SBMS COMMUNITY: STRONGER TOGETHER
When we first introduced our theme for the school year last fall, we talked about the opportunities and challenges of this age, about exploring the edges of our maps, and of facing our dragons as a means to self-discovery. We encouraged each other to deepen our curiosity and to ask life’s big questions: Why am I here? What are my gifts? How can I use them to build a life of passion, purpose, and meaning?

We have always known that these middle school years—the messy business of becoming—requires courage, compassion, and creativity to achieve lasting growth and real transformation. In most school years, we hope to find clues to these answers by learning about great works of literature, art, and philosophy, by climbing mountains, and through gathering around a fire. This year of dragons, however, was simply like no other. The challenges we faced were not ones most middle school students, teachers and parents are confronted with, even in the most difficult of years. We have experienced unimaginable losses together, grieved together, cried together, and we have circled up over and over again until we could take our first steps towards healing—**together**.

In the midst of all this unimaginable pain and suffering, we have also been blessed with the miracle of Kim and Lauren Cantin’s rescue and recovery. I will never forget the images and stories of Lauren being pulled from the mud, of Kim riding twenty miles into camp on our Oregon Rite of the Wheel Expedition, and of Jack’s friends circling up to honor his memory. The sound of Lauren’s voice serenading us around our campfires and the strength of Kim’s indomitable Cantin spirit will always give me hope in the face life’s greatest challenges. From Bucket Brigades to the countless acts of kindness and heroism of our first responders, friends, and strangers, we have been reminded of what really matters.

As I watched our 9th graders being honored at our Rites of Passage ceremony in June, it became clear to me that these young graduates had come of age months before the fanfare of this ceremony, and had done so with a courage, compassion, and wisdom well beyond their years. This edition of *The Diamond* is filled with many stories and lessons of curiosity, courage, and change that will long outlive our year of dragons together. It is dedicated to our 9th grade class and to our beloved Cantin family—to Lauren, Kim, Jack and Dave. We love you.

**With love and gratitude,**

Brian
Welcome Brandi Cass, HR & Accounting Specialist

Brandi is starting at SBMS for the 2018/2019 school year as the new HR and Accounting Specialist. She will be working to help manage the resources of the school in support of the students, family and staff. Brandi has eight years of experience in finance and personnel operations working at local technology companies in Santa Barbara. She moved to Santa Barbara in 2004 to attend UCSB as a Psychology major with a minor in Applied Psychology and Education. After graduation from UCSB she moved to Normandy for a year where she taught English for an elementary and high school (collège et lycée). "After my year in France, learning French and eating my fill of pain au chocolat, I returned to Santa Barbara, because how could anyone really leave this beautiful place for too long? Here is where I had my sweet and loving son, Landon, who turns five this year. And where I met my partner who was in the class of '99 at SBMS," stated Brandi. She loves to travel, swim, rock climb, garden and practice yoga. In 2012, she completed her yoga instructor certification, including children’s yoga and meditation. "I am thrilled to be a part of Santa Barbara Middle School and can’t wait to be integrated into its culture." Stop by the main office and say hi to Brandi!

Welcome Bianca Vega, New Assistant Head of School

We are thrilled to announce that we have hired a new Assistant Head of School! Bianca Vega will be joining the SBMS family for the 2018-19 school year and is taking over the assistant head position from Jim Brady. Jim has served as assistant head since 2001 and will be stepping down at the end of this school year to spend more time with family. Jim will still be teaching SBMS next year, bringing his expertise to our Outdoor Education program while also teaching seminars.

A native of Santa Barbara, Bianca attended Marymount School and graduated from Santa Barbara High School. She went to Stanford University and earned her Master’s Degree in Education from Loyola Marymount University. Bianca has been an educator for the past 13 years in public, charter and independent schools in Los Angeles, San Francisco, Thailand, Mexico and Colombia.

For the past three years, she has been the assistant principal for the Middle School at The Colombus School in Colombia, providing leadership to its 350 students and their families. She has focused her time as assistant principal on the social-emotional development of pre-adolescents and adolescents while also leading service-oriented outdoor trips. Bianca wants to help create empathetic, collaborative, creative, and global-minded citizens.

Vega, who together with her husband Joey are raising two children, said, “I am beyond excited and honored to become a part of the Santa Barbara Middle School family. From the moment I stepped on the campus and was able to meet the different members of this school, I felt a strong sense of community, creativity, dedication and inclusion. I feel extremely privileged to be given the opportunity to serve the staff, students, and families in the role of assistant head of school and look forward to working closely alongside all of you.”

Fall Intern: Alum Christina Tebbe ’11

I am currently a fourth year student at Northeastern University majoring in Psychology and minoring in Criminal Justice. My university has a unique program called “co-op” which allows me to take 6 months off of classes to go work in the field of my choice. I have always been curious about teaching, and wanted to try a job that revolved around working at a school. Santa Barbara Middle School immediately came to my mind as a potential place I’d like to work at because I am a strong believer in the school’s philosophy on education. I was blessed to be given the opportunity to spend the past 5 months working at SBMS as an intern teacher. I worked mainly with the 9th grade English class, but also was able to help co-teach the yoga elective, assist with the learning specialist, provide assistance in administrative offices, contribute with preparing food in the deli, and substituting classes. I was able to interact with students across all grades and saw the growth and development that took place within each student. It was such a rewarding feeling being able to take part in each student’s education, both inside and outside of the classroom. I couldn’t have asked for a better 5 months, and I look forward to pursuing a possible career in teaching.
Six months after the devastating Montecito debris flow, it is still difficult to believe our SBMS community has lost two of our own, alum John “Jack” Cantin ’16 and parent Dave Cantin.

Jack Cantin, 17, of Montecito, had been missing since the Montecito mudslides and is now presumed dead. His mother, Kimberly, and his sister, Lauren, were injured, and his father, David, 49, and his dog Chester, an Irish Setter, were killed.

Jack was born in Oceanside, California, and spent his first four years in Carlsbad. He lived just a few streets away from his grandparents and enjoyed each Friday at Grandma and Grandpa’s, exploring neighborhood parks and playgrounds. He then moved with his family to Mason, Ohio, spending his next five years in the Midwest, running in open yards of grass and sledding down the hill near the back of his house.

In 2010, Jack and his family relocated to Santa Barbara, where he became a “California kid” again. He attended Montecito Union School (MUS) and had happy times with his new friends at the carnivals and in the 6th-grade production of Willy Wonka. His teachers said he brought his warm smile and wide, open-mouthed laughter to the classroom; Jack was kind and loved to make people laugh.

After MUS, Jack attended Santa Barbara Middle School. He thoroughly enjoyed his time here, be it in the classroom or during the school biking trips. By age 15, Jack had biked more than 1,000 miles with his friends, exploring California, Oregon, and Arizona. Inspired by adventure, he rode 300 miles from Umbria, Italy, to Rome in the summer after 7th grade. His dad joined him in Rome, where they visited the Vatican.

Always wanting to help others, Jack cofounded Teens on the Scene, a community service group that did city clean-ups, served the homeless, and worked at the Unity Shoppe, Foodbank, and Humane Society. Teens on the Scene is now in four local high schools and two middle schools and has more than 100 volunteers.

In 2016, Jack and his group were awarded the Spirit of Service Award in the Clean Community category by the City of Santa Barbara.

Jack was active in the Boy Scouts and earned its highest rank, the Eagle Scout Award, in 9th grade. With his father as scoutmaster, Jack experienced many backcountry hiking and camping trips with the troop. Off Catalina Island, he learned how to scuba dive and performed his first dive with his dad.

Intellectually curious, Jack attended the UCSB Science & Engineering Research Academy last summer. Just prior to the mudslides, he was invited to the National Student Leadership Conference and was eager to participate in the business and entrepreneur program at the University of California, Berkeley next summer.

Jack will be remembered for his kindness, sense of humor, genuineness, and ability to inspire others. He was dearly loved by his family and friends. In a humble manner, Jack wanted to make a positive difference. He was a loving and cherished son and grandson and an adoring brother to his sister, Lauren.

Jack’s memorial service was held on Saturday, March 17 at Santa Barbara Mission. If you’d like to make a donation in his honor, the family asks that you consider donations to the Foodbank of Santa Barbara County. Visit www.foodbanksbc.org to make a gift.
Honoring Jack
by Ami Hammond, ’16

The 9th grade year at SBMS culminates with the Fire Honorings. Each student randomly picks the name of another student out of a hat about a month before the Rite of the Wheel Expedition. After weeks of research that include contacting friends, family, and teachers, students write letters to one another. On the Rite of the Wheel Expedition, each night at the fire, students take turns reading these letters. Below is the honoring letter written by Ami Hammond in 2016 for and about Jack Cantin.

Jack, hidden behind his narrow black glasses is a risk taking, hard working, adventurer. He has amused so many people with his humor, liveliness and the occasional Mrs. Potts costume. By age 15 he has achieved getting Scuba certified, starting his own community service group and reaching his Eagle Scout ranking in Boy Scouts. His quote for his prayer flag reveals a lot about him: “Our prime purpose in this life is to help others. And if you can’t help them at least don’t hurt them.” —Dalai Lama. Jack, today I am here as your Boy Scout counselor, to honor you on your life’s many achievements. Tonight you have all seen Jack light a fire and so the first badge you have earned is the fire starting badge.

Friendship is very important Jack. Jack has been friends with Emily since 5th grade. In 7th grade Emily asked Jack to try out for the Nutcracker with her. Jack, being the good friend that he is, said yes. When they showed up to the rehearsal he walked into a room full of girls wearing pink leotards and tutus with their hair tied tightly into buns. A lady handed him a boy’s outfit. After he tried it on he gave it back to the lady and politely said to her and Emily, “I’ll think about it” then, racing to the car with his mom he said “no way!! Emily is a good friend, but I’m not doing this!” For this I am giving you your ballerina badge. Another time Jack showed his amazing friendship was the first night on the Islands trip. Avalon was telling Brian she had fallen and hit her head pretty hard. Jack overheard this conversation and suggested that they ask her simple math problems to see if she had a concussion. Later, he watched to see if she looked or felt all right. For this I am giving you your paramedic badge. For your amazing friendship you have earned your friendship badge.

Jack has been a Boy Scout since 6th grade. At age 12 he graduated from Cub Scouts to Boy Scouts. There were two 17-year-old scouts that led the meetings every Sunday, but when they graduated, Jack was the next oldest so he led the meetings. At age 12!!! He taught younger kids how to do simple skills for them to get their badges. For this I am giving you your leadership badge. As he got older, he took on more responsibilities such as renovating the recess area at Cleveland School. He planned on doing this during spring break but their spring break was during our mid year trips. So the day after Jack got back from mule packing he was up at 6am. He worked 13 hour days for three days straight. When the renovation was complete, a young boy came up to him and said, “Thanks for doing this, it really looks great.” For this you have earned your commitment badge. Jack is one of the founders and is president of a community service group called Teens on the Scene. They do a monthly community service that ranges from serving food at a homeless shelter, helping special needs kids play flag football, and cleaning the beaches. For this I am giving you your community service badge.

Just last month Jack accomplished what most Boy Scouts dream of; he got his Eagle Scout ranking. Only 4% of the Boy Scouts in the US have reached this ranking. Most US presidents and major CEO’s of companies have been Eagle Scouts. To get your Eagle ranking you have to complete 21 merit badges. He is clearly dedicated and really loves what he is doing. When Jack got his Eagle ranking he had to write a personal statement. He said; “A meaningful life for me is to do good work that inspires others to do good work.” I asked Jack if he got a shirt when he was was given his Eagle ranking and he said no… a badge. I thought that was pretty lame so here is a shirt that says SBMS Eagle Scout. This symbolizes his leadership skills and all that he has contributed to SBMS. When Jack first came to SBMS, he was timid and shy, but now he is bold and brave and over these last three years has contributed so much to this school.

