Rites of Passage 2014
Going with Gratitude

Trips of Discovery . . .
Miraculous Mandala . . .
Songfest Success! . . . Plus: Alumni News!
Every year in June, our middle school community gathers together in Zoom Grove, perched above Santa Barbara, to honor our graduating 9th graders in a very unique and intimate ceremony we call Rites of Passage. We take our time to listen to teachers, mentors, coaches, siblings, parents, grandparents, and family members celebrate each student with words of wisdom, adolescent anecdotes, and stories of triumph and heroic achievements. Each presentation is like a three-minute Ted Talk, illuminating the journey of our children into adulthood. But each talk also reveals the myriad rays of light that our extended families and collective community provide for each other.

As we celebrated the SBMS class of 2014, I asked each student to ponder this year’s theme, “Power of Story—What Your Verse?” one last time. Just three weeks earlier as we gathered around the fire at the base of Mt. Shasta on our final 9th grade expedition, each 9th grader was invited to share something significant they had learned while at SBMS. We’ve included some of what they said at this roll call inside (beginning on page 6) because it highlights the character of our graduates and many of the authentic “student learning outcomes” such as self-knowledge, perseverance, integrity, empathy, and confidence that can be difficult for most teenagers to master during these challenging years.

This summer edition of The Diamond honors these graduates and highlights the collaborative verses of our community, the devotion of our teachers, and the beauty and brilliance of all our students during this year. I feel honored to have played a part in this epic story with you all, and I look forward to the exciting chapters ahead.

With love & gratitude,

Brian McWilliams

Ellen Goes East

Unfortunately for SBMS, Ellen O’Connell is moving to New England this summer. We are grateful for the love of writing and literature that she instilled in her students, her introduction of the JS Writing Program to Middle School, and most of all, the strong relationships she built with students and colleagues alike. We wish her the best in her next adventure!

Two New Teachers!

Elyse Grossman has a Bachelor’s degree in Literature, a Master’s degree in Education with an emphasis in English, and more than 13 years of experience teaching junior high to college level students. By the start of the school year, she will be a certified yoga instructor. She feels that one of the most important aspects of an educational environment is a trusting and compassionate rapport between teacher and student. Her hope is that students walk away from her classroom with an appreciation for literature and the ability to think both critically and analytically. Her interests include people, reading, yoga, hiking, running, and anything outdoors.

Danielle Bean “After growing up in rural Pennsylvania, I moved to San Diego to explore life on the oceanfront. Eventually, I landed in Santa Barbara to attend UCSB and received a B.S. in Environmental Studies. During this time I worked as the park naturalist for California State Beaches along the Gaviota Coast. After college I worked on various sailboats, taking me from humpback whale season on the Big Island of Hawaii to the racing circuit in Newport, Rhode Island. Sailing remains one of my passions and is often my means of world travel.

In 2004 I returned to UCSB and earned a teaching credential and Master’s in Education. I spent the next eight years teaching junior high science for the Santa Barbara School District. After spending the past year on sabbatical, recharging with world travels and adventure, I am excited to join the math and science departments at SBMS.”
Making Magic? No . . . A Mandala!

In February, Tibet came to Middle School. Lama Losang Samten spent a week creating a Tibetan Buddhist Sand Mandala in the SBMS hallway. Rubbing two long, skinny metal funnels called chakpus together and vibrating the brightly colored sand from them, his ongoing creation made a most unique sound and a beautiful, intricate painting as well. Tibetan Buddhists were the first to understand that each of us learns in our own way. The sand Mandala, using sound, color, and geometry, imparts teachings and lessons more than 2,500 years old, and is said to be passed down directly from the Buddha himself.

Samten lived and studied over 20 years in the Namgyal Monastery (the monastery of His Holiness the Dalai Lama) earning the highest degree attainable at the monastery, equivalent to a doctoral degree in the West. He also became a Master of Ritual Dance and Sand Mandalas and was the Personal Attendant to His Holiness the XIV Dalai Lama prior to moving to the United States in 1988.

Along with creating the Mandala, Ven. Samten visited with students and taught them about his faith and its practices.

“I learned about the Buddhist principles of detachment,” said ninth grade student Amanda Gersoff. “I also saw how people gather around circles. It made me think of our own circle, the bicycle wheel. Tibetans gather around the Mandala just as SBMS gathers around the wheel.”

At the end of the week, each SBMS student and teacher participated in the deconstruction of the Mandala. Each student and teacher took a pinch of sand and placed it in a jar. The next morning a group gathered at East Beach. Samten offered traditional Tibetan chanting and prayers as he sprinkled the sand on the shore next to the crashing ocean waves.

Samten’s artist-in-residency was followed by a visit from the Tibet Minister of Education, Ngodup Tsering. Tsering, along with two revered lamas, toured the campus and met with a panel of students to discuss the school’s philosophy of education and opportunities for the two cultures to learn from each other.
Academics

RITES OF PASSAGE 2014

The Most Important Thing I Learned...

Under a blue Santa Barbara sky, the 2014 ninth grade class of Santa Barbara Middle School embarked upon the next part of their own incredible journeys.

Rites of Passage is always bittersweet. Students we have come to know and love have to leave our everyday lives. But at the same time, this is the planned and inevitable goal of Middle School: to send students out into the world thrilled to learn, ready to meet challenges, and prepared to share.

As always at ROP, each student chose a special person from their life to speak for them in front of an assembly of family and friends. The graduates are pictured here with those special people.

In addition this year, to carry on the year’s theme of “What’s your verse?” we asked each student to leave behind something—a phrase or a few words that would illustrate what was the most important thing they had learned in their time at SBMS. As you’ll see, they vary in theme and content as much as this amazing group of young people varies. But they all share one thing: the spirit of SBMS.

