Shakespeare and his plays that culminate in the memorization and performance of monologues and entire scenes/plays. First, the close study of deep and complex passages is shown by research to be as helpful in improving literacy skills as the reading of multiple books. Second, Shakespeare’s plays are archetypal, and so by knowing his works, students gain a context upon which most modern literature builds. Lastly, and most importantly, through the preparation to perform Shakespeare, students make the text their own, internalizing words to articulate some of the most important and common human emotions: Love, Hate, Greed, Fear, Pride, Joy, and so on; and thereby, gain a better understanding of what it is to be human and how to express this most challenging and joyful condition.

—Jesse Wooten
Legend: Darkness vs. Light

In October a group of kids interested in acting joined Maureen and me in the Lotus Theater to discuss our plans to present a live performance of an original adaptation of a story called Legend, which recounts a mythical struggle of good and evil.

As the next two months unfolded, parts were picked and the revealing of the story began. The performers discovered as they acted through the play just what this theatrical event called Legend was about. For Maureen and me it was like no other performance we had ever done. Each student actor offered unique ways of playing their character. The laughing began. The students casually but diligently showed up and worked. Or perhaps played ... at understanding exactly how to piece this puzzle of a show together. The cast included Silly Elves (Isaac, Tristan) the Evil Lord (Lamont) with his Mother of Darkness (Sofia) guiding and guiding him, the Good Jack (Henry) in love with Humpty Dumpty (Hud-som) along with the fairies (Antonia, Casey, and Abbey) who fought against the evil demons and harpies (Casimati, Lucia, Emilia, Emma, and Aidan). And we mustn’t forget the masterful actors (Brandy, Alex, and Aidan) who played the humans, those namby pamby individuals who are able to rationalize creating darts to kill unicorns and jewels to convert a virgin.

The goofball antics that took place behind the doors of the Lotus Theater were perhaps some of the best moments of the cast and crew (Julian, Peter, and Ysabella) as they showed up every Monday and Thursday afternoon till 5 o’clock. All of the “work” on the show was framed by a playful group of kids eating snacks of chips, cheese sticks, and pretzels . . . homework needed to be completed . . . and, oh yes, an occasional phone text or three. This is a voluntary and joyfully executed afterschool experience that has the atmosphere of volunteerism. Of the doing because “I want to do” verses this is something “I have to do.” These actors placed themselves in a creative adventure because they choose to take a couple afternoons a week for six months to be creative singing, dancing, and acting . . . all in this rather antiquated art form called live theater.

While working with our company we experienced the hilarious shenanigans of improvisational expressions that randomly occurred as we rehearsed. The emotional struggles, the angst of life, all these experiences together over the year, became the enduring bonding that created a signature of loyalty that we shared in afterschool drama.

—Written by Eric Lehman and given the appropriate seal of approval by Maureen Lehman

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Creative Arts & Sports

Songfest 2016

The SBMS community gathered again at Chase Palm Park on Saturday, April 30, 2016 for Songfest and another afternoon of inspiring musical performances by our students, many of them accompanied by other students, friends, teachers, and family. A clear sky and only a light wind – no sudden rain to surprise us this year – gave Songfest its best weather day yet at this outside venue. Beginning with the “Ooga ooga chaka” chants of a rockin’ version of a cover of the Wailin’ Jenny’s “It’s the go-to celebration event of the year if you are into Community Service! You cannot buy a ticket to WE Day – you have to earn it. WE Day is a global celebration of youth engaged in powerful acts of service in their own communities, across the country and around the globe. To be eligible, student organizations must participate in at least one local and one global service event, and SBMS’s Community Action Club did just that! A team of 14 SBMS students and teachers earned their invitation to WE Day. Local events inspired and organized by our own Community Action Club included our fall Book Drive. Collecting and sorting the mounds of donated books into categories was just part of the fun of the Drive. The Club then designed and re-purposed guitar cases, racks, suitcases, and the like to create Pop Up Libraries which showed up at local coffee shops, bike shops, eateries, and real estate offices around Santa Barbara. Our annual Unity Shoppe Thanksgiving Food Drive and Circle of Friends Holiday Toy Drive are two other local service events the Club organized this year. As a follow-up to WE Day, and SBMS’s successful commitment to community, the Community Action Club was awarded an Action Plan coaching session from “Free the Children” and the WE Day organizers. They were on campus in May and worked with our “lead” Bike Monkey team to dream and scheme as to how the Bike Monkey program can intentionally spiral outward into the greater Santa Barbara community. Safe to say, SBMS students walked away from WE Day and a year of service, feeling inspired by all of the work that is being done, and still eager to roll up their sleeves and get to work on their next service endeavor.

—Sue Carmody

A Note From The Director:

SBMS has many traditions, sayings, and rituals that make our school and its education so vibrant, authentic, and unique. From our elders who cultivate our traditions and then pass them on to us, every year we delight in the joy and wonder as these traditions grow in purpose and meaning. In other words, “Because of them, us. Because of us, them.” After 25 years of directing Songfest, I am truly in awe of what a uniquely special and inspiring force it has become in our community to bring us all together with zero agenda except to let music work its magic for a day! My special “Thank You” will always be to Whitney Ingersoll for being our inspiration to pick up my first guitar and play my first chords and for being that elder who saw fit to hand Songfest over to me so many years ago. —Namaste, Marco Andrade

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Above: Evan Sherman on slide guitar, left: Helena McGinnes on guitar.