Jack, you are such a joy to have in class and I have had so much fun getting to know you more while writing this letter. I look forward to seeing where you end up in life whether it’s a pediatric surgeon or president of the United States.

—Ami Hammond, ’16
Growing Our Garden

When we moved into our new home in 2011, we created a garden with the vision of growing enough produce to feed our school for lunches and also in support of the Outdoor Education Program. The first plantings in our garden were under the guidance and completed by grandparent Julie Hazard Peyton, whose vision and effort have made the garden what it is today (see article about Julie on page 7).

Wanting to expand the size of the garden and create a living, outdoor classroom, in 2017 we were fortunate to receive a generous grant from the Audacious Foundation, an entity who funds community-based garden projects at local schools. Upon receiving this grant, as well as a generous anonymous donation, we assembled the following team in order to expand the garden.

Alum Jesse Smith ’00 and Casey Pfeifer of Tactical Regeneration Team—analyzed soils, sun and water movement on campus and presented options for locations of the garden and garden design; developed garden curriculum
Daniel Parra-Hensel of SBCC Permaculture Program—provided analysis and recommendations of garden design and location;
Ramsey Cronk of SBCC Permaculture Program—built and installed planter boxes on terraced hillside
Current parents Bonnie Barabas and Dan Figlo of Family Tree and Garden—installed the irrigation system and supplied the fruit trees
Current parents Heidi Jensen and Ronald Winston—provided leadership for stonework needed to adequately terrace the hillside
Deli Manager, Chef & alum PA Tremblay (class of ’07), grandparent Julie Peyton & teacher Teresa Jamison—created the vision for the garden program and developed curriculum to integrate the garden with classroom projects and in the Deli

Valencia Tree & Landscape—terraced the hillside and installed stonework

Alum parent and trustee Steve Besserman and Facility Manager Will Fredericks—provided project management as well as construction expertise.

With input from this team as well as students, teachers and staff, we decided to keep the garden in its current location and to expand the footprint by terracing the hillside, adding rock walls to prevent erosion, and installing wood planter boxes as containers for the plants. Work on the first phase of garden expansion began last summer and was completed in early spring. The second phase of the project includes creating an outdoor classroom at the west end of the building with a pergola for shade and seating for students, installing garden art, and planting additional fruit trees.

With a lot of effort, time and sunshine, our garden has grown into a thriving and bountiful haven of delicious, organic produce for our school. Already we are eating different types of lettuce, fennel, and herbs in our Deli on a regular basis—and it’s a huge hit with the students! Not only are we eating produce from the garden during lunch every day, our own produce is feeding students and teachers on trips. In addition, students are helping in the garden during Teresa’s Gardening elective and harvesting produce to make culinary treats under guidance from Deli Manager and Chef PA. With PA’s culinary Diamond Time classes and Teresa’s Gardening elective, students are gaining a better connection to the food they eat, learning about sustainable food production and are excited about eating healthily on a daily basis.

Thank you to the many individuals who collaborated on our garden project!
In 2015, the SBMS community gained a valued master gardener—Julie Hazard Peyton. Born and raised in Santa Barbara, Julie earned an Associate of Science in both Environmental Landscape Design and Computer Drafting from SBCC. Soon after, she began her own gardening service and worked throughout Goleta, Santa Barbara and Hope Ranch. During this time, she honed her skills in garden and landscape design, irrigation, hardscape design and installation, native plantings, and organic gardening. “I was sad to say goodbye to my customers after 6 years, but a new adventure was calling me.”

On a bit of a dare, she became a harbor patrol officer. Within a few years, her talent for leadership earned her the title of Harbor Master where she worked to enforce laws, educate the public, and act as a first responder for medical, fire and other marine related emergencies. After 18 years of service, Julie was ready for her next job—being a grandma!

As her grandson and SBMS alum Jonny Herrera (class of ‘18) grew, he attended Washington Elementary School. There Julie worked her green-thumb magic and tore up playground asphalt to create and maintain wheelchair accessible raised beds, and around the campus she planted bananas, exotic flowers and passion fruit. As Jonny got older, they crossed the SBMS threshold and began a new journey.

Together with her husband John and grandson Jonny, Julie helped design and build our first raised beds. Using her “special mix,” she brought in a truckload of soil and organized a bucket brigade to fill the beds. Planting lettuce, herbs, kale, carrots, peas, tomatoes, green onions and more, Julie and our garden elective class were able to supplement our very own deli salad bar.

For the next three years, Julie planted, maintained and harvested our garden through the school year and throughout the summer. Most days, rain or shine, you will find her harvesting, pruning, planting and watering our garden. She has taught our students planting and propagation techniques as well as the square foot garden method and companion planting. Most importantly, she has instilled in our students the pure joy of gardening. We are truly blessed to have Julie as an integral part of our garden team and reap the benefits of her expertise.
Academics

Rites of Passage 2018

With adoring family, friends and teachers watching, SBMS does something every year that most people don’t take time to do: we honor each of our graduates for their growth during their time at SBMS. For four hours, we laughed, cried and smiled as we listened to stories of each students’ journey, many of whom started as timid or shy and blossomed into the leaders of our school. We are so excited to witness the next journey each of you take in becoming the difference makers of tomorrow!

Lauren Elizabeth Cecilia Cantin honored by Jesse Wooten

Camille Yu-Bi Ngoc-Mai Cheng honored by Kelly Rosenheim

Nicos Regas Nowakowski Christou honored by Melissa and Regas Christou

Fabian Thomas Parr Clifford honored by Michael Jaeger

Kasey Sierra Connors honored by James T. Brady, III

Dylan Lee Edwards honored by Erik Edwards
Isaac Henry Lewis honored by Jesse Kasehagen

Sydney Adrian Long honored by Danielle Bean

McKenna Shaw Maloney honored by Marco Andrade

Quinn J. Fergusson honored by Teresa Jamison

Karissa Carmen Fields honored by Jessica Rubio

Eliana Cecelia Gans honored by Sue Carmody

Fletcher David Larsen honored by David Ricky Larsen

Jack Montgomery Lawrence honored by Eric Lehman

Sadie Jane Leventhal honored by David Teton-Landis

Isaac Henry Lewis honored by Jesse Kasehagen

Sydney Adrian Long honored by Danielle Bean

McKenna Shaw Maloney honored by Marco Andrade
Academics

Morgan Amanda Maloney honored by Kara Petersen

Aidan Francis Meaney honored by Tom Meaney

Reese Ann O'Leary honored by Alexis Skye O'Leary

Sophia Grace Ostovany honored by Wren Miller

Eric Lucien James Permé honored by Emma Permé

Katie Mariam Prudden honored by Pam Boswell

Sascha Ruvena Rose-Smith honored by John Seigel Boettner

Natalie Zoe Scharin (with Will Scharin '16) honored by Elyse Grossman

Jackson Alexander Scranton honored by Matthew Scranton
Academics

Josie Claire Venable honored by Bella Venable

Samuel Jonah Weiss-Chytilo honored by Angela Antenore

Reina Kai Williams honored by Kelly Pierce

Kenna Sophia Sutherland honored by Kathleen Zaratzian

Sofia Caroline Tognotti honored by Pam Herzog

Chloe Beth Van Zant honored by Kenny Van Zant

Liliana Isabel Solano honored by Vicki Lindelof

Cameron Samuel Stone honored by Emily May Stone

Hugh Sutherland, VII honored by Devin Zaratzian

Josie Claire Venable honored by Bella Venable

Samuel Jonah Weiss-Chytilo honored by Angela Antenore

Reina Kai Williams honored by Kelly Pierce
Our Sixth Grade glass started off the school year with a strong beginning and we have become much closer as we experienced the ups and downs together of this challenging year. Twenty-two fresh, new faces greeted us in September, curious and courageous to learn and experience all that SBMS has to offer. These students have adapted and embraced the unique culture of SBMS, carpe-ing each day to the fullest.

The fall expedition to San Simeon was eye-opening for each of them; for many, it was the first time they were away from home for that length of time. We searched for dragons up and down the coast. We rode many miles together, laughed and splashed on the kayaks, walked in wonder at Hearst Castle, made new and long-lasting friendships, and learned what “the fires” really mean. As one student said, “I learned that ‘the fire’ is about truly listening and understanding everyone’s messages. It’s about finding the meaning of life with some of the people that matter most.”

As an intimate group of 22, we have discovered from where each of us came. We read a novel about finding oneself and staying true to who that really is and studied Early Humans by tracing our ancestors from Homo Habilis in Africa over four million years ago to present day Homo Sapiens. We learned about tools and fire making, and we learned about the act of sitting around a fire while sharing stories has been important to humans for millions of years. Students have studied the scientific method and learned about animal and plant adaptations as well as tackled some challenging math problems.

In November, we journeyed north to El Capitan State Beach for three days of bonding, growing, playing, and enjoying each other’s company. We went to UCSB’s REEF touch tanks walked out to the Campus Point Labyrinth. We hiked six miles up Gaviota Peak and enjoyed the most delicious ice cream afterwards. We also learned about “fox walking” and “one match fires” from the Wilderness Youth Program. In the evenings, we sat around the fire, sang songs with Jim, Marco, and Daniel, and participated in our very own, unique to sixth grade, fire ceremony. Students took some time on our hike to be alone with their thoughts and mediated on something that they could let go of as well as something they would like to invite into their lives. They wrote these on a sheet of paper and one by one, burned them in the fire, releasing what is no longer serving them and inviting something new into their lives.

The sixth graders embraced Academic Fair in February, with everyone’s favorite “Shark Tank” as one of the featured projects. Finally, our March Expedition was re-routed from the Santa Barbara back country to the Joshua Tree area due to heavy rains. We were happy to be dry and warm!

This was a unique sixth grade class, which impressed me more each day with their willingness to embrace their new school, new friends, and new culture. We ended the year with a strong finish and incredible End-of-Year Expedition to San Francisco! — Jenna Newburn, 6th Grade Dean
It seems like just yesterday we set off to find the edges of the map in search of the learning alluded to in this year’s school theme, “Where There Be Dragons: Curiosity, Courage & Change.” Excited and charged, our explorers cast off on what was surely to be an incredible voyage to find intellectual vitality, deep connections, and a bit of true grit!

Since then, our seventh grade students and teachers have gone deep into their academic classes to explore the myriad lessons in their subjects, to draw out these eager learners, and engage them in our rigorous and exciting program.

This year at SBMS, the learning on all four sides of “the diamond” has been constant and rich, but also very, very real. With all that we have endured this winter, it is no mistake why one side of our Diamond is called “Community.” The lessons being learned by students young and old about the importance of a strong and giving community have never been more relevant and important. Our hearts continue to go out to all who have been touched by these unprecedented events, and we continue to be inspired by the outpouring of giving that has materialized for those most affected.

On the other sides of “the diamond,” learning has taken our 7th graders to San Simeon and Santa Ynez Valley and brought home lessons that were at once tangible and overt such as, “How do I setup my tent, ride 40 miles in one day or fix a flat tire?” And other questions that lay somewhere deeper were, “Will I make it up the hill, get along with new friends, or understand what ‘the fire’ is all about?”