...is that family doesn’t have to be blood.
—Hunter Bacon (with Stephanie Bacon)

...is to live in the moment and enjoy each second.
—Lucas Battelle (with Joe Scarbrough)

...is to live a life filled with gratitude and to seek adventure whenever possible.
—Amanda Gersoff (with Richard Wilke)

...is that I hope to be remembered by my filmmaking abilities. I hope that everyone has experienced laughter and felt joy.
—Isaac Kershner (with Adam Webster)

...is how to be brave and how to be myself.
—Lylah Ehrnstein (with Julie Ehrnstein)

...is that I hope to be remembered as the guy who can bring a smile when things get rough.
—Kaleb Curtis (with Erik Edwards)

...is that I hope that I will be remembered for making it a better place.
—Makana Hubbard (with Kelly Rosenheim)

...is how to find myself and know where I want to go in my future.
—Tyler Dorfman (with Pam Boswell)

...is that I hope to be remembered as a creative person.
—Reed Donaldson (with Robin Donaldson)

...is what’s your verse?
—Emma Burdette (with Lindsay Charlton)

...is to try my hardest. With all the things I have conquered at SBMS, I know that anything I put my mind to, I can do.
—Deryn Gersoff (with Jenna Newburn)

...is how to find myself and know where I want to go in my future.
—Chase Halperin (with Jocelyn Halperin)

...is how to be remembering.
—Savanna Eggers (with Marco Andrade)

...is that everyone has something that makes them unique. SBMS has helped me find out who I am and to embrace what makes me different.
—Jennie Coleman (with Joey Coleman)

...is how to take the time to get to know everybody because everyone is unique in their own way.
—Ginny Hunter (with Ellen Hunter)

...is that I hope to be remembered for making it a better place.
—Makana Hubbard (with Kelly Rosenheim)

...is how to find myself and know where I want to go in my future.
—Chase Halperin (with Jocelyn Halperin)

...is to take the time to get to know everybody because everyone is unique in their own way.
—Ginny Hunter (with Ellen Hunter)

...is to have a positive outlook on everything and enjoy every minute of my life.
—Savanna Eggers (with Marco Andrade)

...is how to find myself and know where I want to go in my future.
—Chase Halperin (with Jocelyn Halperin)

...is to be remembered as a creative person.
—Reed Donaldson (with Robin Donaldson)

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—Lylah Ehrnstein (with Julie Ehrnstein)
Academics

. . . is to be patient and go with the flow.
—Zane Kincaid (with Russ Lewin)

. . . is that I want to be remembered as someone that everyone can depend on.
—Alex Lewis (with Mort Morrison)

. . . at Middle School to take care of others.
—Kanaan Lopez (with Erik Lopez)

. . . was to take my time and enjoy the journey because it is more important than the destination.
—Daniel Solomon (with Steve Solomon)

when I leave SBMS I hope that “Tebbe Time” will live on—there must always be comedy at the fires.
—Andrew Tebbe (with Eric Lehman)

. . . to surround yourself with good people and push yourself physically and academically.
—Sydni Trigueiro (with Victor Dominicielo)

. . . was honesty and integrity.
—Ryan McMullen (with Robert Mokross)

. . . was to keep developing a passion for learning and the motivation to succeed.
—Emma Wagner (with Ellen O’Connell)

. . . is to truly enjoy life and see the best in all people.
—Sarina Wasserman (Speakers: Eli and Ohad Jehassi)

. . . was to always be an optimistic and loyal friend and always seize the day.
—Zac Pfeifer (with Jesse Wooten)

. . . is that I hope to be remembered as someone who made everyone feel special.
—Dia Rabin (with John Seigel Boettiner)

. . . is to be accepting of myself, tolerant of others, and have a more positive view on life.
—Jared McMullen (with Jake Lindelof)

. . . was honesty and integrity.
—Ryan McMullen (with Robert Mokross)

. . . is how to truly enjoy life and see the best in all people.
—Sarina Wasserman (Speakers: Eli and Ohad Jehassi)

. . . is patience.
—Tor Weiland (with Joe Weiland)
**Academics**

### Reports from the Grades

#### 9TH GRADE

“Climb the mountains and get their good tidings. Nature’s peace will flow into you as sunshine flows into trees. The winds will blow their own freshness into you, and the storms their energy, while cares will drop away from you like the leaves of Autumn.” — John Muir

At the final meeting of the year in the Kiva, our 9th graders rose, one by one, in front of the entire school and read the quotes that they had selected for their prayer flags, which will hang in the Kiva. Their words were emboldened and deepened by years of effort and learning. Their words came alive and took shape as a testament to their accomplishments, both inner and outer.

One of the quotes a student chose was from Albert Einstein: “If you can’t explain it to a six-year-old, you don’t understand it yourself.” Recently, the students participated in the Great Scientists Project as a part of the physics class. Each student selected a great scientist from the fields of physics and astronomy and put together a report on their subject’s great discoveries. In order to do the project, the students needed to use everything that they have learned thus far in their academic careers—the ability to do research, to write, to think conceptually and in terms of great principles, to compose a presentation, to speak clearly and confidently, and perhaps most importantly—to personal fulfillment, it’s also the first step in making a difference in the world.

As I think back on the past year, hundreds of examples come to mind about how each 8th grade participant in their own learning; whether by supporting a friend up a mountain, or through mathematical and scientific problem-solving and critical-thinking; by performing or applauding a song at Songfest; planning a dinner from scratch a laser module, by harvesting laser diodes, building a driver circuit (soldering included), and assembling optics. This was a new project in science, in which students learned what a laser actually is, how they are made, the different types, and how lasers can be applied to solve a problem like near-Earth asteroid ablation.

Sixth-grade science students studied chemical reactions and learned basic chemical principles, including understanding the Periodic Table. Students tested levels of dissolved oxygen in water using an autosampler machine to determine the water quality for the various locations around Santa Barbara, Goleta, Montecito and Carpinteria. Students also learned about open-source technology by creating and testing graphite sensors and various other sensors with computer hardware and software, and dabbling in creating a device using an open-source platform called LittleBits, which are unique and small electrical components that connect to each other magnetically and provide a prototyping platform for designing and creating new devices.