When WE Act Together, WE Change the World

SBMS Community Action Club Explores, Learns and Returns with Inspiration and Knowledge

I t’s the go-to celebration event of the year if you are into Community Service! You cannot buy a ticket to WE Day — you have to earn it. WE Day is a global celebration of youth engaged in powerful acts of service in their own local communities, across the country and around the globe. To be eligible, student organizations must participate in at least one local and one global service event, and SBMS’s Community Action Club did just that! A team of 14 SBMS students and teachers earned their invitation to WE Day. Local events inspired and organized by our own Community Action Club included our fall Book Drive. Collecting and sorting the mounds of donated books into categories was just part of the fun of the Drive. The Club then designed and re-purposed guitar cases, racks, suitcases, and the like to create Pop Up Libraries which showed up at local coffees shops, bike shops, eateries, and real estate offices around Santa Barbara. Our annual Unity Shoppe Thanksgiving Food Drive and Circle of Friends Holiday Toy Drive are two other local service events the Club organized this year. As well, the popular Wednesday afternoon Farmer’s Market continues to generate a good, green buzz each week and its profits have enabled the Club to purchase bright, new, attractive recycling containers for the school as together we work toward greening our campus. (A special thanks to local alum parent Kristi Curtis for her volunteer efforts and her connections with sustainable, organic, local farms.)

Our global act of service found the Club bringing back the “sewing circle” as several kids and a few parents gathered on a few Saturday afternoons at 7th grade student Eliana Gans’ home, to design, sew, and embellish beautiful “pillow case dresses” for orphans in Africa. The Los Angeles WE Day celebration sold out the LA Forum as they hosted 16,000 teen-age do-gooders, and countless well-known stars and activists. All were there inspired to learn, share, and do more for themselves, their school, their communities and the world. One of several big message “moments” was the notion that oftentimes the most important dreams in the world “…start around the dinner table. This is your moment. Don’t wait!”

Henry Winkler (actor, producer, director, author) called on kids to, “Figure out your gift and give it the world. Your job is to dig that out and discover it. We cannot wait to see who you will become!”

Comedian, actress, YouTube entertainer, Lilly Singh proclaimed, “That dream is your reality. Don’t let others define you.”

Jazz Jenner, LGBT activist, shared with the cheering crowd, “You are so much more than to just wrap yourself in labels.”

As a follow-up to WE Day, and SBMS’s successful commitment to community, the Community Action Club was awarded an “Action Plan” coaching session from “Free the Children” and the WE Day organizers. They were on campus in May and worked with our “lead” Bike Monkey team to dream and scheme as to how the Bike Monkey program can intentionally spiral outward into the greater Santa Barbara community.

Safe to say, SBMS students walked away from WE Day and a year of service, feeling inspired by all of the work that is being done, and still eager to roll up their sleeves and get to work on their next service endeavor.

—Sue Carmody

CAC improves school recycling efficiency. Kenna Sutherland; Rivera Lewis; Eliana Gans; Jonny Herrera; Sophia Alexander; Abby Vega; Julia Hinton; Alex Coleman; Finnian Whelan; Skylar Storm

THE DIAMOND Summer/Fall 2016

THE DIAMOND Summer/Fall 2016

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Everybody’s a Winner!

On the court, in the water, or dangling from a high perch—SBMS athletes gave it their all and seized the sport!

Varsity Spikers Reach Championship Match!

The SBMS Boys Varsity Volleyball team completed a very successful spring season with a 2nd-place finish in the SB Christian League. The boys started the season with a heartbreakingly close loss to Crane in the third game of a best-of-three match. The team then went on a four-game winning streak, including a decisive 2-0 victory over Crane in the last game of the regular season. The volleyball team entered the post-season tournament as the 2-seed, earning a first round bye with a 4-1 record. A semi-final victory over Laguna Blanca pitted the top two teams in the league against each other...unbeaten Providence versus SBMS! In each game throughout the season, SBMS got stronger and stronger as everyone became more comfortable and aware of their position and their individual responsibilities on the court, allowing them to play better together as a team. However, great teamwork, hustle, and a deeply talented team were not enough to get past Providence, who was led by athletic setter and an intimidating, powerful hitter in the championship game. Despite the loss to Providence, the SBMS team played one of the most successful boys volleyball seasons ever. With 12 solid players on the roster (6th grader Rockwood; 7th graders (Aidan B, Hugh, and Peter); 8th graders (Ben, Caetano, Elias, Evan, Mason, Milo, Noah, and Zach)) the team could have split into two squads and might have still placed the 2 teams in the top 3! With the help of volunteer assistant coach Devin Zaratzian, the team prepared and worked hard at practices to learn the offensive and defensive techniques and strategies of a 6-2 rotation which is frequently used by club and high school teams. Don’t be surprised when you read many of these boys’ names in the sports section contributing to their high school teams in the future!
—Jake Lindelof

Girls Basketball: A Season of Champions

As a new team, starting out the season was a challenge for us. Our team consisted of four players who had never played basketball, which was balanced by the three other girls who were experienced players. That balance, along with the girls’ enthusiasm, willingness to learn, and hard work produced great results! Not only did our experienced players provide guidance and leadership, they were also patient. Our younger players showed great attitude and growth in a very short period of time.