Since our return from the Fall Expedition and the Mid-Year Expedition, the 7th graders have demonstrated, time and again, in the halls of our school and in our classrooms the knowledge and wisdom gained from these trips, and they have applied those lessons skillfully. Whether it is problem solving with your team to make the sturdiest of catapults in Jesse’s Science class, charting new maps of compassion and understanding in Jonathan’s Human Geography class, or lighting a way for their inner voice to meet the page by writing in Teresa’s English class, there is no doubt our students are polishing all sides of their ‘diamond’!

The 7th grade staff would like to send a special “thank you” to all of our parents this year; it is a blessing to be entrusted with guiding your young ones. We are impressed by their efforts this year - it is a real fuel to our fires! I wish you all a well-deserved peaceful summer!

—Marco Andrade, 7th Grade Dean

FROM THE 7TH GRADE

“I’m just like my country. I’m young, scrappy and hungry and I’m not throwing away my shot!”

—Lin Manuel Miranda from the musical Hamilton
The SBMS Eighth Grade truly embraced the theme of this year, “Where There Be Dragons; Curiosity, Courage, and Change.” Students and staff kicked off the school year with a day of team building and a group brainstorming session about our 8th grade mural project. Students met in small committees and, with the help of Richard Wilke, SBMS resident artist, started developing vision boards for our mural. The mural was completed over the course of the school year and incorporated collective ideas related to the year’s theme along with global issues that resonate with our students. We were excited to see where this journey and process went!

In the academic classrooms, students were hard at work. In Elyse’s English class, students completed an engaging unit on short stories and worked on persuasive writing. Students were excited to choose an issue for which they are passionate and composed poetry for the Poetry Slam, which was part of the Academic Fair program. In history, students engaged in the Twilight Twenties in which they took on a persona from the Twenties and learned about history through research and playing the part of their chosen person. One highlight from science was the “What is Science?” essay where students explored a brief history of science, and examined how to distinguish between scientific and non-scientific processes, the differences between high quality and poor quality research and how the brain processes information scientifically and non-scientifically. In Spanish, students worked hard at utilizing multiple tenses in their speaking and crafting personal movies where they narrated a meaningful story about a past experience in Spanish. Small math cohorts were also hard at work on a variety of individualized math concepts.

Our annual 8th Grade Retreat was held in April at El Capitan Canyon, which included team building, The Ceremony of the Candles for students and parents, and individual vision quests that took place during the darkest most silent part of the morning. —Wren Miller, 8th Grade Dean
On the Channel Islands Expedition at the back of Painted Cave, Brian and I recounted Plato’s “Allegory of the Cave.” Generally thought of as a metaphor for the power of education, the prisoners below live in the dark, in ignorance, while puppeteers cast shadows on a wall for the unquestioned consumption of those chained to the floor. The story then tells of a single prisoner whose curiosity compels him to break his chains, look around, and make the difficult ascension to the world above ground, filled with light, intricacy, color, and depth.

This is the point of SBMS, and particularly of the 9th grade: to help young people see what the world can look like with curiosity and effort. In the 9th grade, teachers encourage students to ask the big questions; read, think, and write analytically; solve problems collaboratively and creatively; learn a foreign language with purpose; and study the physical world with the keen eye of a scientist and environmentalist. The elective program gives them the opportunity to explore new activities and/or deepen their skills in an existing passion. Lastly, the Community Service Program, Outdoor Program and The Call allow students to take on leadership roles in the community, in nature, and on campus, putting them in a position of responsibility and ownership.

I’m proud to say that this year 9th graders have truly taken the lessons of the cave to heart. They’ve signed up, flexed with all of the changes and challenges we’ve experienced, raised their hands, stepped up to leadership roles, and done everything they can to wring every last drop out of what SBMS has to offer. That day on Santa Cruz Island, as I exited the cave and saw the silhouettes of students in kayaks against the sky, my eyes worked to adjust and my heart filled with the brilliance of it all.

—Jesse Wooten, 9th Grade Dean
SBMS robotics elective students took their efforts to the next level this year by forming a team, the Prats, and participated in the First Lego League (FLL) competition in November. Despite a late start in September, several members of the robotics elective, led by SBMS parent Andy Beall and SBMS Assistant Director of Educational Technology Colin McNulty, participated in the competition in Camarillo and held their own against 26 other teams.

The theme of the competition was “Water.” Students Barrett Collins, Samir Beall, John Wilmanns, Mack Kelly, Eddie Dodson and Emerson Steady built a robot that could manipulate several obstacles involved in the storage and transportation of Lego water elements.

In addition, the team researched and designed an innovative prototypical tidal basin desalination plant. Powered by hydro-electrics, the plant was designed to produce both clean water and renewable energy with minimal impact on the environment. As part of their research, the team met with Santa Barbara City Water Resources Manager Joshua Haggmark, and learned all about the process of harvesting ocean water for desalination.

Hopefully the SBMS Prats will inspire new members next year. Students interested in robotics should contact Colin McNulty. With a leg up on next fall’s competition who knows how far the team will go! —Sunita Beall, SBMS parent

SBMS Robotics Goes to the Next Level!
Launching into Science

How do students learn best? I believe they get more out of any subject when we, as teachers, incorporate multiple modes of presenting information, whether it be note-taking skills, lecturing on certain concepts, having class discussions, or having students demonstrate their understanding through project-based learning. This year’s seventh graders were tasked with building a model catapult or trebuchet out of recycled materials using power tools. During this project, students learned about the physical concepts of work, simple machines, and energy transfer. Using a note packet of information on the concepts above, students then used the notes to understand how the catapult or trebuchet launches a tennis ball at specific targets.

Although these concepts are relatively simplistic, students had to draw a 3D model using software like Tinkercad and then construct from that drawing. Having limited time, space and resources, students had to improvise during construction to finish on time. By constructing in class, they were able to demonstrate their proficiency in following a plan to attach wood pieces together (joints, adhesives, screws, nails and bracing) as well as, constructing a functional axle for minimal friction and failure.

Because of space, students were put into groups of four or five to complete the project. Each group had at least one person who could use 3D modeling software and at least one person who could provide tools for construction. Challenges in this project were three-fold: 1) construct a working scale model catapult or trebuchet to launch a tennis ball at a target, 2) work as a team to divide the work as equally as possible between each team member, and 3) apply the concepts of work, energy transfer and simple machines to understand how their catapult or trebuchet operated.

After their test launches, students had to evaluate their machines for any design, construction or material flaws and explain how to improve their catapult or trebuchet if they could repeat the project. Final assessment was designed using notes and information from the test launches to answer questions ranging from addressing similarities and differences of the drawing to the actual model (measurements, materials and design) and to explaining how the catapult or trebuchet operates by transferring energy from the position of rest to the moment the tennis ball leaves the machine.

—Jesse Kasehagen, 7th Grade Science Teacher
Iraq War veteran and West Point graduate Paul K. Chappell brought his message of peace and tolerance to our staff and students in a six-month Peace Educator partnership this past fall. With help from the Nuclear Age Peace Foundation, Chappell is the champion behind igniting an international peaceful revolution.

Through his seven-book series on peace literacy, his international keynote lectures, leadership seminars, and classroom workshops, it is Chappell’s hope to wage a peaceful revolution fueled by empathy, purpose, and a sense of belonging. Chappell kicked off our school year with an address bringing a hopeful and inspiring message for our staff. He talked about the current human condition and how best to respond to the varying levels of exposure to the challenging, and sometimes violent and unpredictable, global landscape we face.

“Our entire room of 45 adults listened to Chappell’s 90-minute presentation totally enthralled,” said Whitney Ingersoll. “He speaks from the heart, and his message speaks to archetypal mindsets of what it means to be human. He clearly explained how we can better understand ourselves and others, in order to communicate and live more peacefully, inside and out,” she said. Math teacher Erin Riley said, “Paul gave us a common language and framework that we can use to discuss the work we are already doing and the work we strive to do more of within ourselves and with the students.”

Chappell continued throughout the fall to work with students in our Life Skills classes. One topic he readily teaches is how to recognize that students who present as bullies are actually suffering from their own pain and trauma. Their actions often reflect misaligned self-worth, shame, and a lack of feeling significant. “The best tool to combat a bully is increased empathy, understanding and curiosity,” he said. A sixth-grade student in Danielle Bean’s health class said, “Paul Chappell’s peace education has taught me that bullies are just feeling pain, and that we need to practice empathy to better understand what is underneath their aggression.”

Chappell also taught peace literacy classes in the seventh- and eighth-grade Life Skills classes, and he was the guest speaker at a Parent Association meeting where he addressed how families can support themselves and their children in uncertain times. Chappell provided several more in-service trainings to staff later in the school year. Our goal is to foster a more peaceful and compassionate way to be in the world within oneself, at home, and as a school community.

Visit https://www.wagingpeace.org for more information about Chappell and the work of the Nuclear Age Peace Foundation.

“To survive as a global family we must offer people a more fulfilling vision of what it means to be human.”
—Paul K. Chappell, Peaceful Revolution

—Sue Carmody
Reading Without Walls: School Year Opened with a Group Read

We kicked off the school year with an all-school “read!” Inspired by a national movement — the Reading Without Walls Challenge—all SBMS students and faculty read *Home of the Brave* by Katherine Applegate. Students and faculty got together in small groups to discuss the story of a young Sudanese boy who was a "lost boy" now living in the United States. The novel is written in verse, and provides a rich platform for conversation and contemplation.

The purpose behind the school-wide collaborative “read” was twofold: we wanted to jumpstart our independent reading program and strengthen community across the grades with this popular novel.

Students used the book as a starting point to establish personal reading goals for the year and also begin writing initial journal entries in their literary reflection logs.

For parents and faculty, the SBMS Great Reads for Grown-ups program began its second year by reading *Station Eleven* by Emily St. John Mandel. This National Book Award Fiction Finalist title tied in with the greater Santa Barbara Reads community-wide program which happened in late fall of 2017. During the 2018-2019 school year, parents, alumni and faculty, will read and discuss *Hillbilly Elegy: A Memoir of a Family and Culture in Crisis* by J.D. Vance.

At SBMS, there’s no better way to start the new school year and build community than with a good book.

—Luisa Bird-Robinson, Librarian

Answering “The Call” Ninth Graders Lead and Inspire on Campus

If you walked the Jefferson campus around noon each Tuesday, you might have seen 9th graders in Brian’s office planning the next Town Meeting or discussing the campus Tech Policy, in the deli making something delicious to share with hungry students at lunch, on the blacktop painting the four-square court; in the library filing books and updating the catalogue, in the Bike Monkey room preparing for the next expedition or teaching 6th and 7th graders how to ride in a team; in the Lotus planning the Haunted House or one of the regular “spirit days;” or in Whit’s office collaborating on the Fall or Spring Expedition Media Show. All of these activities, and more were part of The 9th Grade Call, named for its allusion to the Hero’s Journey and to the concept of finding one’s ‘calling’ or vocation.

At SBMS, we want 9th graders to have the chance to practice service-leadership authentically and regularly throughout the year. Students choose the program they want to serve with only one goal in mind: improve and support that aspect of SBMS with effort and enthusiasm. This past year, 9th graders worked in eight different capacities, and while the SBMS community benefitted from their efforts, they experienced what it means to serve, and to be a leader.

—Jesse Wooten, Dean of Ninth Grade
For the past 10 years, SBMS 9th grade Spanish students have ventured to Franklin Elementary School to put their language studies into action. For many of those years, a series of fairy-tales, all presented in full costume and completely in Spanish, thrilled the kindergarten and 1st grade classes of our little sister school.