### 8TH GRADE

**THE FIRST, ENERGIZED BY STUDENTS, TEACHERS, AND PARENTS is where much of the learning at SBMS happens. Each night on the End-of-the-Year journey, there is a time slot called “8th Grade Open Mic.” In this time, 8th graders are encouraged to share a poem, perform their Shakespearean recitation, write a sketch, do stand-up comedy, sing a song, do anything really, to make a contribution by stepping over the line of voyeurism and participating. In Oregon, 8th graders rose to the occasion, sharing original poems and performing recitations. To quote a parent on the trip, “The inherent lesson is that it’s not only possible to create something from nothing, but it’s also our responsibility to create it. Knowing that WE are responsible for creating our own experience is not only the key to personal fulfillment, it’s also the first step in making a difference in the world.”**

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### 6TH AND 7TH GRADES

In 7th grade science, students designed, constructed, and tested their catapults or trebuchets, while learning about simple machines, the concept of work, and how energy is conserved in a system. They also attempted to construct from scratch a laser module, by harvesting laser diodes, building a driver circuit (soldering included), and assembling optics. This was a new project in science, in which students learned what a laser actually is, how they are made, the different types, and how lasers can be applied to solve a problem like near-Earth asteroid ablation.

Sixth-grade Humanities class created a wide range of projects based on classroom lessons. After reading the novel Wonder by R.J. Palacio about a boy born with a facial deformity who attends school for the first time, students wrote five-paragraph essays, created “six-word memoirs” as rules to live by, drew portraits of the main character with pastels, and created presentations about either a physical or mental disability that they researched. All of these projects were on display at our “Wonder Museum” during Academic Fair.

Along with the Wonder Museum, students created scientific journals after learning about early humans. They wrote poetry based on styles read and studied in class. Students made maps of the ancient civilizations of Mesopotamia, and even made handwoven baskets based on ancient techniques. It was a great mix of activities with a great group of young and eager learners!

— Jenna Newburn
The DiamonD Summer 2014

Academic Fair: Readin’, Writin’, Robots, and Rock ‘n’ Roll!

February’s academic fair once again provided back-to-back nights of amazing accomplishments presented by SBMS students.

Tuesday evening showcased work from our Upper School. In the ninth-grade Conceptual Physics class, student engineering teams demonstrated their mathematically programmed and engineered robots, one of which was a piano-playing robot that uses an Arduino micro controller and electrical transistors on a breadboard to play music on a keyboard.

The eighth grade performed “Murder a la Carte,” a mock trial to determine the cause of death of notorious food critic “Simon Fogg,” who is found dead on his yacht after enjoying a sumptuous meal, possibly laced with poisonous mushrooms. The chief suspect, “Chef Kat Koo Kola,” was charged with first-degree murder, but found not guilty by the jury audience!

Visitors also witnessed a drum-playing robot that simultaneously uses several synchronized robots to play drums and a xylophone and a self-balancing robot, which uses a gyro sensor to balance itself on just two wheels, engineered like the Segway scooter.

A team of students from the eighth-grade Human Biology class demonstrated CPR and first aid scenarios. Visitors who wandered through the Algebra classes saw student-designed business plans, which require graphing and solving linear equations and inequalities to maximize profits and revenues, resulting in optimal business efficiency.

Theatrical performances included student-modified, humorous Spanish-speaking fairy tales and William Shakespeare’s “A Midsummer’s Night Dream.”

On Wednesday evening, the Lower School showcased student academic work for sixth and seventh grades. Visitors toured the “Authors Alive Wax Museum” where well-known authors (student performers) such as Dr. Seuss, Rick Riordan and Robert Frost came to life and shared their personal histories.

The Santa Barbara Middle School’s Teen Press, a team of journalists, offered red carpet highlights of interviews they captured at the recent Santa Barbara International Film Festival. Interviews with Oprah Winfrey, Martin Scorsese and Robert Redford were just a few that were shown.

Math portfolios were also on display, and Academic Fair visitors were able to interact with seventh-grade STEM science projects that deal with circuits and lasers. Visitors also took a student-guided tour through the sixth-grade “Wonder Museum” to see handmade woven baskets modeled after ancient civilizations, peruse prehistory scientific journals and literary works, and enjoy several art pieces and PowerPoint presentations.

In social studies, cultural multimedia stories were told through student blogs and a media tribute to Nelson Mandela. Visitors enjoyed a pop culture fashion show presented in an innovative style—all the narration along the SBMS catwalk was done in Spanish by the seventh-grade class.

Both evenings were filled with relevant and interactive academic projects designed to entertain, teach and celebrate the creative and clever mind of the middle school student.
Before the Mock—the Real!

Before the eighth-grade students began work on their annual Mock Trial, they got an inside look at the real thing at the Santa Barbara County Courthouse. Students visited the building, toured the courtrooms, and heard the inside scoop from Jeff Chambliss, the father of SBMS alum John Chambliss. Jeff is the public defender, and he explained his important role in the prosecution of SBMS alum John Chambliss. Here are some short excerpts; the entire interview is on the SBMS Teen Press YouTube channel.

Teen Press Meets the 1960s

In May, SBMS Teen Press added another high-profile interview to its history—a sit-down with author and activist Prof. Angela Davis. Special thanks to Beth Marchant (Caetano’s mom and professor of Gender Studies at UCLA) and her colleagues for helping to arrange the visit. The Teen Press team included mentor Kara Petersen and students Lii DeVoto, Dia Rabin, and Sarina Wasserman. Here are some short excerpts; the entire interview is on the SBMS Teen Press YouTube channel.