Everyone put their best foot forward, resulting in a winning season. As is the case with all true champions, the team worked together as a cohesive and unified group. This partnership created a true team spirit. I would like to personally thank the girls for a wonderful, fun-filled season.
—Robbie Jacobs

Surf Team Shines With Best Team Ever

The SBMS surf team had a great year! We had the highest level of surfing we’ve ever seen, and it showed in the competitions. We had surfers making the finals of every competition. The combination of a great group of kids and one of the better winters we’ve seen in a while made for a fun year with lots of improvement in everyone’s surfing. We are looking forward to seeing what the team looks like next year and are anticipating an even stronger team and lots of fun early mornings again!
—Erik Edwards

Wednesday Morning Rocks!

Throughout the 2015-2016 school year, a small group of students joined me early Wednesday mornings at the Santa Barbara Rock Gym. Aided by guides from the gym, we climbed and bouldered, honing our skills on the ropes and harnesses. It was a great supplement to mountaineering training and provided students with even more mountain skills to use on the March trip to Mount Whitney.
—Kara Petersen

JV Volleyball: Fast Learners!

The boys JV team included players who for the most part had never played the sport before. It was a bumpy start with a couple wins and some losses. But as the season progressed they started to look stronger and stronger. Everything really came together for the end of the season and the boys were playing a higher level of volleyball than any of the other JV teams. In a finish that you couldn’t make up, the boys won the tournament in a very close match. We were ahead 13-9, we lost our lead and were facing a strong server on game point at 13-14 and they stuck to playing the way we practiced and came back to win 17-15!
—Erik Edwards
Hiking Big Sur

After 10 weeks of hiking, meal planning, and packing and tenting workshops, the 6th graders loaded up their backpacks and headed north to Big Sur, or “the big south.” Driving up world famous Highway 1, we were greeted with vibrant poppies and breaching grey whales.

Arriving in Pfeiffer Big Sur State Park under dark skies and a rainy afternoon, we fired up our cook stoves to warm our hands and feed our bellies. We had a few mishaps with spillage, but all in all we cooked a delightful dinner. The next day we hiked Julia Pfeiffer Burns and Ewoldsen Trail to see the waterfall plummeting to the beach and the redwoods, complete with meadow frolicking, ocean views, and a California condor perched atop the trail.

Friday morning as we began to hike out, we were greeted once again with majestic views of the ocean as our trail quickly descended out of the valley towards Hwy 1, the vans, and Santa Barbara. We all enjoyed pizza in Morro Bay and were home by early evening.

The camaraderie and teamwork I witnessed was immeasurable -- everyone working together to make their experience the best possible. We enjoyed two lovely nights at our camp alongside the wild and scenic Big Sur River, as well as a talent show complete with magic tricks, rap battles, singing, and laughter galore. Our rest day, we enjoyed swimming in the pristine river, sunbathing on the banks, exploring the surrounding forest, playing games, making friendship bracelets, and most importantly, making connections.

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The 6th grade students amazed Jake, Danielle, Martin, and me beyond what we could have ever hoped for. The immense kindness and gratitude of this group of 21 mighty kids inspired us to be kinder and more grateful ourselves.

—Jenna Newburn

7TH GRADE MID-YEAR TRIP

Ojai Bobs on the Move

Local Mountains Beckon 7th Grade “Soul Train” Family

The menu of offerings available for students and teachers to really “Carpe” their own “Diem” on this fourth day of our “soul” trip. Fishing on Lake Cachuma, thrill seekers opting for the Ojai Foundation’s Ropes Course, plein air sketching in the field with our resident artists Ginny Speirs and Lilakney Sanford, disc golf, and urban abc photography were just a few of the choices.

Campfires that highlighted student talent—from singing to improv, story-telling to student poetry, combined with the heartfelt sharing of gratitude around the circle worked to solidify the 7th grade family bond and strengthen the theme of our trip.

Our pedal homeward found us proudly logging an accumulated 80+ miles under our treads (another first), while carrying with us new stories from around the “family style” dinner table, newly formed friendships with staff, parents, and one another, and an unforgettable sense of “soulful” gratitude for all those we call “family.” —Sue Carmody
Mountaineering

After 10 weeks of Victor’s finely tuned training and mountain prep, which covers swift water rescues, ropes, mountain first aid, medicine, and survival, Team 2016 was ready to meet Mt. Whitney. Hiking in under an full moon, 16 8th graders, 4 parents, and 2 teachers set up camp in the dark and awoke the next morning to one of the most majestic views in the world. From snow shelters to axe ice arrests, Victor led the students in creekside workshops. Everyone was happy to be moving around under an early spring sun after two very chilly nights. By the third day, the weather warmed up to about 40 degrees. This year’s team set a new record for the high point hike by trekking nearly 5 miles to reach Mirror Lake which is 10,500 feet above sea level. The teamwork and effort that everyone contributed to this group was just as breathtaking as the view.