This year I decided to create a smaller, more interactive program, and thus “Los Amiguitos” (little buddies) was born with immense help of SBMS parent and Franklin first grade teacher Adriana Solano. Each ninth grader wrote and memorized letters of introduction and presented themselves to Sra. Solano’s first graders en español! After introductions were made, they were greeted with a homemade sign made by their new amiguitos, much like we do for new students arriving at SBMS on their first day of school.

Then in small groups SBMS students read “Say Hola to Spanish,” an interactive, bilingual book aimed for young readers. Groups spent time talking about the book and getting to know their new friends. This was the perfect opportunity for the big kids to use their Spanish and build confidence doing so with help from these native Spanish speaking little teachers!

We finished the afternoon with paletas mexicanas (Mexican popsicles) and an energetic session of “Pan. Queso.” (Red Light. Green Light.). Then we returned one more time the following week for games and fun. Our new amiguitos said that the highlight of this afternoon was definitely our rousing game of Simón Dice or Simon Says.

I could not have been more proud of the success of the project. Many 9th graders were touched deeply by the experience. So much so that Adriana and I have already begun collaborating and brainstorming for next year! The opportunities are endless as we have witnessed the beauty and relevance of foreign language learning truly come alive in the eyes of our big and little ¡AMIGUITOS!

—Kelly Rosenheim

Tutoring Elective: Homework Help at Franklin

The Franklin Tutoring elective was offered for two quarters this year. Each quarter, upper school students signed up to go down to Franklin to work with 3rd-6th graders after school from 3:00-4:00 pm to help with their math, English, and history homework assignments. Karissa, Lily, and McKenna signed up to tutor for the second quarter while Nicos, Reese, and Karissa again signed up for the third quarter. Both quarters were very successful in giving the Franklin students access to a productive work environment with tutors to help engage, keep focus, answer questions, as well as give them additional instruction.
Walk for Water
Raising Awareness of Global Water Issues

On Thursday, April 16, our seventh grade students and teachers participated in Walk for Water 2018. Starting at 7:30 am, students walked from Rocky Nook Park to campus carrying one to five gallons of water per person in homemade carriers and buckets. This experiential activity gives students a glimpse into what millions of people around the globe must do every day to obtain clean water, and helps raise student awareness for the lack of clean water around the world.

In their seventh grade Human Geography class, students read A Long Walk to Water by Linda Sue Park as part of the curriculum designed to introduce students to the issues surrounding access to clean water in developing countries. Students also learned about our own local drought while tracking their personal water usage for a week.

This was the 5th Walk for Water that SBMS students have participated in. It was held in conjunction with the school’s Community Action Club and the WE Movement’s campaign, WE Walk for Water. WE Walk for Water is an international movement to raise money and awareness for clean water for individuals and communities in developing countries.

Students and our Community Action Club also raised money by holding bake sales on campus. Funds raised were donated to Water.org who believes, “Water is the way to break the cycle of poverty, to protect and save lives, and to make a bright future possible for all.”

Science in Action:
Suturing & Learning About the Heart

Sadie’s mom Dr. Rebecca Miller (otherwise known as “Sadie’s Mom”) joined the 8th grade class as guest instructor to teach the students basic suturing techniques. Using tangelos and mandarin oranges, the students made a series of cuts and then used proper suture technique to repair the oranges. Suturing is not taught in order to perform “Rambo-like” wound healing in the woods, but rather learned in preparation for the class’s mammal dissections which followed the suturing lesson. After many students approached Dr. Miller wanting to learn more about suturing techniques, she offered students an opportunity to watch her perform surgery at her practice!

After studying the cardiovascular system, Dr. Sunita Beall (Samir’s mom) came in to give us a presentation on the structure, function and diseases of the heart. Students now have a broader understanding of the heart. Thank you Sunita and Rebecca; both presentations were quite powerful!

—Victor Dominicielo
Academic Fair

From sixth grade’s Shark Tank combining science and humanities to the 9th grade study of Shakespeare, this year’s academic fair was a cross-curricular success!

6th GRADE

This year the academic fair was split into three different nights to include all of the projects. The sixth and seventh grade celebrated their knowledge together with 6th grade kicking off the night in the Brooks Lab. Teams of students researched issues around the globe and created an invention to solve some of the biggest problems. In order to finance their projects, the young entrepreneurs had to present a business plan to parents.

7th GRADE

7th graders wowed parents with their Authors Alive, Telenovelas, Tapas y Tierras, Kiva and Math, and Science Explorations! Author’s Alive turned the Lotus Theater into a wax museum and presented well-researched reports covering the lives of many of our most beloved authors. There was a fiesta deliciosa in the foyer with the Spanish project: Telenovelas, Tapas y Tierras. Returning for its 7th year, the Kiva project has included 400 SBMS students and made over $65,500 loans to 2,550 individuals around the world!
8th GRADE

8th Grade had their own night this year—a full showcase of poetry, dance, and drama to highlight the history and English lessons learned by this year’s 8th grade, from Hamilton to Westside Story. Classic scenes from historical productions were interwoven with original works of slam poetry composed by 8th graders on current issues from women’s rights to racism.

9th GRADE

9th Grade had their own night with a performance of Romeo and Juliet as well as a robotics demonstration. These projects are not only a beloved tradition for our students but become what many of our alumni remember as highlights of their classroom experience at SBMS.
Helping Our Community Heal

After the Santa Barbara community experienced raging wildfires and the devastating mudslide, our Community Action Club got to work to make sure their school community members who were displaced — those that had lost their home, those who lost family and friends to the devastation, and those that lost their sense of stability and spirit — were not alone. How did the students show their support? By creating galvanized “Sunshine Buckets” and filling each bucket with support and comfort items — from wildflower seeds to homemade prayer flags, and “life savers” to hot chocolate, over 45 friends and families at our school were showered with student-powered sunshine and support. The Community Action Club also sold “SB Strong” t-shirts, which were created by a student at Laguna Blanca and sold throughout our community to show solidarity after the tragic events in December and January.

Hurricane Harvey Relief

SBMS Community Action Club with the good fortune of an introduction from SBMS alum, Rosi Lewis (Class of 2007), teamed up to help support the rebuilding of Herrera Elementary School in Houston, Texas, after the devastation of Hurricane Harvey. Herrera Elementary is where Lewis used to teach. SBMS students organized “Bingo for Backpacks for Houston,” a weekly fundraising event and a school supply drive where they raised enough funds to purchase 600 backpacks and ship 5 boxes filled with pens, paper, notebooks, glue, crayons, and scissors. Santa Ynez Family School with former SBMS teacher Kira Brady’s 4th grade class, also teamed up with SBMS to donate $700 additional dollars to the cause. Brady’s group of 4th graders visited SBMS to help box and ship the school supplies with the Community Action Club.

—Sue Carmody
Fridays Are Special

Every Friday afternoon during Friday elective this spring, our Community Action Club spent time at different non-profits, spreading good will and helping with various tasks. One of these Fridays was spent at Bici Centro, where the students repaired used bikes, prepped bike parts to be sold, and re-purposed small bike parts to be used in a jewelry making event at MOXI!

A Day of Silence

Our 9th grade Council of Nine and our Community Action Club came together to plan a Day of Silence, joining the nationwide movement to commemorate and pay respect to the 17 victims in Parkland, FL, who lost their lives in the Parkland school shooting. The entire school circled up in the Lotus to quietly pay respects to those 17 victims, as well as to recognize other groups who also have lost their “own voice” to fight for the change they desire. The 9th grade council left students with a sense of empowerment and hope by sharing with them some concrete action steps that all of us can take to ensure that our own voices are never silenced.

Pop-up Art Show

On May 1 we held a “pop-up” event, featuring student works of art from the Painting, Art Journals, Drawing, Handmade Books, Cardboard Art, Digital Art, Photography and Mixed Media classes. A huge thank you to art teacher Sophie Frieman for coordinating the art show!
Girls Varsity Volleyball

The girls varsity volleyball team had a great season. We had players who had never been on a volleyball team playing alongside girls who have played several years of club volleyball. We started off the season a little slow while learning the rotations that are used on club and high school teams. Once we had those down, the team began to play well together. By the end of the season the girls had improved tremendously and were playing some high quality volleyball! This year’s team was a great example of how positive attitudes and hard work will result in huge improvement and a lot of fun.

—Erik Edwards

JV Girls Volleyball . . . One, Two, Yellow and Blue!

This year’s volleyball season kicked off with an impressive JV girls team representing SBMS. The team played each game with amazing support for their teammates, put forth a lot of effort on the court, and was never without a good cheer. Every practice was full of fun drills, skills development as new friendships formed. Although the team ended the season without any match wins, the game scores were not representative of how hard they worked and how much their ability progressed during the season. Our coaches are so proud of every single player and looking forward to hopefully having everyone back on the court throughout the year and next season too!

—Phoebe Hitchman

Boys Varsity Volleyball

We finished our season with a winning record, which exceeded expectations. The highlight of our year, odd as it sounds, was a loss. We traveled to Marymount with only four players, and lost to them by one point in Game 3. We outplayed them with ball control and solid serving, we could just cover the whole court. This season our players improved their physical and mental skills as well as learning high school level rotations.

Boys JV Volleyball

What a fantastic season for the JV Volleyball team! Some of these boys went from never touching a volleyball before to developing an amazing volleyball foundation and skill set. No matter if they were behind in a match or game, these team members always fought for the victory - only losing one match the entire season. What impresses me the most is how the boys all finally gelled together as a team, how much more consistent each player became, and each player’s determination to turn a game around when necessary and win. It was a very fun team to coach - thanks for another great season, JV!

— Coach Betsy
Boys Soccer

What a fantastic season! The boys capped off an undefeated season with a 3-0 victory against a very strong Providence team in the championship match under the tutelage of coaching extraordinaire Ole Mikkelsen. Coach Ole volunteered to lead the team this season and encouraged the team to work hard and play together. Twelve players (well over half the team) scored goals this season, and even more had assists. Everyone played their hearts out and contributed significantly on the defensive end. The 8th grade leadership from club and non-club players was remarkable; they left their mark on the program by setting a great example for the 6th and 7th graders to follow in next year’s playoff run to defend our championship.

—Coach Ole

Coed Flag Football

We had a great season! We finished third among the teams and our players are individually athletically gifted. They worked well as a team and spent their time learning the skills of broken field running, head faking and pattern running. The coaches are looking forward to seeing how they develop for next year’s season.

—Victor & Scott

Girls Basketball: Playing with a Positive Attitude

This year’s girls basketball team brought great attitude, determination, and a playful spirit to each practice and game. We were a small team, just six players, which included a mix of girls with some team basketball experience and some who were new to the game. Even though we ended the season without a victory, each member of the team never gave up and played hard until the end of every game. More importantly, the girls on the team supported each other and used each game as a learning opportunity, allowing our team to improve throughout the season. While we ended up only able to play a handful of games due to some cancellations and our March trip week, the team always had fun, even recruiting some teachers and fellow students to play some pick-up ball when one game was cancelled. Our last official game against Ojai Valley proved to be our most competitive, and we were able to make it a close game until the end. Overall, the season proved to be memorable, and our girls represented SBMS incredibly to the end!

—Jonathan Davis

JV Boys Basketball: A Bright Future for SBMS Program

Our boys basketball team completed a successful season finishing with a 3-2 record. Even though we were not able to complete a full schedule of games, by the end of our season our team had started to play well together and every game was competitive. Our team was a strong mix of players with club team experience and some who were new to competitive basketball. I was proud of how the veteran players on our team encouraged and supported the new players and found a way to involve everyone in the action. We were a dangerous team when our outside shooters were hitting their 3-pointers! With so much young talent, next season looks to be a promising one for our basketball program.