SBMS Gets Fox-y

In a hot, May afternoon, two special students stayed after school for a trip to the Santa Barbara Zoo. Not to see the gallant giraffes or the cuddly sea otters, or even the giant boa constrictor, but to speak on behalf of one of the animals the zoo helps protect, the Channel Island fox. The fox is an endemic species to the Channel Islands, meaning it lives on the Channel Islands and the Channel Islands alone. These students were part of a group of four 9th graders who researched the island fox in the fall as a part of the 9th grade Channel Islands Seminar. Amanda Gersoff and Lylah Ehrnstein stepped up to speak at the “Conversations about Conservation” event at the Santa Barbara Zoo. They were lured by a promise of air conditioning in the new Discovery Pavilion, and it definitely delivered. On a May evening, when the mercury was reaching towards the 100 degree mark, the girls showed composure and poise in front of an audience of more than 50 adults from the zoo and the greater conservation community.

The Channel Islands Seminar is a high point of the 9th-grade program at SBMS. Students spend the first month of the school year in their World History/Novus class to study the ecosystem, environment, and history of the Channel Islands—Santa Barbara’s backyard. Students are divided into groups of four to research various topics including plastics production and distribution, ecology, Chumash culture, kelp forests, fisheries, and the island fox. Students gather research from the Internet, print sources, and from guest speakers to develop a presentation, followed by a written report on their topic.

These written reports as well as visual presentations from all groups are going to be made into an e-reader in the future for students in the Santa Barbara community who are not able to experience the islands firsthand. We hope that this e-reader will convey the importance of this delicate ecosystem that lies just off of our coast and will inspire other students and community members to educate themselves and take action to conserve the plants, animals, and fish that live off our coast. —Jenna Newburn
The DiamonD Summer 2014

Creative Arts & Sports

Super Spring Songfest

This year’s young musicians brought talent and courage in spades and created a three-hour celebration that more than 200 people enjoyed in the beautiful sun. Although gale-force winds threatened to blow music stands and the our stage backdrop over the mountains, the music and energy prevailed. Students performed everything from contemporary songs such as Animal and Cough Syrup to classics like Big Yellow Taxi and Superstition in a mix of genres that ranged from pop to jazz to rock. And indeed, many student bands, including Marco’s Rock Jam Class, really rocked the stage and represented the thriving music scene happening in SB!

In addition to all the talented students who performed, this year’s show, produced and directed by Marco Andrade and Ted Rhodes, owes its success to all the staff, parents, and volunteers who worked so hard behind the scenes to make Songfest 2014 another great Middle School success. A great big thanks to all who helped Ted with the stage set-up and wrap: Tracey Willfong-Singh, Glen Phillips, Ross Godlis, Teresa Kastner, Kate Lanier, Yann Ricard, Sara Bazan, Channing Hammond, Casmali Lopez, Geoff Wallace, Stu Feinstein, Kathy Foltz, Richard Wilke, and, of course, Tom Ridenour (the other “TR”) as well as Liz Ricard who fearlessly took on the bake sale, merchandise, and food service aspects of the event.

We thank David Teton-Landis, Andrew Tebbe, and Isaac Kershner for producing this year’s Songfest DVD. Once again, Songfest could not have succeeded without the services of professional soundman Desmond Warren of DSR Audio, his assistant Mikey Donahue, and our mixer John “Rosie” Hernandez. We would also like to acknowledge the fabulous food by Freedom4Youth and the set by Richard Wilke and Kent Hodgetts.

As always, we salute the musical back-up talents of the unwavering Grateful Dads, who, under the direction of Marco, accompanied the student performers: Michael Adcock (bass), Ted Rhodes (harp, percussion), Dan Diamond (keyboards), Rick Mellor (keyboards, backing vocals), and Marco Andrade (drums, guitar and bass), plus Daniel Lower (guitar) and Zach Wallace (synth).

A special thanks to Tami Sherman and the SBMS Parent Association, Leslie Lund and the City of Santa Barbara Parks & Recreation Dept, and our very own Lilli Doner and the SBMS office.

And finally, this year also marked an increased effort to work with other local youth music programs in our community. SBMS has championed a grassroots effort to form a coalition of music programs in SB to promote a spirit of collaboration and unity, and Songfest has become an flagship showcase for such efforts. We’d like to thank Barbara Mosely of SB Youth Music Academy and Craig Thatcher of SB Drum Lab/Boom Chaka for being a part of our show!

Thank you, one and all, for another great Songfest!

NOTE: You can still order copies of the Songfest 2014 DVD from David Teton-Landis at David@sbms.org.
Creative Arts & Sports

Beauty and the Beast

Talking Heads met fairy tales and Walt Disney at the SBMS production of “Beauty and the Beast” in May. After long weeks and hard work, the cast and crew put on two weekends’ worth of outstanding performances.

Talking Heads? Audience members sang happily along with familiar songs from the 1980s art-rock band. Fairy tales? Well, Beauty and the Beast has been part of fairy-tale tradition for years; however, the production added some of its own fourth-wall-breaking fun with wild sound effects and an onstage appearance by the sound man!

Walt Disney? Well, Walt would have enjoyed the shows, but SBMS’s auteurs were Eric and Maureen Lehman, who once again taught their cast stagecraft, spirit, and singing, blending the old and the new into a uniquely SBMS production.

The Cast

Angel ................. Emma Beth Perme
Prince/Beast .......... Eli Baur
Hakim .................. Lamont Stiff
Gilida .................. Katie Buckley
Soccorro .............. Bella Venable
Panzar ................. Max Freudenburg
Asmin ................ Adrienne Howard
Dannie ................ Claire Sanborn
Nasma ................. Layla Stoutenborough
Lazlo ................. Andrew Tebbe
Beauty ................ Nicole Figueroa
Assistant “Everything” . Emma Millar
Lighting ............... Jamie Oriskovich
Co-directors .......... Eric & Maureen Lehman

(above) Nicole Figueroa performed as Beauty; Eli Baur was outstanding as Beast. (opposite) Max Freudenburg played Beauty’s father, while Andrew Tebbe won laughs as Beauty’s vain older brother. (bottom) The cast puts on their best dramatic faces.
Co-Ed Flag Football

Coach Victor led a fine co-ed squad of flag football players into action against tough opponents. A deep team, with everyone playing a part, led them to numerous victories!