—Kara Petersen

Mule Packing

Last year’s trip was as large as it has ever been, 22 students and one alum (Jim Brady’s niece from Australia), plus staff. The Mule Packing spring adventure is an extended 6-day trip from our front country trailhead at Romerocanyon and up and over Camino Cielo to our local hot springs at Pendola. The students back-packed whole food and Dutch ovens were packed in by mules. This year we had the addition of a buckboard wagon as a resupply vehicle! In between strenuous day hikes and navigation lessons, the students learned how to cook (for 29) over an open fire with the use of Dutch ovens. They mastered bread and cake making, enchilada casserole, stews and cowboy potatoes, as well as basic fire building and BBQ skills. The addition of animals in the camp made it altogether wonderful experience.

—Emma Gonzalez

Kayaking

The 2016 Kayaking trip offered us challenges and opportunities with heavy winds and plentiful swell. The group paddled three of five days, went tide pooling at the Hollister Ranch, created art, hiked the Gaviota Wind Caves, and played in the ocean in front of the Bouchard campsite every day. The greatest transformation the crew noticed was how comfortable the students became in the ocean as they launched and landed their boats through the surf zone. By the time the trip was over, the kids were a tight crew that better understood themselves and how to deal with the ocean. A special thanks goes out to all of our parent drivers and to Richard Wilke for his help with the art project.

—Jesse Wooten

Reflections of an Island . . . Catalina 2016

We braced ourselves as all was unknown. We grasped our eyes as the soft Catalina current carried us into Two Harbors. We walked uphill to our first campground. Our tents deployed and covered the dark earth like colorful balloons.

We laughed with the começar, Victor, and we drifted into the freedom.

And just like that, night began to approach: the golden moon reflected off the Pacific, lighting up the night, the fire, the sleep. What weighed heavily upon our shoulders would wash away and ride the air.

We shared what we needed to leave behind: Screens, social media, technology. Perhaps what we were most eager to flee was the weight of the world:

the weight of stress-
and we dropped it all, that first night, let it burn away into the fire.

We would trade in our screens for Mary Oliver poetry, our beds for a sleeping pad, social media for real life connections to our peers, to the natural world and her many secrets...

All we had to do was walk. And many miles we walked.

As morning came, we picked up the weight of our packs, each day a little lighter, carrying with us only necessity: water, fuel, a change of clothes, a half of a toothbrush and food: nutella and tortillas, prepackaged freeze-dried, or dehydrated meals.

We would learn about Catalina Island conservancy, the buffalo and palm trees came to the island by sailing, then the islanders built a fence, a fence that was too weak to keep them at bay. Today, when we meander in the ocean, we share our love of Catalina Island with the buffalo and palm trees. A special thanks goes out to all of our parent drivers and to Richard Wilke for his help with the art project.

—Gary Snyder

“Walking is the great adventure, the first meditation, a practice of heartiness and soul primary to humankind. Walking is the exact balance between spirit and humility.”

—Elyse Grossman

To Walk.

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To Walk.
Outdoor Education

END-OF-YEAR TRIP: 6TH & 7TH GRADES

Marin 2016: A Sense of Wonder

I wonder if blackberries off the vine will ever taste so good as when we wrapped them in miner’s lettuce to make blackberry sushi, then hiked to the beach where you could still hear the waves crash miles up the trail – just to dunk under a cold waterfall. I wonder if the coyotes heard us howl before we started up Mt. Tam or if they could see our smiles as we reached the top. I wonder how we managed a record-breaking ride up Bolinas Ridge while still lying beneath the redwoods watching the mist drip through the layers then dancing wildly at the top.

I wonder if students will ever cheer again for a 7 a.m. wake up or stay in school for 15 hours a day. I wonder what parents would think watching their kids cook and serve meals, wash their own dishes, bike and hike miles each day, caring for themselves and honoring others. I wonder how our chuck wagon became a hearth of nourishment and love.

I wonder if the students know how their acts of kindness and gratitude ripple out into the community. I wonder how many people get their fare refunded on the cable car because the students are the “most insightful kids I have met.” They served 536 meals to the community surrounding the Glide Memorial Church, busked on the streets of S.F. and donated the funds raised back to other street musicians.

I wonder if the Tule elk have ever seen 78 middle school students on bikes stop to frolic in their meadow of wild radishes. I wonder if that bike had a mechanical issue just so we could see the newborn calf learning to take its first steps. Then all of Heart’s Desire Beach heard the joyful shouts of sweat covered kids embracing the cold clear water. Carpe Diem!

I wonder if the new bridges we built on this journey—bridges between friends and strangers, students and teachers, human beings and the environment, bike tread and the dirt, book smarts and life experience—will be maintained and grow stronger into the next school year, or if we will let them crumble into distant memories. I wonder where this group of students will lead our world.

I wonder…

—Erin Riley
Outdoor Education

**END-OF-YEAR TRIP: 8TH & 9TH GRADES**

**Riders of the Rogue, NeW Frontiers**

This year, the 8th and 9th grades traveled to Oregon for the annual Rite of the Wheel expedition. Students, teachers, parents, and alumni pedaled nearly 200 miles across the Cascade Mountains through the Deschutes Forest and along the Rogue River.

The 9th-grade journey began a few days early as they loaded into vans for the drive north, camping in San Francisco’s Presidio before crossing the border into Oregon. The 8th grade traveled overnight by train, waking in the morning to majestic views of Mount Shasta.