—Jonathan Davis
Songfest 2018

Student performers looked out from the stage at Chase Palm on Saturday, April 28, to see one of our largest Songfest crowds ever gathered to picnic and listen to an afternoon full of inspiring musical performances by our students, many of them accompanied by fellow students, friends, teachers, and family. Strong, rising winds from the west accompanied the growing musical dynamics, but the day remained sunny and warm. Beginning with a Middle Schooler’s uptempo version of Stevie Wonder’s wonderful Isn’t She Lovely, the show wove together a diverse program of newer songs, including numbers from La La Land and Hamilton, and older Elton John, John Lennon, and Santana classics, ending with a rousing cover of Stevie Wonder’s Signed, Sealed, Delivered.

Produced and directed once again by Marco Andrade and Ted Rhodes, the show owes its success to the talented students who performed; the amazing SBMS “mic monkey” stage crew; the energetic parent and alumni volunteers who helped with stage setup & wrap, baked goods, merchandise tables, and PR; and our ever-loyal Grateful Dads Band who once again accompanied student performers on a number of the songs.

Thank you, one and all, for another great Songfest! —Marco & Ted

Spring Play: The Wizard of Oz

This year’s Spring Drama Performance was one to remember! Students performed their version of The Wizard of Oz, complete with Dorothy, Toto and the munchkins! A huge thank you to parent Yumi Bollag and 6th grader Lylah for the many hours they gave in creating awesome costumes for the Spring Play and also to parent Amy Love for help with choreography, acting, and many other backstage efforts. This year’s The Wizard of Oz play was a show-stopper! Thank you to all involved.
Our SBMS Library: Year in Review

The school year began with our SBMS Library at the center of two new SBMS programs: All-School Community Reads and Independent Reading Journals.

During the first week of school all students and faculty were given a copy of Katherine Applegate’s *Home of the Brave*. It tells the story of a young African refugee adjusting to a new life in the U.S. Written in verse, the book describes adversities and displays of courage experienced by the main character, a boy named Kek. The story beautifully reflected this year’s SBMS theme: Where There Be Dragons: Curiosity, Courage & Change. Inter-grade book discussions enhanced community building, and grew a deeper understanding and appreciation for our shared human experience. Little did we know how much courage and change our community would be asked to experience in the very near future!

Also in September, each student was given a journal in which to write and/or draw personal reading experiences. While journal entries are assigned and expected as part of the SBMS English curriculum, entries themselves are not graded or corrected. The journals live in the library and will follow students through the grades, creating a personal reading history.

Our SBMS Library fiction collection continued to build an up-to-date “treasure chest” of books with titles covering a vast range of interests and reading levels. “If we don’t have it, we’ll get it” is our motto, as student requests are always part of the conversation and fun! Our non-fiction collection has many extra-special items and includes unique donations from the libraries of Ernie Brooks and Hillary Hauser. This year we saw an increasing number of parents check out library materials and we invite you to as well! Parents and family members of students and SBMS alum are all welcome to establish a library account and enjoy the bounty of our SBMS Library collections.

While the library is technically open Monday through Thursday, students are empowered to access and check-out library materials any time. The library maintains a (mostly) quiet environment and acts as a hub for curiosity, creativity, concentrated study and community. Jigsaw puzzles, vintage typewriters, knitting and games are also part of the library scene.

Throughout the year, the library provided classroom lessons and assistance to improve student awareness, and skills, for finding credible online resources. Learning and applying the librarian-created CRAP Test led students to legitimate sources for their research projects and personal interest projects. Our SBMS Library leads with dedication to digital literacy and citizenship.

Library-based SBMS Great Reading For Grown-Ups “book club” kicked off the 2017-18 school year reading *Station Eleven* by Emily St. John Mandel. Little did we know how relevant this title would become! Our group discussion took place just weeks before the devastating Thomas Fire and Mudslides and were eerily relevant. *Empty Mansions: The Mysterious Life of Huguette Clark and the Spending of an American Fortune* was another timely and evocative read. Countless meaningful and heartfelt conversations have been shared this year through reading together and the SBMS Library community program. Next year’s titles will be announced during upcoming Diamond Days, and books will be available for purchase (with revenues supporting the library). If you haven’t already, please join the conversation!

I look forward to next year’s student projects, talking about books and reading with everyone, and building on the quality collections we house. Please stop by, open your own SBMS Library account and join the conversation! Happy Reading!

—Luisa Bird-Robinson, Librarian

Congratulations to these students for earning the SBMS Diamond Reader Awards 2018!

Aidan Meaney
Sascha Rose-Smith
Eric Permé
Morgan Maloney
Jack Scranton
Rebekah Miller
Linea Moe
Kate Sanderfer
Arlen Abbey
Emerson Steady
Katherine Hedrick
Blaise Moody
Cody Busch-Weiss
Samuel Eaton
Charlie Lipman
Macy Krock
Camryn Bernstein
Esme Landeck
Waylon Finkel
Audrey Kramer
Lyla Bollag
Aislinn Kisner
Finley Jacobs
6th Grade Retreat: Three Perfect Days

It was a perfect three days at El Capitan with the 6th graders. We had fun playing with sea creatures at the UCSB touch tanks, climbing Gaviota Peak, going on nature walks and learning to make one match fires. The sixth grade retreat is a unique opportunity for our new students to step into their own without the guidance or pressure of the older students. They help each other set their tents up, make lunches, do dishes and succeed each activity during the day.

Perhaps one of the most powerful moments we shared was when the students had to write down an intention they would like to call into their life, and also something they would like to release. This little piece of paper was then burnt in our evening fire sending out those words into the world. Some shared what they wrote, and some didn’t. Regardless, I believe by doing this ceremony everyone chose to accept some amount of change in their life.

—PA Trembley, Deli Manager & Alum
Over the years, the ninth grade has sought out ways to integrate the curriculum in order for students to learn in a more authentic, holistic, and relevant way. The Channel Islands Expedition and the curriculum built around it is an incredible example of this integration.

In the weeks leading up to the trip in World History, students research island-related topics, ranging from fisheries to kelp forests to oil industry in the channel. Simultaneously in English class, students learn to structure and express their findings in a formal research essay. In Physics, Danielle solidifies their contextual knowledge and prepares them for the field work associated with their chosen research topic. All of this is enriched and supported by studying statistical analysis in Math, ocean and island vocabulary in Spanish, and taking a field trip to UCSB’s Marine Science Institute to learn directly from the Director of the REEF program, Scott Simon, and his university students.

Once on the Vision, ninth graders present their topics each day and do their field work academically. They also snorkel, play music, kayak, write epic poetry, body surf, hike on San Miguel, visit the world’s largest Sea Elephant Rookery... the list goes on. These young people are not “touring” the islands on a boat for four days, but are fully immersed in all aspects of the islands and sharing that with close friends and teachers. The integration of the mind, body, and spirit through the Channel Islands Program makes for a truly exceptional educational experience.

—Jesse Wooten

Making Shift Happen: Victoria “V” Ortiz Attends National Outdoor Conference

Try something new, right now. Point your right pointer finger toward the ceiling and circle it clockwise. Keeping the finger pointed up, bring it down in front of your body until you’re looking down at your rotating finger. What do you notice? If you’ve done it correctly, you’ll see that your finger is now circling counterclockwise.

This exercise simply demonstrates the idea that perspective dictates our definitions of right and wrong, and oftentimes there is no one right answer.

The 2017 SHIFT Conference in Jackson Hole, Wyoming, dedicated its focus to strengthening the coalition of interests devoted to our public lands by investing in the future of their diverse constituencies.

The Center for Jackson Hole chose me and 31 other young adults for their Emerging Leaders Program to add a different perspective to the SHIFT conference. My background in marketing and communications for the government and environmental non-profits has allowed me to sit in different seats around the table of conservation, and I recognize the value of storytelling, compromise and relationship-building.

Our group was comprised of veterans, climbers, hunters, and advocates all united by a common love of the outdoors.

According to the Outdoor Industry Association, outdoor recreation generates $887 billion in consumer spending and 7.6 million jobs each year. The conference brought together stakeholders from the outdoor industry to showcase the business case for public lands or, in their words, “how investments in outdoor recreation and the conservation of public lands create vibrant, resilient economies in communities around America.”

The Teton Science School trained our group of Emerging Leaders in storytelling and facilitation during the few days prior to the conference. We then played pivotal roles in facilitating the SHIFT conference. Many of us sat on or led panels with renowned leaders in the field such as former National Park Service Director, Jon Jarvis, or alongside Jonah Yellowman, the Spiritual Advisor to Utah Diné Bikéyah (UDB), a tribal non-profit playing a key role in the protection of Bears Ears National Monument.

Now, settling back home at Santa Barbara Middle School as our development coordinator, I see the same love for the outdoors being passed onto the next generation. I’ve learned that a sense of place equals space plus meaning, and on the SBMS camping, biking, and outdoor trips, I see that magic formula repeated again and again. I’ve returned to Santa Barbara committed to continuing to make environmental SHIFT happen.

—V Ortiz
We have a joke in my family that as soon as you make a plan, God laughs. This idea was reinforced when I checked my phone the Saturday before the Fall Expedition and read the trip was being postponed a week. A minor inconvenience, considering I was already in Northern California, but thinking of the burning homes in Santa Rosa quickly put the prospect of a long drive back to Santa Barbara into perspective.

The first thing that struck me about the Fall Expedition happened well before any tires started rolling towards San Simeon. Nearly everyone responded with words of gratitude for making the right, albeit harder, choice in light of the smoke hazard. The fluidity and graciousness with which our families, our students, and our staff responded to the postponement set the tone for what to expect not just on the expedition, but from Santa Barbara Middle School as a whole.

After setting up tents at San Simeon Campground, everyone walked over to the beach to play sports, explore tidepools and make jewelry. That night everyone broke into families to share the first of many incredible meals orchestrated by PA Tremblay, Scott Sanderfer, Cheryl Giefer, and Jennifer Lewis. During the first fire, Brian encouraged students to think about what they were grateful to be leaving at home, what they were departing from. The number of students who said “technology” impressed me. Texting, Google and social media seem to be our modern day sugar, an addiction to which I’m not immune, and the ease with which students let it go was inspiring.

The next day was intense for everyone. The heat blasted relentlessly against our helmets as we struggled and soared nearly 30 miles along Santa Rita Road, starting near Templeton and ending in Cayucos. Another group plowed through intense waves atop kayaks in San Simeon Bay and toured the immense wealth of history within William Randolph Hearst’s castle. And the final group powered through a coastal loop ride along the historic Highway 1, riding north from our camp and taking in incredible vistas of the Pacific Ocean and spotting marine wildlife including some gigantic elephant seals. Everyone returned to the fire that night a little less distracted and significantly more confident for having overcome some tremendous physical challenges. That night at the fire, many students honored a friend who helped them push past their own limitations. Internally, I honored the Cayucos ice cream shop that kept our group’s students pedaling til the end.

Later in the week the heat broke, the waves mellowed, and we settled into a comfortable rhythm. The morning started with circled-up staff and parents in the darkness, steam from mugs of coffee obscuring the light of headlamps, as Erin Finnegan reviewed the plan for the day. Jim would wake up students with a serenade from his slide guitar and...
suddenly our colony was abuzz! We’d take off in different directions from morning until dusk, when we again gathered around the fire, some of us clean from showers, some of us tired from the day’s activities, and all of us feeling closer as a group. It was during one of these fires that I felt our group “arrive” and felt fully engaged with our community.