Boys’ Basketball

Boys’ basketball is played in the spring. The team boasted a roster with a wide array of sizes but a consistent degree of heart. They wore SBMS colors proudly.

Beach Volleyball

The other spring sport was led by John S-B, who shepherded his beach volleyball charges every Friday. Veteran SBMS sports watchers will enjoy some of the 2014 team names: Care, Joy, Hope, and Serendipity. Game on!

Oh, sure, it was a beach volleyball “class,” but it’s hard to keep hot and happy kids from frolicking in the surf. Thanks to John, Teresa, and Pam and others for letting kids be kids!

Thanks to our friends at Providence Hall for the action pix!
The theme of mountain Telluride Film Festival 2014—“Now what?”—captured the hearts and the conviction of our 8th grade SBMS Teen Press team that traveled to Colorado in May to cover the people, the filmmakers, and their important stories. In the words of David Holbrooke, the festival’s director, “There’s a lot of work to do.”

The team of six decided to reverse the interview process, and as a thank you to festival director David Holbrooke, they shared with him their own personal version of “Now What….” Here are few of their responses:

Addie Furrer: After watching the film Vessel, a film about women on waves who travel in international waters off the coast of countries where an abortion may otherwise be illegal, I learned about the abortion realities here in the U.S. and will share this knowledge whenever possible.

Anya O’Connor: I was totally inspired by the impact of music on the Alzheimer patients which was highlighted in the film Alive Inside. I plan to visit Alzheimer’s homes here in Santa Barbara and bring my guitar and sing to make memories for the people who live there.

Jensen Steady: The E-Team shows the realistic side of war and I think a lot of films try and glorify war. This film really captured war in a real way, and I think it is important that more people see and understand this.

Holbrooke then charged the team to “find what you care about and work your as*# off to get it. There is no time to rest.”

As part of SBMS Diamond Time, a group of artistic (and musically-inclined) students gathered under the direction of Suzanne Prince to create what will become a permanent part of the SBMS home! The students painstakingly recreated classic rock album covers that will become wall tiles in the ground-floor music room, providing permanent inspiration for a generation of SBMS rockers!

“We used a wall projection of the album to trace the image onto the tile,” said student artist Katie Buckley. “Then we painted onto the sketch we made. I liked doing the shading in black and white on the London Calling album I picked. It will be fun to come back years from now and see our art on the wall!”

SBMS parent and professional artist Ginny Speirs guided a group of young wildlife artists in a new Zoo Art class elective. The class learned the art of drawing live animals, plus used those skills to create sets of cards to sell at the SB Zoo and SBMS. Students drew various animals, including elephants, porcupines, gorillas, giraffes, and flamingos. Ginny then worked with the students how to create sketches that they then turned into final drawings. Students worked in charcoal pencils to create the drawings, which turned into sets of note cards.
Mid-Year Trips: Time to Travel!

From Catalina Island to Mount Whitney, SBMS students journeyed across land and ocean in and around California. Brian, Jesse W., Christine, and Erik led students on kayaks down the Gaviota coast while Teresa and Tom led a team of hikers through the hills of Gaviota. Jim, Kara, Emma Gonzalez and her pack of mules backpacked through our own backcountry. Erin crossed the Trans-Catalina trail and Victor and his mountaineers scaled Mt. Whitney. The 6th grade made its annual trek to Malibu with Pam, Caroline and Adam. John SB, Wren and others “BOB-ed” their way through Ojai with the 7th grade.

Hardy kayakers paused on land before resuming their watery trek down the Gaviota Coast. Students and teachers walked, hiked, paddled, and swam, learning and having fun along the way.

Into the ice cave! After extensive pre-trip training, the brave mountaineers headed to Mt. Whitney to conquer the mountain and their fears! Evening campfires warmed toes and created lasting memories.

An island right off the coast? But not Santa Cruz? This group of backpacking campers headed instead to Catalina to track the buffalo, find new trails to break, and explore the island they can’t see from school!

Every SBMS student knows what Ojai BOBs is! This group loaded up their BOBs (that’s a bike trailer, for you newbies) and headed into the hills of Ojai and environs to test their cycling, camping, and sharing skills.

Thanks to the mules provided by the Gonzalez family, intrepid backpackers didn’t have to haul their own food! But they did carry everything else, finding adventure at every camp site as they explored the Santa Barbara backcountry.
Outdoor Education

Marin County and San Francisco

Celebrations and Bridges

In June, sixth and seventh grade students and staff participated in our annual migration north to Marin County and San Francisco. For ten days we celebrated and built bridges between rural and urban communities, between local and international service, between challenging physical cycling during the days and then, in the evenings, sitting around the fire with friends at our Olema camp. We laughed, danced, told stories, and spoke in gratitude.

Our bike rides took us through the rolling hills of Marin to Tamalpais, on a farm-to-table journey up Mt. Tamalpais on a glorious day from fog to sunshine, along Bolinas Ridge on a day with no sunshine (42 degrees at the top in dripping fog), and then across the Golden Gate Bridge to our camp in the Presidio for some urban cycling and cultural experiences.

In San Francisco, a group of students visited the global headquarters of Kiva.org as part of the micro-lending projects they had been working on in their Social Studies classes. Others attended the Maya Angelou memorial service at Glide Cathedral and helped make more than 600 meals for the underserved population. We visited the California Academy of Sciences, arriving for the Planetarium show (Dark Universe) via a great urban cycling route from the Presidio to Golden Gate Park.

And, as is our custom, students hit the streets of San Francisco on the final day for the annual Treasure Hunt, finding cultural treasures in the shops of Chinatown, the sidewalks of Market Street and the Avenues, book stores and music shops, and of course, in the restaurants and food vendors everywhere.