The Upper School was united at La Pine campground where bikes were dusted off and readied for 6 days of riding forest and fire roads through the redwood forests and by clear lakes. This year, we were once again able to ride Windigo Pass across the Pacific Crest Trail, complete with a snowball fight at the top.

One of the pinnacles of the Rite of the Wheel is the 9th-grade honorings. Each 9th grader picks a name out of a hat and has the task of highlighting the best in their fellow classmate. They spend the month before the trip researching and writing about each other in secret. At the fire, each student stands up and is surprised to learn who has been working to honor them. With the flickering light of the fire on their faces, students’ highest qualities are exalted in front of their teachers and peers.

This year, six alumni from the class of 2010 joined us, adding their voices to the music, fire and magic. Tommy Riparetti class of 2006 also joined us. He shares his unique experience as an alumni returning on an SBMS journey on the facing page.

—Kara Petersen

**Alumni Tommy Riparetti Returns and Rediscovers**

There’s a lot to say about these Middle School trips. People who ride with SBMS talk a lot about overcoming the hardship of the ride, the rain, or the mosquitoes. They say that these challenges made them more resilient and I believe that to be true. People also talk about how the students and the teachers and the words around the campfire made them feel connected to this thing that is bigger than themselves: a tribe, perhaps. I had a unique perspective as an alumni going on the upper school rite of the wheel trip to Oregon. This experience as a whole gave me a profound feeling of rediscovery. A feeling like I had found something I misplaced long ago.

I left Middle School 12 years ago and have changed quite a bit. I’ve experienced change and growth with the friends, relationships, jobs, and schools I’ve associated with. However, sitting around the last campfire in Oregon I realized that even through all this change and growth, the culture of Middle School is at my core. Being true to myself often aligns with abiding the values and teachings that middle school instills. Life has its uphills and downhills, but even without being conscious of it, I’ve used concepts like respect, authenticity, service, “carpe diem”, and many other SBMS pillars as tools to enrich my life. Middle School is still very much the way it was when I was young, and I’m grateful to have rediscovered the SBMS spirit that is alive at the actual campfire as well as within me.

Opposite page top: 9th grade at Crater Lake; bottom: Board member and long time SBMS parent Craig Granet and daughter Julia, ‘12; This page top left to bottom right: Windigo Pass; a group of riders take a break, while Bruce Davis never takes a break, Bottom right: a group of riders navigates through an Oregon forest.
We are overwhelmed with such emotion and love for all our friends and family who have been there to support us throughout this journey – and it really was quite the journey.

Harrison is the the most beautiful thing we have ever laid eyes upon and it wouldn't have been possible without the courageous efforts of our amazing and beautiful birth mom and dad. They reached out to us on Carli's birthday this past November – and it was by far the best gift she and I have ever received... even if it was just a first connection. The four of us have become so close over the past 6 months and we are so happy to welcome them, as well as their families into our lives and inner circle forever. I can't even begin to imagine how difficult of a decision it was for them and we feel so honored they chose us to raise their son.

From the bottom of our hearts, we want to thank those who were with us this week through the birth and extremely emotional hospital tenure. Her mother, her best friend, his sister, and both Carli's and my families for making the long trip from California to be there for us and show our birth parents the loving family we share and the type of person Harrison will grow up to be.

He may not have our eyes or our smile, but from the moment we saw him he had our hearts and has forever changed our lives.

*Besos* to Indra Alma Momo Winter, born on December 15, 2015, in Los Angeles to Amanda Chen and Sam Winter.

SBMS showed me the importance of community. My goal as a doctor is to teach my patients about healthy living and about how our bodies work. Knowledge is power, and having a greater understanding of the body helps people become empowered about their health. This knowledge can then be shared with others to better and more people. I want to have a positive impact on my community and leave it better than I found it.

Scott Garey received his MFA in Technical Theatre Production from the University of North Carolina at the Arts in 2014, was on tour as Assistant Head Electrician for the National Tour of the musical Sister Act, and is currently in the position of Assistant Head Carpenter for “The House of Dancing Water”, a major Cirque du Soleil style theatrical production at the City of Dreams in Macau, China.

I have spent the past five months living in San Fidel, NM, working as a teacher at ST Joseph Mission School. Almost all of our students are Native Americans from the nearby Laguna or Acena Reservations.

I was teaching an art class at SBMS when I bumped into former Head of School Kent Ferguson, who invited me to visit and teach an art class as a part of their summer school. I visited in June of last year and stayed for two weeks. Not only was I introduced to 30 of the most kindhearted and adorable children I have ever met, I was immediately taken in by the teachers and their families. On my second night in San Fidel, I was sitting around a fire in somebody’s backyard, laughing and telling stories. During the day, I taught art classes and in the afternoon, I helped build a running track with some other volunteers. As my two weeks came to an end, I realized I had fallen in love with the community.

After finishing college, Antonio Trujillo, the school’s principal and leader offered room and board while I volunteered. I now live in a mobile home across the street from the school, and I’m fortunate to share meals and be included in countless traditional ceremonies in this welcoming community. I always find myself amidst compelling cultural and spiritual experiences.