On Friday everyone biked See Canyon, an undulating 26-mile ride ending at Avila Beach. The five-mile uphill was a fitting test piece, and many students and adults rewarded themselves with sugared treats from the Apple Farm following the descent. The final fire that night saw our 9th graders perform the Ceremony of the Ashes, honoring a tradition of adding ashes to the fire from a tin can filled with ashes by each graduating class before them. After songs, stories, laughter, tears, and reflection, we went to bed that night as a united community.

But the trip was not complete until we all donned our helmets one last time to ride the final miles of our expedition to Goleta Beach for Homecoming. Seeing the faces of parents recognize their students, and the joy and pride of students sharing the experience with their families, was the perfect way to end the adventure. Spiraled together, surrounded by the extended SBMS family, our trip felt whole and complete.

Life is full of uphill grinds and caramel apple joys. The Fall Expedition tested our physical limits and brought us together as a team, but above all it taught us how to flow, a lesson that’s hard to learn in a classroom. Fortunately at SBMS, we believe the word “classroom” has a fluid definition.

Thanks to Erin Finnegan for being the trip planning wizard that allowed us to create this magical experience!

—V Ortiz
Outdoor Education

MID-YEAR EXPEDITIONS:

6th Grade Backpacking: Trekking Joshua Tree

With a week of heavy rain in the forecast, the 6th Grade Backpacking trip decided to re-route from Santa Barbara backcountry south to the Joshua Tree area—happily moving out of the rain and into the sun! Upon arriving on dry land, the group felt that they had definitely made the right call!

Joshua Tree greeted the group with sunny skies and warm(ish) nights, and the week was spent hiking through the cacti and yuccas while making new memories that will last forever.

They climbed Ryan Mountain (5400 feet!), hiked out to “Willow Hole,” scrambled around on boulders, and ate lunch at a gorgeous palm tree oasis at Lost Palms. They also enjoyed ice cream in the lovely town of 29 Palms and cooked up some mean freeze-dried meals.

7th Grade Bikes n’ BOBs: “Oh I’ve Seen Fire and I’ve Seen Rain”

It goes without saying that this year has been one “Dragon Quest” after another, filled with challenges beyond our imagination. In education, resiliency is a big buzzword these days. Schools everywhere are doing their best to cultivate self-confidence and tenacity in their students in so many different ways. Forty years ago, SBMS committed itself to always attending the class of the greatest teacher of resilience, Mother Nature, and in this regard, she offered up an AP Master Class all week of our 7th Grade Bikes n’ BOBs Expedition!

The 7th grade students put their trust in our experience that this trip was going to be one for the books, that they would learn more about themselves than they thought possible and return stronger than before. We feel confident that that is exactly what took place given that the lessons were iconic and deeply powerful. We saw real life problem-solving, conflict resolution, and emotional courage on a survival level that could never be scaffolded in a classroom other than an open field under 5 inches of rain! Make no mistake; these “Dragoners” rose to challenge after challenge with curiosity, courage and a spirit of change seen only on the mightiest of SBMS trips.

Now what? Now what happens after the clouds move out, the ground dries up and the memories begin to fade? Now is when we must remember. We must remember to reach out and help a new friend weather the storms ahead. We must bring back those shelters we built of branches and mud for our friends needing a place to stay dry. We must provide stakes for our tents that are folding up in the rain. We must lay bails of hay over soggy bogs so our friend’s shoes don’t get soaked in mud. We must remember to care, to be kind, to reach out and to offer shelter from the storm. There will always be fire and rain as we travel along. So we take the hand stretched out to us, and we look for the times we can stretch out ours.

—Marco and the Intrepid Crew of Bikes n’ BOBs 2018

I am so proud of each and every one of our kiddos for being flexible and going with the flow for this mid-year expedition. It’s not often that we all get to experience something for the first time together—and our trip to Joshua Tree was just that!

—Jenna Newburn, Trip Leader & 6th Grade Dean
Within a couple hours of arriving at the park, we had repacked our backpacks for an overnight trek into the desert. For many students this was their first time backpacking and I was impressed with the gourmet meals they had planned (Moroccan couscous with apricots!) and, upon arriving at camp, how easily they set up their tents and stoves and changed into warm clothes, like seasoned pros!

Over the next few days the “vast nothing” of Joshua trees, desert scrub, and creamy red granite boulders came alive. The boulders became massive playgrounds etched into the shapes of faces, elephants and gorillas. On one hike to the top of Ryan Peak, we were greeted by the 6th Grade team, and a few of us found petroglyphs at the end of one hike.

Every night the cook groups would set up their stoves and make their meals, occasionally even grilling food on the fire, as the colors disappeared and stars started to blink above. Emma would open a wrinkled and well loved copy of A Blizzard Year, and read us a few chapters as we stared into the fire or looked up for shooting stars.

Thursday stood out to most people as one of their favorite days. That morning Anita led the group through a hidden tunnel trail formed naturally by the rocks, with people helping and guiding the people behind them. We ended the day with some solo time at a desert oasis, with palm trees swaying in the persistent wind as a tiny drizzle electrified the dry air.

Whether we sang together in the car, shared bites of our dinners, or chatted on a hike, it was wonderful to grow and learn together!

—V Ortiz
**Outdoor Education**

**MID-YEAR EXPEDITIONS:**

**Backpacking on Catalina Island**

With heavy rains predicted the week of the Mid-Year Expeditions, we were lucky to have sunshine and a light cloud cover the first few days of the trip, which made for perfect hiking weather. On Monday we hiked six miles from Two Harbors to Little Harbor. It was on this hike we spotted our first bison and learned first-hand proper bison etiquette!

Tuesday and Wednesday were spent at Little Harbor and Blackjack, respectively, getting to know the island, playing in the ocean, and enjoying our time together in camp.

Knowing it would rain on Thursday, we woke up early and, during a break in the rain, packed up quickly and got out on the trail. The rain came about an hour into our hike but we were prepared, and the students did great! By 1:30 pm we had hiked 10 miles—it was the earliest we have ever arrived to Hermits Gulch Campground just above Avalon!

On Friday morning, we woke up early and headed into town for breakfast, and then explored Avalon before catching the ferry back to the mainland.

We experienced a little bit of everything this week. The students pushed themselves emotionally, physically and socially. They hiked 23 miles with fully loaded packs; they took care of themselves and each other. They cooked for themselves; set up and broke down camp almost daily, and they had a good reminder of what it’s like to be unplugged and just be with each other. We didn’t wear watches so we also got into the rhythm of listening to what our bodies needed—when to eat, when to rest, when to wake up. Most nights the students were in bed by 8:30 pm and they didn’t even know it!

—Erin Finnegan & the Catalina Crew

**Mountaineering: Adventure and Adversity**

Our Outdoor Education Program presents your children with the opportunity to grow and mature through adversity, and Mountaineering 2018 certainly accomplished that goal.

**Monday:** We traveled to Lone Pine Campground, located at about 4,200 ft. We set up camp, organized equipment, had a big fire, read poetry and watched the bright and busy night sky.

**Tuesday:** We packed out of camp and went up the Portal Road to teach the students how to attach, carry and use avalanche beacons and probes, water filters, crampons, ice axes, shovels, and hiking poles. After the instructional session, we hiked to the Portal at 8,300 feet. Students learned how to set up a snow camp, and then a light snowfall began. One of our students was seeing snow for the first time!

**Wednesday:** The light snow turned into a steady light rain as we made hot tea/chocolate and breakfast. Afterwards, students completed the Ice Axe Arrest Workshop learning how to stop a fall from various positions with and without crampons. Later that day we completed Snow Survival Shelter Workshop, where students learned about efficient/inefficient shelters and making use of the natural...
Kayaking the Gaviota Coast: The Real Lessons of “Not-Doing”

As I reflect on the week on the Gaviota coast, I am increasingly struck by the lessons of this year’s kayaking trip and the way in which our students responded. The lessons seem to have come more from the “not-doing” than the doing.

With regard to the “doing,” on Monday we paddled ten miles from Gaviota State Beach to Refugio in perfect conditions of clear water and sunshine, all without a breath of wind. On Tuesday, we hiked more than six miles up Gaviota Peak. The vantage point from the top allowed us to see from Point Mugu to Point Conception in all of its emerald glory. The beauty and fun of the Gaviota Coast was clear and vivid. We ran back down to the first drops of rain...

And yet, the days of “doing nothing” that followed taught us the real lessons.

We all quickly learned that sometimes doing nothing is the best way to bond with people—there’s nothing like 28 hours in a trailer to get to know your friends! Upon our return, the kids seemed so much tighter after this week. We all know each other a LOT better, and as a result, have a much better appreciation for one another.

We also learned how our expectations are often not fulfilled and that we need to make the best of the situation, which we did! We played guitar and ukulele, sang along, played games (mostly Candyland), cooked in the rain (masterchef contests were held!), told stories (some scary, most funny), and worked on our art projects of the surfboard and personal hats. It was a lot of what many would term, “nothing,” but the days went by relatively quickly, and not with complaint, but rather with wide smiles. We soaked up (ha) this opportunity because, really, how many days do we get to spend with absolutely nothing to do? Overall, the crew and I were so impressed with the students as they weathered this storm with joy, creativity, and patience.

Again, we explored the theme of “Where There Be Dragons,” and again, we came home closer to each other and more resilient than ever before. With this expedition we moved a little closer to the edges of the map with our students and friends.

—Jesse W. & The Kayak Crew
(Brian, Christine, Erik, Phoebe and David)

terrain. The much anticipated Shelter Building Contest followed as the students divided into teams and built shelters for the next hour. The rain picked up in the afternoon, forcing us all to be tent bound until the next day!

Thursday: Having spent several days in the snow and rain, we decided to retreat down the mountain. Breaking camp and packing out in the rain was a formidable learning situation in itself, and the students performed admirably despite the adverse conditions. Once we had a hot meal and changed into dry clothes, we started the trip home with our now warm, dry and happy campers.

—Victor
Each year Jim begins our Marin Journey fires with a reading from *On the Loose* by Renny and Terry Russell. Gifted to him decades ago, the story tells of two brothers’ adventures through the wilderness toward self-discovery. Borrowing their idea of “have you evers?” we share our journey—across Bridges 2018 Where There Be Dragons.

Have you ever gone on a shake-down ride to warm yourself up and you bike through a Fern Gully-like forest called Bear Valley to hike down to a beach and dip in an icy cold waterfall to cool yourself off?

Have you ever visited a cheese factory on back country rolling hills and filled up on brie and baguettes before you hit a “wall” of a climb with a fierce headwind, only to ride downhill to gorge on BBQ oysters, raw or Rockefeller, from the Marshall Store?

Have you ever climbed a beast of a mountain, one that dominates the landscape and becomes your dragon, as you ride up single track and fire road in 93-degree heat and been rewarded to find a panoramic view of San Francisco and the entire Bay Area, fish crackers and new friendships?

Have you ever traversed a ridgetop on foot or bicycle, to see the grass dance in the sun, dandelions, like little suns, scatter across the open fields, iridescent dragonflies dart overhead, redwood trees as high as you can see, and realize that no matter what path you choose, there...
will be pain and beauty?

Have you ever clapped and sung at a Sunday service, sharing love and learning about purpose, served over 600 meals to the needy, performed for street crowds, explored an Exploratorium, experienced Disney’s creative genius, hiked 8 miles through redwood forests, or eaten fresh local cheese while watching a Pioneer Days Parade?