Bridges were built between students and the people they met along the way. Bridges were also built among the students themselves through shared physical challenge and through celebratory gratitude around the fire for friends, family and home.

It is a powerful adventure, one that they bring home in memories and a deepened understanding of self and community. More than a bike trip, it’s a true Rite of the Wheel. Let’s celebrate the journey!

—Jim Brady

Opposite: Golden Gate Bridge designer Joseph Strauss joined the sixth and seventh grade for a group photo by his creation! Above, clockwise: Ice cream was a good choice on “Choice Day;” Alum Sarah and teacher Teresa made sure everyone rode safely; the view from Mount Tam was more than worth the ride up; the campfires were filled with music, spirit, and life!
I just wanted to share a quick recap of the Oregon trip with you. It really was a magical journey. The kids constantly amazed and inspired me.

**Monday, May 26:** The 9th grade drove to China Camp, a beautiful walk-in camp, where we had our first fire of the trip. It was a long car ride but full of fun conversations, singing and even silence as the students were unplugged from any electronics.

**Tuesday, May 27:** The 9th grade drove into San Francisco and had a fantastic day! We explored the California Academy of Science, the Japanese Garden and the DeYoung Art Museum, went for a boat tour of the bay under the Golden Gate Bridge and around Alcatraz. Then we hiked up and down the steep city streets to Chinatown for delicious Chinese dinner.

**Wednesday, May 28:** The 9th grade drove to Lake Siskiyou near Mt. Shasta and the 8th grade boarded the train for Oregon.

**Thursday, May 29:** 8th and 9th back together again at La Pine State Park, just south of Bend, Oregon.

**Friday, May 30:** Our first ride! A beautiful 18-mile warm up ride along the Deschutes River to Gull Point campground. Bald eagles, a beautiful view of Mt. Bachelor and a dip in the lake—a great day!

**Saturday, May 31:** Our second ride kicked things up a bit with a 30-mile bike ride to Crescent Lake.

**Sunday, June 1:** Today we were able to do a ride we haven’t done in ten years! Windigo Pass! We crossed a mountain pass, played in the snow, and navigated through a lake and “icebergs” to get to Diamond Lake! What a day!

**Monday, June 2:** An all-girls snout group led the way on a 28-mile ride down the west side of the Cascades into the Umpqua Forest. Sunny and warm, it was the perfect day for a dip in Crater Creek and an end-of-ride ice cream cone!

**Tuesday, June 3:** A well-deserved layover day at Farewell Bend campground. We spent the morning at beautiful Crater Lake and then back to camp for an afternoon of art, music, games and rest. And then, the Talent Show!

**Wednesday, June 4:** The challenge day—a 50-plus-mile ride to Willow Lake! The kids were incredible!

**Thursday, June 5:** A lovely final ride through trees and meadows to Howard Prairie Lake for our final fire. It was magical.

**Friday, June 6:** Ashland, Oregon. We saw “Comedy of Errors,” had dinner out on the town and then made our way to Klamath Falls to catch the train home.

**Saturday, June 7:** All arrived safely home! Thank you for an amazing journey!

—SBMS Trip Leader Erin Finnegan

A new SBMS legend is born: “The Bog” on Windigo Pass (left), an obstacle found and surmounted by the intrepid crew. Crater Lake chilled and thrilled (above), while campfires provided warmth and a place to connect, grow, and learn (top right). As for the adventurers: Snow! Snow what!
Community

Alumni News

Send your news and notes to your Class Reps. If your class doesn’t have one yet, send news to kara@sbms.org (and consider becoming a Class Rep).

1981
Class Rep: David Griffith
dgriffith@aol.com

1982
Class Rep: Sophie Calvin
sophiecalvin@gmail.com

1983
Class Rep: Monty Schmitt
montyschmitt@gmail.com

DERIN STOCKTON: I opened my own cycling performance and personal training studio in Santa Barbara, called Santa Barbara Cycling. I have been looking for a way to accommodate my expanding cycling performance business, and my new place in the Santa Barbara Dance Arts Studio gives me the space to have an entire area dedicated to cycling fit and performance testing. I have a dedicated workout area for foundation and personal training. I have many new things to offer, including group classes, so I’d love it if you could stop by!

1988
Class Rep: Shannon Kenny
dvenable@cox.net

1989
Samuel Liebhaber, a member of the Middlebury faculty since 2007, has been offered tenure at Middlebury College in Vermont. He offers courses in Arabic, the modern Arabic novel, and a literary approach to Arabic. His aim for teaching literature has enriched the program’s offerings so students grow to appreciate the literary and cultural heritage of the Middle East, as well as the primary language of the region. A summa cum laude graduate of Dartmouth where he majored in Latin and Greek, Liebhaber holds an M.A. in comparative Semitics and a Ph.D. in Arabic literature, both from the University of California, Berkeley. He has received fellowships from the National Endowment for the Humanities, Fulbright Foundation, and Mellon Foundation. Congratulations to Sam from everyone at SBMS!

1990
Class Rep: Anita Samaha
anitasamaha@gmail.com

1991
Class Reps: Gunisha Pasiirt
gunisha@gmail.com and
Sharon (Gerber) Dellimagine
sharondellimagine@gmail.com

1992
At the finish line of the Argen Tour of California’s stop in Santa Barbara, Erika Lindemann received a Velo Wings Award. Presented by the Santa Barbara Bicycle Coalition, the award honors Erika for her many years of work in creating a community of cycling in our town. Erika is on the S.B. Bicycle Coalition board and has also served with the S.B. Mountain Trail Volunteers and helped create CycleMAinya.

1994
Class Rep: Kara Petersen
kara@sbms.org

1997
Class Rep: Allegra Bartlett
allegrabartlett@gmail.com

1999
Chaitanya Mehra was named to the prestigious Forbes Magazine 30 Under 30 list in the Finance category. Chaitanya is a portfolio manager with Och-Ziff Capital Management, focusing on energy at Dan O’H’s $35 billion firm, one of the largest hedge funds in the world.