Alongside the Native traditions, I have been introduced to the Catholic faith. The school seamlessly blends the two traditions and I am gaining incredible perspective. I am always encouraged to share my Jewish traditions and culture with the school. There is not one ounce of prejudice or pressure here and it makes for an extremely enlightening and educational experience in which we share common values such as love, service, compassion, and community.

Four years ago, the school was in danger of closing, with only 12 students enrolled. They now have 65 students enrolled and are developing the middle school program. This past year, SBMS has been incredibly generous to St. Joe’s and we have begun a “sister-school” relationship. This spring, seven of our middle school leaders, student leader Ms. Senti, parent Tammy, Kent, and I took a pilgrimage to Santa Barbara. Much like an SBMS trip, students were challenged with new experiences and held accountable for themselves. We spent days visiting the subjects of our studies — tide-pooling in the Pacific, visiting the Mission, or sitting around the fire with Chumash elders hearing about the natural history of Santa Barbara. We also visited SBMS, and the students were able to meet some of those who have been so generous. They worked hard, played hard, and experienced countless new things while growing closer as a class. I’d like to put St. Joseph Mission School’s name in the fire, for the opportunity to practice teaching, while sharing their traditions with me. I feel that I received more than I gave and I thank St. Joseph Mission School for that.

As I begin to pack my things in the mobile home to move out, I want to invite you to move in. Whether you stay one hour or one year, please come visit St. Joe’s and share what you have, and in return, accept the generosity and love that I was so fortunate to receive. For any questions, please contact jake@himovitz.com.

Jake Himovitz ’07 Reports on His Work with SBMS Sister School in New Mexico

Each spring, SBMS celebrates some of its youngest alumni with ice cream and memories shared around the flagpole. This year we were delighted to have the class of 2013 back on campus for their first SBMS reunion. Nearly 30 students who were a part of SBMS — either for one year or four — came back to tell us about that they did after they left SBMS and what is on the horizon for their bright futures. Many of them are heading straight off to college while others are traveling. We couldn’t be prouder of you and look forward to sharing your joys and successes in the pages of The Diamond!
With Gratitude to Retiring Board Members

S anta Barbara Middle School has one of the hardest working boards in town. This year we said goodbye to six dedicated members, honoring them with poems written by Whitney Ingersoll and hand-decorated by art teacher Sophie Frieman. You can read them below. We are welcoming three new members Tiffany Foster, Wendy Ibsen, and Abe Powell.

Ken Saxon:
Sometimes “Sometimes things don’t go, after all, from bad to worse. Some years, Muscadel faces down frost, green thrives; the crops don’t fail, sometimes a man aims high, and all goes well.”
Sometimes a man steps forth, brilliant and wise.
Respect is commanded by his passion.
Though he asks the tough questions, people answer them.
Joy, wisdom, sincerity and commitment, become regal.
Sometimes someone like Ken Saxon comes along.
Fully present — in every possible way.
His attention to detail is thoughtful and insightful.
A Mentor for the Ages — A Mentor for Mentors.
Sometimes open hearts can sing loud and passionately enough.
Sometimes a man will feel the gratitude of an entire generation.
Ken, may this happen to you.

Gary Dorfman:
He wanted the school and he sought it.
He knew Tyler was one of our gang.
Was it applications and interviews he bought it?
He arrived here with a bang.

Jumping “on Board” was inevitable.
Gary was truly one of us.
He has exuberance that’s impenetrable.
No question was too tough to discuss.
Then he took his enthusiasm on the road,
To Cold Spring and to his friends,
Round the town, our story he told.
We reaped huge dividends.

Gary’s quick to smile and easy to love,
A great dad to Ava, Colby and Tyler.
He’s grateful, loyal to our school,
He’s a warm and beaming smile.

He put his pedals where his mouth is,
And flew to Oregon State.
He road an epic ride over the Cascades,
Gary is no lightweight!

Your insight was needed, and timely —
Undying support of Brian and this school.
We give you our gratitude;
we hold you high,
Dear Gary, you’re truly a jewel.

Craig Zimmerman:
The first day of school here, it was 2011.
Craig gathered the first puja at 532.
We all felt we’d landed somehow right smack in heaven,
Finally a big breath at the end of a very long run.

Celebration and gratitude for people and drive,
For efforts that brought us this space.

Craig’s calming demeanor lead us along.
He navigated the neighbors with style.
He enthusiastically guided with purpose strong,
And encouraged hard days with his smile.

Craig is a believer in Magic you know —
Seems you have to be one to “work” here!
Carefully sculpting the move like Michelangelo,
He’s a leader we all revere.

Craig, your steady leadership, friendship and grace,
Your welcoming, engaging benevolence,
You’re modesty’s unassuming, not commonplace,
You’re a cyclist par excellence.

Thank you for Charlie, for Maizie too.
For taking us into your heart.
For leading the board with a focus true blue,
You’re a beautiful work of art.

Jim Youngson:
Just think! One day far ahead of you,
Will remind you of today.
Of this time when you served tried and true,
(Maybe you’ll be on a holiday.)

A thought will flash of this golden time,
When you brought joy and light to a board.
Maybe around the table at dinnertime,
You’ll recall how your humor was adored.

The fact that you are comfortable with who you are
Makes you frank and appropriately light.
Guiding discussion like a seasoned star,
To work with you is a delight.

So many years you served our school
You shared your heart, your time, your mind
You live your life by the golden Rule
You have a happy spirit we all can get behind.