Have you ever ridden past 100 years or older dairy farms, baby cows just born, multi-colored wildflowers flowing down hillsides to a windswept sea, and then jumped down pristine sand dunes and shared lunch with a new friend only to ride your last downhill in Marin to Heart’s Desire for a Carpe Diem jump in Tomales Bay?

Have you ever ridden across a golden bridge? Have you ever been a bridge?

Have you ever toured a city, guided only by teens and their curiosity, to eat sushi and dim sum, taste teas and a double scoop of “mint chip salted caramel banana buffalo milk” soft serve ice cream, ride a cable car, walk a crooked street, climb to Coit Tower, meditate in a cave, read beat poetry in a literary landmark, slide down a giant slide, trek through a tea garden, or shop on Haight at Ashbury?

Have you ever honored someone before a fire, listened with rapt attention, sung, laughed, cried, and watched adults emerge from children, unfolding bright, shimmering wings of resilience and confidence?

—Teresa Jamison

The 6/7 End of Year Expedition is more than just biking! In addition to biking the hills of Marin, students “carpe-diemed” at this beautiful Northern California beach; enjoyed time around the campfire; participated in a service at Glide Memorial Church; and got to know many parts of San Francisco.
There are many legends in the Cascade Mountain Range from an ancient alien race living deep inside of Mount Shasta to the man-eating mosquitos of Windigo Pass. This June the Santa Barbara Middle School made a few legends of its own on the 2018 Rite of the Wheel Expedition.

The 9th grade embarked first, caravaning to San Francisco where they toured Alcatraz and dined in Chinatown. They camped at Lake Siskiyou and swam in the shadow of Mount Shasta on their way to meet the 8th graders.

Alllll aboard! The 8th grade traveled north by train and reunited with the 9th graders at La Pine State Park along the Deschutes River, where students swam and fished.

The trip really began when we got on our bikes to start our nearly 200-mile, six-day journey from Bend to Ashland. There was dirt. There was gravel. There was laughter. There were tears. And there was incomparable beauty. Weary, tired and hungry bike riders greeted at each campsite by lakes...

Eighth and ninth graders explored the majestic trails and backcountry of Northern California and Oregon during their Rite of the Wheel Expedition; eighth graders Pico and Lauren take a break for the camera.
and rivers and hot delicious meals served up by an awesome team of teachers, students, parents, and alums.

After dinner, we circled around the fire—one of our ancient traditions as humans and “SBMSers”—and shared songs and stories. Many of the stories were about each other. Grateful bike partners honored each other for reaching the mountain peak earlier that day. One of SBMS’ legendary customs is the 9th grade honoring. This is a process in which each 9th grader randomly draws a name out of a hat and works for nearly a month to tell the story of their fellow classmate and honor them in front of their peers, teachers and parents.

After many miles, songs and stories, we reached Ashland. On our final afternoon together, the school saw a play at the Oregon Shakespeare Festival. In Lithia Park we said our respective goodbyes and packed our legends onto the train and back into the vans for our journey home to Santa Barbara.

—Kara Petersen
Community

Career Study Week

One of SBMS’ oldest traditions is about community, a time to reflect inward on our school community and a time to focus outward on our larger community.

Each November, just before we break for Thanksgiving, we break from our traditional classroom settings to engage in our community for Career Study Week. We have three programs to accommodate the different needs of each grade.

Our ninth graders spend their time at different non-profits. This is an opportunity for them to make connections, learn something new, and earn volunteer hours toward their high school graduation requirements.

Our seventh and eighth graders pick various businesses around town, and even some out of town, to spend their week at learning the ins-and-outs of careers from businesses such as architecture or education to restaurants and micro-finance.

Our sixth grade stays together to explore different topics from farm-to-table practices to local conservation efforts and careers in our national parks service.

Just as important as the time spent out in the wider Santa Barbara community is the time we take to spend with our school community. During this same week, our teachers are on campus meeting with every one of their students and the students’ parents. It is a crucial part of our ongoing conversation about our students and how they learn. Not only do we talk about grades and assignments, but we take this opportunity to delve deeper into each student’s learning potential to discover, how it works, what its challenges are, and how we can find opportunities in those challenges to support the growth of our students.

“Hi Kelly! I hope you’re doing well! I just wanted to take a minute and thank you for placing me with Friendship Center for the 9th grade service week 8 years ago! Because of that incredible experience that you (and SBMS) allowed me to have, I found my passion in working with older adults with Alzheimer’s and dementia! I’m so happy to tell you that I just got a full time job at the Friendship Center, doing work I love before I get to go to nursing school to eventually become a Nurse Practitioner specializing in acute Alzheimer’s and dementia care! Also, I believe that my Spanish is better now, after my time in Argentina and I grew a lot in my abilities with the language but I am grateful for your support, (and Marco’s support) when you taught me Spanish. Sending you, Marco, Ava, and Aidan tons of love!”

—Hope Saxon ’10
Student-Parent-Teacher Conferences

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“I’m so happy there’s a place where Lucy can experience so much and excel. She’s taking advantage of everything.” — Jenny Speier

“Matthew is so excited to be here every single day. He’s gaining a sense of responsibility and leadership, and he’s stretching himself academically. We wanted to find a school like that and we did.” — John Demboski

Please thank these businesses for hosting our students during their Career Study Week in November 2017. We encourage you to support the businesses and non-profits that support SBMS!

AB Design
Adobe Pet Hospital
A-Frame Surf Shop
Aggressive Soccer
Ah, Juice
Anna’s Bakery
Art Essentials
Baskin Robbins
Bicycle Bob’s (Goleta)
Boat House
Brewhouse
Camp Canine
Cathedral Oaks Tennis Club
Channel Islands Surfboards
Cloud 10 Jump Club
Cold Spring School
California Pizza Kitchen
Daily Grind
Dandy Dogs
Dr. Annie
The Eagle Inn
Farmer Boy
Fasttrack Bicycles
Fresco Cafe
Gelson’s Market
Girls Inc. of Greater Santa Barbara, Gymnastics Center
Harmony Preschool
Hazard’s Cyclesport
Helena Avenue Bakery
High Flying Farms
Hook, Line and Sinker
Jy Surfboards
Jeannine’s Bakery, Montecito
Kyle’s Kitchen
LA Company
Life Style Designs
Lighthouse Skateshop
Los Agaves Mexican Restaurant, De La Vina
Los Arroyos Mexican Restaurant, Goleta
Loveacce Surf Shop
Lovin Spoonful
Lucky Llama Coffee
Mesa Burger
Metro Comics
Montecito Bank & Trust
Montecito Coffee Shop
Montecito Pet Hospital
Montecito Pet Shop
Mountain Air Sports
MOXI, The Wolf Museum of Exploration + Innovation
My Gym
On the Alley, SB Harbor
Ontraport
Pacific Heath Food
Pierre Lafond
Play It Again Sports
Rancho Palomino
Recipe Bakery
Rory’s Ice Cream, Montecito & Public Market
Sambos
Santa Barbara Beach House
Santa Barbara Cancer Center
Santa Barbara Fish Market
Santa Barbara Motor Sports
Santa Barbara Rock Gym
Santa Barbara Sailing Center
Santa Barbara Tennis Club
Santa Barbara Zoo
Sensational Pets
Social Intel
Sports Clip Haircuts
Stardust Sport Fishing
Sushi Teri Goleta
Terra Moon Amore Retreat
The Blue Owl
The Lark
The Oaks Parent-Child Workshop
The W Source
Trader Joe’s, De La Vina & Milpas
United Studios
Velo Pro Cyclery
Village Properties
Westmont Gardens
Westmont Soccer
White’s Pet Hospital
Wilderness Youth Project
YMCA, Hitchcock
Zodo’s Bowling & Beyond

9th Grade Community Service Locations:
Unity Shoppe
Storyteller
Friendship Center, Goleta
Friendship Center, Montecito
Heritage House
CBB Preschool
Art from Scrap
Hillside House
Bici Centro
FROM DEVELOPMENT

Going with Gratitude

Our school is built on the foundation of supporting one another through challenges, whether it’s up a mountain, in the classroom, or throughout our community. And this year more than ever, we locked arms together and showed our strength while faced with some of the largest natural disasters Santa Barbara has ever faced. The generosity shown to SBMS, to our families, and within our community has been nothing short of inspiring and a reminder of what makes our school so unique.

Not only did families open up their homes to host others, they also cooked meals, lent vehicles, cared for pets, furnished homes, and helped with carpools. There was also an overwhelming show of support for the Annual Fund, plus donations for tuition assistance and scholarships, in-kind donations, and countless volunteer hours.

Incredibly, we raised $423,804 for the Annual Fund—that’s 99% of our goal! Donations to the Annual Fund ensure that SBMS is able to continue supporting our community, our students and their families, our teachers and staff, and the many future generations of Middle School students to come. Collectively, 93% of families, 100% of faculty and board, and many grandparents, alumni, and friends of the school united to raise critical funds that bridge the gap between what tuition covers and what it costs to operate our school.

—Phoebe Hitchman & V Ortiz, Development Team

SBMS Cares

We are deeply grateful for the efforts of our current and alumni school families, students, teachers, trustees, Parent Association members, and volunteers who stepped up to offer assistance, expertise, and resources for our community. An incredible team of volunteer counselors were regularly available on campus for our students, staff, and families. Additionally, our Parent Association coordinated many informative meetings and support groups, sustaining our strong community of SBMS parents. Thank you all for demonstrating the invaluable lessons of compassion, service, and kindness we work to instill in our students.

BEGINNING TO REBUILD

At the Winter Town Meeting on January 4th, SBMS committed to making donations to two families impacted by the Thomas Fire.

SBMS alum Gus Gonzalez and his parents Emma and Joe (pictured left) lost their home in the Thomas Fire. SBMS was honored to present their family with $2,750 to support their rebuilding efforts. Donations were collected through student fundraisers, at sunrise swims, a percentage of gifts to the Annual Fund, plus a generous contribution from students at The Family School (where Jim Brady’s daughter, Kira, teaches).

SBMS also pledged a donation to the family of Cory Iverson, the firefighter who lost his life battling the Thomas Fire. Made possible by the generosity of our school families and student-led efforts, we were honored to make a $1,000 donation to his family to support them through this time.
ANNUAL FUND: THANK YOU!

Our utmost thanks for your donations to this year’s Annual Fund. Your support helps sustain our vibrant community in which every student is nurtured, challenged, and celebrated for their unique strengths and accomplishments.
Where There Be Dragons... Therein Lies Magic: An Evening that Showcased our Creative Community and Raised $230,000 for SBMS!

Spring was when the world blossomed and bloomed, We were playful, creative, and wore costumes! This year’s theme was absolutely fantastic: Where There Be Dragons... Therein Lies Magic! What a successful Auction & Dinner, Jim was so excited to be the VW Raffle winner. Kellen and her crew brought life to the decor, With dragon eggs, waterfalls, vines, and more. So thank you for being part of this SBMS team, Your contributions allow SBMS to pursue its dreams!

WITH GRATITUDE

This magical evening would not have been possible without the countless hours, inspiration, and vision of our Auction Chairs, Kellen Meyer and Adrienne Demboski. Thank you, Kellen, for dreaming big and sharing your incredible artistic talents that transformed our venue into a stunning mystical world. Thank you, Adrienne, for ensuring our event had so much community support, and for fearlessly tackling challenges, always with a smile.

EVENT SPONSORS:

Our sincere appreciation to these individuals, families and businesses for sponsoring the “Where There Be Dragons... Therein Lies Magic” Auction & Dinner Benefit!