2000
Class Rep: Breenah Yohe-Mellor
breenahyohe@yahoo.com

2003
Class Rep: BVSuding
bvsuding@gmail.com

2010
Class Rep: Tristan Bloomer
tbloomer14@yahoo.com

Seeds for the Future

Leyla Cabugos ’98, writes about how her a “green thumb” she developed as a youngster and at SBMS has grown into a whole life!

When I was four, my parents and I spent a year volunteering on organic farms in Australia and New Zealand. “Down Under,” I learned about Seed Savers Network, who became lifelong mentors of mine. After high school, I did an internship with them, and another one with their colleagues at the Green Foundation in South India after graduating from Humboldt State with a BS in botany.

I spent eight years in Honolulu, where I got a Master’s in Botany. I was director of a school garden program for the Hawaii Association of Independent Schools. I returned to California to pursue a career in the organic and heirloom seed industry as seed curator for the Sustainable Seed Company in Covelo.

I maintain and catalogue the 3000-plus samples in our seed bank, managing contracts with small farmers who grow for us, and preparing all of the seed grown on our farm. Our work is focused on ensuring continued access to crop diversity for farmers and gardeners, and we bring old varieties of grain and vegetables back into circulation from sources like the National Germplasm Bank. After running the school garden program and seeing how novel this concept is at some schools still, I’m grateful to always have had a garden elective at SBMS, as well as support for the notion that, through community connections, opportunities will present themselves to pursue whatever dream I might have.

Class of 2011 Reunion

Every May we invite our alumni to return to SBMS for their first reunion to celebrate their high school graduation. This year we gathered in the library to escape the heat and celebrate the class of 2011. Around a circle, we recounted our favorite memories and shared ice cream sundaes. The high school reunion is quickly becoming one of our favorite alumni traditions and we look forward to celebrating the class of 2012 next year!

An Action Wedding!

On April 27, 2014, Elizabeth Schwzyzer ’94 and Steve Smith ran up Gibraltar Road, and got married in the rocks near La Cumbre Peak. One week later, they celebrated their marriage with a big party at Godric Grove, where Elizabeth went through Rites of Passage 20 years ago! Elizabeth was also a teacher at SBMS. This July, Elizabeth and Steve will be relocating to the Bay Area, where Steve will join the psychology faculty at Palo Alto University, and Elizabeth will continue to write, teach, and coach writers. They’re planning to be back in town for frequent visits.

Here are some of the colleges and universities to which SBMS ‘11 students were accepted for this fall:

Bard College
California Polytechnic State University
San Luis Obispo
California State University Chico
California State University Long Beach
Colby Sawyer College
Connecticut College
Hendrix College
Kenyon College
Lewis and Clark College
Scripps College
University of California
San Diego
University of Oregon
University of Puget Sound
Wesleyan
Whitman College
Willamette University

CLASS REPS:

An Action Wedding!

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Wesleyan
Whitman College
Willamette University

WESLEYAN
The DiamonD Summer 2014

Community

Alumni Athletes Shine!

Alex Valente At the 2014 CIF Championships in May, Alex set a new CIF record in the 100-meter butterfly (46.69 seconds). Earlier this year, Alex broke a national age-group record in the 100-yard butterfly (46.99 seconds). On the number-one doubles team, he made the quarterfinals of the prestigious Ojai tournament, and is currently ranked in the top 50 by the USAT. Jackson will be playing and training in Spain this summer, so the other Channel League teams will have to watch out!

Jackson Powell Heading into his junior year at Santa Barbara High School, Jackson is one of the top tennis players in the county. He was the Channel League rookie of the year as a freshman and was first-team all-league as a sophomore. On the number-one doubles team, he made the quarterfinals of the prestigious Ojai tournament, and is currently ranked in the top 50 by the USTA. Jackson will be playing and training in Spain this summer, so the other Channel League teams will have to watch out!

Thanks to John Drwal/Prewido Sports (left) and Rich Powell (right)

Class of 1993 Reunion

We celebrated the SBMS class of 1993’s 20th reunion this past year. To honor the class that graduated two decades ago, we invited them to join in a host of SBMS activities to relive their glory days and experience SBMS in the present day...the more things change the more they stay the same. The reunion began with a special Winter Solstice sunrise swim and continued through lunch and a Friday Town Meeting to honor and introduce the alumni to the current student body. Alumni, teachers, current students, friends, and families of SBMS mingled on the trail as they made their way up Romero to watch the sunset on the shortest day of the year. The reunion culminated with a special showing of the 1993 Bite of the Wheel trip movie.

Nora Brickman After 12 years in the professional dance world, Nora is semi-retired and her knees are thrilled. She teaches pilates to private clients in Los Angeles where she lives with her husband Bob and her awesome two-year-old daughter, Sadie.

Traford Burke Full time Special Ed Teacher at SBHS, engaged to a beautiful woman named Natalla Rossi, has really neat blue shoes with suede tops and rubber bottoms.

Sophie (Cohan) Friedman I am happily living here in Santa Barbara. I teach art to about five hundred elementary school students! I am enjoying life with my husband and two fluffy cats...and I’m having my first baby this spring!

Anna Drake Anna is a professional psychotherapist living and working in Santa Barbara with her wonderful family.

Ara Erickson Ara lives in Seattle, relishing the Northwest green and nature. She lives on the same property as her parents, Ben and Gilda, enjoying life with her husband, Eric, and son Levi. She misses the sunshine of Santa Barbara and the sunsets over the ocean.

Celeste Hoffpauf I am a theater arts and ethnic studies teacher and academic dean at a charter high school in Hayward, Calif. Much of my work is inspired by SBMS, Eric Lehman, and Santa Barbara Summer Stock. I live with my husband and two cats in Oakland, CA.