You exemplify keeping hard work fun.
Thanks for showing us how to relax.
But the greatest gift you brought, number one
Is without a doubt, awesome MAX!

Michelle Konoske:
And so she came, not for her child,
But for others who will come ahead.
With a manner sharp and skillfully styled,
She ran like a thoroughbred.

A quiet, solid presence she,
Accounting was one of her skills we toast.
Her advocacy in the community,
Was what we needed the most.

Her commitment to our school rang true,
She was so generous with her time.
Effective, efficient, her presence came through,
Her skill is noteworthy, sublime.

So what is it in a woman who
Gives her time for others’ benefit?
Who without her gift of follow through
Wouldn’t know of her benevolence?

One wonders where this heart of hers came,
That gave with generosity so pure.
Michelle, you’ll live on in our Hall of Fame,
Because of you our dream will endure.

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Ken, may this happen to you.

Gary Dorfman:
He wanted the school and he sought it.
He knew Tyler was one of our gang.
Was it applications and interviews he bought it?
He arrived here with a bang.

Jumping “on Board” was inevitable.
Gary was truly one of us.
He has exuberance that’s impenetrable.
No question was too tough to discuss.
Then he took his enthusiasm on the road,
To Cold Spring and to his friends,
Round the town, our story he told.
We reaped huge dividends.

Gary’s quick to smile and easy to love,
A great dad to Ava, Colby and Tyler.
He’s grateful, loyal to our school,
He’s a warm and beaming smile.

He put his pedals where his mouth is,
And flew to Oregon State.
He road an epic ride over the Cascades,
Gary is no lightweight!

Your insight was needed, and timely —
Undying support of Brian and this school.
We give you our gratitude;
we hold you high,
Dear Gary, you’re truly a jewel.

Craig Zimmerman:
The first day of school here, it was 2011.
Craig gathered the first puja at 532.
We all felt we’d landed somehow right smack in heaven,
Finally a big breath at the end of a very long run.

Celebration and gratitude for people and drive,
For efforts that brought us this space.

Craig’s calming demeanor lead us along.
He navigated the neighbors with style.
He enthusiastically guided with purpose strong,
And encouraged hard days with his smile.

Craig is a believer in Magic you know —
Seems you have to be one to “work” here!
Carefully sculpting the move like Michelangelo,
He’s a leader we all revere.

Craig, your steady leadership, friendship and grace,
Your welcoming, engaging benevolence,
You’re modesty’s unassuming, not commonplace,
You’re a cyclist par excellence.

Thank you for Charlie, for Maizie too.
For taking us into your heart.
For leading the board with a focus true blue,
You’re a beautiful work of art.

Jim Youngson:
Just think! One day far ahead of you,
Will remind you of today.
Of this time when you served tried and true,
(Maybe you’ll be on a holiday.)

A thought will flash of this golden time,
When you brought joy and light to a board.
Maybe around the table at dinnertime,
You’ll recall how your humor was adored.

The fact that you are comfortable with who you are
Makes you frank and appropriately light.
Guiding discussion like a seasoned star,
To work with you is a delight.

So many years you served our school
You shared your heart, your time, your mind
You live your life by the golden Rule
You have a happy spirit we all can get behind.

You exemplify keeping hard work fun.
Thanks for showing us how to relax.
But the greatest gift you brought, number one
Is without a doubt, awesome MAX!

Michelle Konoske:
And so she came, not for her child,
But for others who will come ahead.
With a manner sharp and skillfully styled,
She ran like a thoroughbred.

A quiet, solid presence she,
Accounting was one of her skills we toast.
Her advocacy in the community,
Was what we needed the most.

Her commitment to our school rang true,
She was so generous with her time.
Effective, efficient, her presence came through,
Her skill is noteworthy, sublime.

So what is it in a woman who
Gives her time for others’ benefit?
Who without her gift of follow through
Wouldn’t know of her benevolence?

One wonders where this heart of hers came,
That gave with generosity so pure.
Michelle, you’ll live on in our Hall of Fame,
Because of you our dream will endure.

Welcome new Board President Shannon Kenny ‘88

A s an alumna and current parent, I am honored to be appointed incoming president of the SBMS Board of Trustees. A keystone of the educational experience at SBMS is the integral way that students are guided to value making contributions to their local and global communities. In doing so, students come to understand how their consideration of things greater than themselves contributes to their own self-growth and provides profound gratification. The school has succeeded in achieving this magic educational formula for the past 40 years because of the mentors who model it for them—our teachers, staff, parents, trustees, and community members. It is a privilege to be counted among these. As we begin our work this year on the Board to chart the course for the school’s next 40 years, the focus of our efforts will be on continuing to advance the social impact our students go out into the world and make. I hope to hear from you with any feedback you may have and look forward to seeing you at the 40th-anniversary celebrations this year.

—Shannon Kenny

Francois DeJohn:
Oh it is good to work and think,
And then with partners close,
Find a challenge, not to shrink,
But rather one's strength engross.

It’s a trait of humankind
To work where you are key.
On board with others, focus forward...
Taking on Goliath – gutsy.

It’s satisfying to find one’s gifts,
Are needed by the others.
That your capable, hardworking example lifts,
Them on shoulders as if brothers.