Vanessa Schlaic After college I moved from San Francisco to Los Angeles and worked as a storyboard artist. I later landed a gig as a producer for Activision. The recession hit, and the project I was working on was cancelled. Upon receiving a job offer in New York City, I realized I absolutely did not want to work in the game industry. So I went off the grid and lived with one-percenters in a trailer in the Mojave without running water or electricity. During this time I learned the fine skills of truly conserving water, finding meteorites, and hunting rattlesnakes. Next I moved to Michigan’s Upper Peninsula, which is where I still live. Current activities include studying condensed matter physics at Michigan Technologi- cal University and not much else. Besides that, um... divorced twice, have three cats, and am trained in Krav Maga.

Class of 1994, mark your calendar! It’s your turn next. The 20th Reunion of the Class of 1994 is Friday, December 19! If you are interested in planning your reunion email kara@sbms.org.

Katie Roberts: 1957 – 2014

We are very saddened to share the news that SBMS parent extraordinaire, Katie Roberts passed away June 18. Along with her husband Matt, SBMS shares this loss with Katie and Matt’s two children Aaron (2009) and Claire Ann (2013). In the words of Katie’s friend and former SBMS parent and Board Member, Ted Rhodes, “Katie will be greatly missed by all of us whom she befriended with her sharp wit, intelligence, thoughtfulness, and engaging smile. Yes, she will be missed by all of us with whom she shared books, music, and recipes; regaled with stories; volunteered; and worked alongside to make this a better world, whether it was trying to introduce progressive ideas and inspiration to a lackluster school district administration or saving a special swath of coastline such as the Carpinteria Bluffs. Katie will be missed by every former 3rd grader whom, thanks in large part to Katie’s energy, organizing skills, and leadership, had the opportunity to visit the Carpinteria Bluffs for the first time as part of our annual Citizens for the Carpinteria Bluffs Earth Day.”

Katie published the SBMS Scoop and volunteered in the SBMS library for many years. Here is Colby’s memory of Katie: “Katie was the smartest, strongest, funniest, most versatile person I have ever met. She could (and would) do anything! She volunteered in the library (including running it for two weeks so I could be with my daughter while my granddaughter was born). On Tuesdays, she would carpool with several kids to SBMS—come to the library and put things in order, write and correct the Scoop, work in the Deli, and then go walk five miles to keep in shape, all with a smile and a joke, while she was fighting cancer. I will miss her more than I can say—and I’m sure I’m only one of hundreds.”

If the adage is true that “you live on in other’s hearts by your words and actions,” Katie will live on forever in the hearts of all of us at SBMS.

SBMS Babies!

Might these be the Bike Monkeys and music-makers of the SBMS Class of 2028?

Serena Lehman We had our baby boy at home on April 15th. His name is Lorence Burkely Darnell Fulghum Jr. Fun fact: I commuted by bike through-out my pregnancy until the day he was born.

Novy Schubach ’94, and his fiancé Alex-is Adler: June Harper Schubach, 7.5 pounds, 20.5 inches, born at 10:58 pm on 5.12.14 at Santa Rosa Memorial Hospital (the closest one to Gualala where she’ll grow up on the ranch feeding chickens and lammas and growing fresh vegetables)
A huge thank you to our community for a fabulous event and wildly successful “Gilligan's Island” dinner and auction! We are so grateful to the many sponsors, donors, parents, students, grandparents, teachers, trustees, alumni, and volunteers who made this event a huge success. We raised more than $250,000—for SBMS!

Held at the charming Rockwood Woman’s Club and chaired by SBMS parents Meghan White-Skinner and Toyo Peluso, this year’s dinner and auction was a night to remember! The entertaining student performance, palm-tree-thatched bars, costumes, catering, and decor were outstanding. If you missed this year’s event, you missed one heck of a night.

Many thanks to the tremendous work of so many volunteers who made this night possible! For our Decorations Team setting the mood, to students and parents who created stunning art projects, to all of the parents, alumni, and volunteers who made this event a huge success, we can't thank you enough.

A special thanks goes out to Auction Chairs Meghan White-Skinner and Toyo Peluso, this year’s dinner and auction was a night to remember! The entertaining student performance, palm-tree-thatched bars, costumes, catering, and decor were outstanding. If you missed this year’s event, you missed one heck of a night.

Thank you to everyone who contributed to our financial assistance program. Your generosity allows us to share the SBMS experience and make a difference in the lives of families for years to come.

—Christine Cowles, Benjamin, Development Director
SAVE THE DATE

AUGUST
New Family Party
Sunday, August 24
SBMS Diamond Day:
Optional Information and Orientation Day
(recommended for new parents;
returning parents encouraged)
Thursday, August 28

SEPTEMBER
Labor Day (No School)
Monday, September 1
9th Grade Orientation
Tuesday, September 2
First Day of School for All Students
Wednesday, September 3
Orientation Ride & Overnight Expedition
Thursday, September 4 - Friday, September 5
Pedal & Picnic for 6th & 7th Graders
Friday, September 12
6th & 7th Grade Back-to-School Night
Tuesday, September 16
School Photo Day
Tuesday, September 16
Ninth Grade Trip to Channel Islands
8th & 9th Grade Back to School Night
Tuesday, September 30

OCTOBER
Fall Expedition, All Students
Monday, October 20 – Saturday, October 25
Homecoming
Saturday, October 25
Recuperation Day (No School)
Monday, October 27

NOVEMBER
ERB Testing: Normal Dismissal at 3:30 pm
Monday, November 17
ERB Testing: Early Dismissal at 2:00 pm
Tuesday, November 18
Conferences and Career Study Week
Wednesday, November 19 – Wednesday, No-

Peace
By Casmali Lopez
Peace is an absence of fighting? Of War? Of Disagreement?
An absence of fighting, war and disagreement would be inhuman.
An absence of fighting, war and disagreement would destroy itself,
because, with the common idea of peace we would also lose opinion and identity.
Yet, as a race, we long unconditionally for peace.