It is superb to see the gift you brought:
Sopistication, prudence and grace.
Was a light that was needed and often sought,
In our darkest time and space.

Your steady advice, your expertise,
Your gentlemanly way
Is a guiding light for all trustees.
You never went half way.

Thank you Francois, for all you are,
For creating the floor on which we stand.
We honor your service, and like the North Star
Your light will shine and the future expand.
A sincere thank you to our community for a fabulous event and wildly successful “Like. Totally. Rad. ’80s” dinner and auction on Saturday, May 7! We are so grateful to the many sponsors, donors, parents, students, grandparents, teachers, trustees, alumni, and volunteers who made this event so successful. We raised almost $260,000 for SBMS in one night!

Held at the charming Rockwood Woman’s Club and chaired by SBMS Parents Gaile Haslem, Nicki Parr and Ara Harris, this year’s dinner and auction was a night to remember! The wildly entertaining student dance, costumes, catering, and decor were outstanding. If you missed this year’s event — or the After Party at Blind Tiger — you missed one heck of a party! A tremendous thank you to parents Mark and Claire Lawrence for graciously hosting the After Party and SBMS parent Beth Laurie who choreographed the student dance.

Many thanks to the tremendous work of so many volunteers who made this night possible. From our Decorations Team setting the mood, and students, teachers, and parents who performed, to all of the parents who helped to solicit donations and helped with set up and clean up, we really couldn’t have done it without your help.

Thank you to everyone who contributed to the purchase of new vans and trailers. Your gifts kick-started the funding of an 8-year Fleet Upgrade Program to upgrade all of the school’s vehicles and trailers. Going “on the road” is a critical part of the SBMS education and your contributions make our Outdoor Education Program possible.

——Christine Bargamin, Bridget McIlrath, and Laurie Lauer, Development Office

**Event Sponsors**

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**Like OMG!**

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I Want My MTV

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**KICKOFF WEEKEND**

**OCTOBER 7 – 9, 2016**

**Friday, October 7**

Reception for Current & Former Trustees & Spouses, 5 pm

Who: Current & former trustees, their spouses/significant others (details sent via invitation)

**Saturday, October 8 – Sunday, October 9**

Alumni Bike Ride & Overnight

Bike ride or hike, evening dinner, campfire at Flying Flags Campground, Buellton, CA

Optional overnight camping or staying at Flying Flags lodging

Morning coffee & send-off

Who: Alumni & their significant others/families, teachers, former teachers

**Sunday, October 9**

Reception for Alumn & Current Parents, 4-7 pm

Open house style reception at Oreana Winery

Who: Alumni & current parents, teachers & former teachers

--- Free, limited capacity. Please RSVP.

**WINTER SOLSTICE**

**Friday December 16**

Winter Solstice

Morning Sunrise Swim at Leadbetter Beach, 7 am

Evening Solstice Hike & Bike at Romero Canyon Trail, 3 pm

**Who:** Entire SBMS community

**CARPE DIEM WEEKEND**

**APRIL 28 – 29, 2017**

**Friday April 28**

Morning Sunrise Swim at Leadbetter Beach, 7 am

Evening Sunset Swim & Potluck at East Beach, 6 pm

**Who:** Entire SBMS community

**Saturday April 29**

Open House, Campus Tours & Kiva Bricklaying, morning

Who: Alumni & alum parents

Songfest, Chase Palm Park, 2-5 pm

**Who:** Entire SBMS community

**Class Parties, evening**

Who: Alumni

### SANTA BARBARA MIDDLE SCHOOL

Since 1976 – 2016

Join Santa Barbara Middle School for a year-long celebration of 40 years of campfires, education, community and magic. All members of our village will celebrate together . . . Current Students and Parents, Alumni, Alumni Parents, Current and Past Faculty, Current and Past Board Members.
To receive this newsletter electronically, update your address, or remove your name from our mailing list, please call (805) 682-2989 or email office@sbms.org

SAVE THE DATE

**OCTOBER 2016**

*Tuesday, October 4*
6th & 7th grades Back-to-School Night

*Wednesday, October 5*
8th & 9th grades Back-to-School Night

*Mon., Oct. 17 - Sat., Oct. 22*
All School Fall Expedition

*Thursday, October 20*
Parent Social

*Saturday, October 22*
Homecoming

*Monday, October 24*
Recuperation Day (No School)

**NOVEMBER 2016**

*Friday, November 11*
Veteran's Day (No School – Faculty In-Service)

*Wed., Nov. 16 – Tues., Nov. 22*
Conferences & Career Study Week

*Wed. Nov. 23, 12pm – Friday, November 25*
Thanksgiving Holiday (No School)

**DECEMBER 2016**

*Thursday, December 8*
All School Town Meeting and Media Presentation

*Thursday, December 15*
8th Grade Retreat

*Friday, December 16, 2pm*
Early Dismissal Solstice Ride

*Mon., Dec. 19 - Mon., Jan. 2*
Winter Break (No School)

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**40th ANNIVERSARY**

Join Santa Barbara Middle School for a year-long celebration of 40 years of campfires, education, community and magic. See page 35 for more details.

Top: Wolf by Lauren Ewers, Middle: Red Flowers by Mary Johnson, Bottom: Ocean Lady by Emma Hammond.