PLATINUM
The Kirby Foundation
In memory of Bob Kirby, “We are here to learn.”

WHITE GOLD
impulse
advanced communications

BRONZE
Melissa Cunningham & John Fitzgerald
Hollye & Jeff Jacobs
Tiffany & Frank Foster

FACULTY TICKET SPONSORS:

Lesley & Mark Bloomer
Steve Byrd & Michele Lee Byrd
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George Cheng & Annie Pham-Cheng
Dave & Heather Copp
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Jonathan & Lisa Fuhrer
Ron Gans & Nina Gelman-Gans
Christie & John Glanville
Jennifer & Rick Huford
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Siouxie Jennett & Paul Hamerton-Kelly
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Briana & Christian Villasenor
Elizabeth Weber
Julie & John Williams
Ron Winston & Heidi Jensen

PROGRAM SPONSORS:

Audrey & Mike Tognotti
Jen Gamble & Jared Ficker

SUNSTONE
Wines generously provided by Sunstone Winery

GRAZE LOCAL
Cheese and charcuterie catering generously provided by Graze Local

During this year’s paddle raise, we raised $80,000 to support our incredible faculty through The Carpe Diem Fund and to pilot a new counseling program!

The Carpe Diem Fund provides teachers with professional learning opportunities and support to develop new curriculum and grow existing school programs. We will also be using a portion of funds raised to hire a licensed counseling team that will provide emotional support for the students, parents, and faculty at SBMS for the years ahead.

The paddle raise, silent auction, and live auction brought in $230,000 in one magical evening. Thank you for supporting SBMS, we couldn’t have done it without you!
From the Board of Trustees

“And all the voices, all the goals, all the yearnings, all the sorrows, all the pleasures, all the good and evil, all of them together was the world. All of them together was the stream of events, the music of life.”

—Hermann Hesse, Siddhartha

Every year, the eighth-grade students at Santa Barbara Middle School read Hesse’s Siddhartha, following the themes of the book while experiencing their own truths in nature on our trips and their own sense of acceptance in their personal journey from childhood to adulthood. When asked about why they valued their education at Santa Barbara Middle School, our alumni often reply simply that they cherished an environment where they could truly be themselves.

Amid the tragic events of this winter for our school, our Board of Trustees profoundly appreciated this same experience. The unequivocal embrace from among our community of parents, students, faculty, staff, and alumni, the essential core of who we are as a school, deepened our board’s understanding of the extraordinary attributes of the SBMS educational model. We have been humbled and honored to share in the music of life together with you. Your outpouring of community strength has illuminated the powerful potential of the Four Sides of the Diamond in new ways. We shall carry this light forward as we develop our strategic initiatives for the upcoming five years.

—Gratefully, Shannon Kenny, President, SBMS Board of Trustees

From the Parent Association

Dear Parents,

I wanted to start by saying how grateful and lucky I am to call this my fourth year at Middle School! Last year when my daughter, Charlotte, graduated ninth grade my husband and I were crossing our fingers that our son, Oliver, would soon enter sixth grade, giving us the opportunity to stay at SBMS and be “new” parents once again. Watching my son start to experience all of the amazing opportunities the school has to offer and walk down the same halls as his older sister is a wonderful thing; it’s what keeps me involved on the Parent Association and makes me want to give my time to make the school a better place for our community.

I have to give all of you parents thanks for being so wonderful, energetic, giving, flexible and caring this year with all of the natural disasters, personal hardships, schedule hiccups and things we have asked of you. You never complained or questioned; you just pitched in when needed, helping one another when asked and it was beautiful SBMS community at it’s best! Although this year has brought us many challenges, what will stand out to me is the resilience of this school to band together when times are tough and hold tight to the strong community that we have built over the last 40 years.

I want to say how very proud I am of our incredible leaders in the PA, from my Co-Chair Melissa Cunningham and all the Grade Reps, Secretaries, Homecoming Chair, and many more volunteers that are always there to lend a hand, bake something, set-up or clean-up—the school can’t do it without you and we thank you! The Parent Association looks forward to providing more progressive and interesting PA meetings and we hope to see many more parents attending. Remem-ber, all parents are automatically a part of the Parent Association and welcome with open hearts and arms.

With gratitude,

Heather Copp, PA Chair

Wow! SBMS Gift Cards!

Do you have a grandparent looking to give your SBMS student a gift they really want? Are you looking to give your son or daughter a unique, personal gift? Would you like to support the businesses that support SBMS?

The SBMS Warehouse is now part of Airshare, an innovative new mobile gifting app. Now, anyone, anywhere, any time can give and receive SBMS Warehouse gift cards on their phone! Your SBMS student can use the Airshare to buy great SBMS Warehouse hats, shirts or gear, or they could exchange the Airshare to use at great SBMS supporters Hazard’s Cyclesport or A-Frame Surf Shop. To view an Airshare demo video or download the app, go to www.airshare.com.

—Christine Cowles Bergamin
1986

Congratulations to alum ZOE BLUMBERG CORWIN, research associate professor at USC Rossier School of Education and faculty member at University of Southern California Pullias Center, who was recently awarded a $262,000 grant from Tony Hawk Foundation to study the impact skateboarding has on young people and their educational and career trajectories.

1992

DAVID MARGOLIS attended SBHS where he was MVP on the golf team. During the summer he worked with scientist Fiona Goodchild at UCSB learning the basics of scientific research. He attended Brown University in Providence, RI, majoring in neuroscience. After graduation he spent a year in Washington, D.C. and worked for a scientific publication. He completed his Ph.D in neurobiology in 2007 at University of Washington in Seattle. That same year he married Johanna Rose and moved to Zurich, Switzerland, where he had been accepted as a post-doc student. Their son Jascha and daughter Chloe were born there. In 2012 he was hired as a professor and research scientist at Rutgers University in New Brunswick, NJ, where he oversees his own laboratory. He has published multiple research papers, received several grants, and traveled both within the U.S. and other countries to collaborate with other scientists and present his research. His latest achievement is becoming the father of their third child, Rosie.

2000

CRISTER BRADY received his MD at UC Davis in May 2018 in Family Medicine, and his MPH (masters in Public Health) at UC Berkeley in May 2017. He’s currently in residence at UCSF in Family Medicine.

2005

RIVERS INGERSOLL Hummingbirds and nectar bats evolved to hover in front of flowers to drink nectar. For my PhD research project in the Mechanical Engineering Department at Stanford University, I developed a super sensitive ‘aerodynamic scale’ to measure how these birds and bats generate lift during each wingbeat to stay afloat. By applying engineering methods to study these biological organisms, I found how hummingbirds could use an elastic mechanism to hover more efficiently and that nectar bats generate significant more upstroke lift than their fruit bat relatives. In addition to studying the biomechanics of animal flight, my lab also designs and builds bird inspired flapping robots. I have just wrapped up my thesis and will soon be joining Apple as a Hardware Engineer on the haptics team.

2008

After majoring in History with a minor in Legal Studies at UC Santa Cruz, REESE WATHNE, now works for Santa Cruz Bicycles and enjoys the benefits of having a huge mountain biking community in the Santa Cruz area to ride and work with, while occasionally his parents drive up to join him.

2010

TYLER D. NEWMAN graduated last May ’17 from UC Berkeley with a BS degree in Energy Engineering. His family lived off the grid before moving to Santa Barbara so he became interested in alternative renewable energy and his interest continued to grow. After his sophomore year at Berkeley, he interned in an R & D lab at the National University of Taiwan in the field of thin film solar panels, during which time an advancement he made led him to write a paper that was later published in a scientific trade journal.

After graduation, he travelled through Europe, Asia, Africa and the Middle East with friends or his parents, which provided an enriching cultural perspective and a refreshing interlude between school and career. In October he applied for his dream job working as a Research & Development solar panel module design engineer for Sun Power in San Jose. His team is tasked with designing the next generation of efficient, long lasting, lighter weight, more affordable photovoltaic solar modules. He’s thankful he still finds time for other passions such as writing, playing music on guitar, and playing baseball in a men’s league.
2011

DANIEL FEINBERG will be graduating this spring from UC Davis with a degree in water management with minors in geographic information systems and economics. While at UC Davis, Dan kept the SBMS tradition of cycling. He became a member of the UC Davis Cycling Team, and the Davis Bike Club Race Team, where he has been competing in collegiate and domestic races across California and Nevada. The UC Davis Cycling Team placed first in the West Coast Collegiate Cycling Conference his sophomore year. Dan has also been an active member of the UC Davis Climbing team, coming in first and second place at a couple of competitions. While at UC Davis, Dan has also been an active officer of the hiking club, where he has been leading students on hikes throughout Northern California, many of whom have never hiked before. Also, Dan currently works for a fish biology lab and water quality lab with the UC Davis Center for Watershed Sciences. There he has been monitoring the health of the Sacramento San Joaquin Delta.

Former Bike Monkey Captain, CURTIS WATHNE, spent 2 weeks last summer learning how to weld a custom bike frame at United Bicycle Institute in Ashland, Oregon. Currently Curtis is a senior at Cal Poly SLO studying Mechanical Engineering.

2012

LUZ CAMILA GUERRA came to the US to improve her English and attended 8th grade at SBMS in 2011. She is currently in her third year of law school at the Universidad Panamericana in Guadalajara, Mexico. She completed an extension program recently which focuses on the New National Anti Corruption System. Last April she was invited by Mar Adentro, an NGO in Mexico and a member of ECOSOC (Economic and Social Council of the United Nations Organization) to participate as an observer in the CSW’61 (Commission on the Status of Women) at the United Nations Headquarters in New York. She loves what she is doing, her goal is to use her skills as a professional and as a woman to make create a positive change in her home country.

2014

SARINA WASSERMAN: I have completed my first semester of university in Sydney, Australia through Northeastern’s NUin Program and the University of Sydney! If it weren’t for SBMS I doubt I would have had the courage to take this crazy opportunity. While the courses are rigorous and the class work is plentiful, I have been able to travel throughout Australia and even spent a week and a half in New Zealand. This country and its people are amazing—it had truly been the experience of a lifetime.

2015

ANGEL AND RUBY SINGH will both be part of Team USA age group World Championships Olympic Distance Triathlon this coming Sept. 16, 2018 in Gold Coast, Australia. (1 mi ocean swim/24 mi bike/6 mi run)
Every year in May, we invite the SBMS alumni who are graduating from high school back to campus. We spend an afternoon together reflecting on old memories, laughing and reminiscing about the class, trips, and experiences that made SBMS so special. Both teachers and alumni enjoy the time to reconnect and revisit some of their favorite memories. We also really enjoy learning what our graduates have been up to in the years after their Rites of Passage and seeing where they are taking off for their next adventure.

**Santa Barbara Middle School congratulates its graduating class of 2015, who will be attending the following schools in the fall of 2018.* Carpe Diem!**

- Bond University
- Boston University (Emma)
- Bowdoin College (Evan)
- Brandeis University (Victor)
- Brown University (Charlotte)
- California College of the Arts (Katie)
- Cal Poly San Luis Obispo (Eliza, Layla)
- Chapman University
- Claremont College (Jensen)
- Emerson College
- Gonzaga University
- Macalester College (Nick)
- Montana State College (Ben)
- New York University (Gibson)
- St. Andrews, Scotland (Max)
- Santa Clara University
- The School of the Art Institute of Chicago (Lily Linz)

- Seattle University
- University of California, Berkeley (Wilson, Grace)
- University of California, Davis (Kristin Trent)
- University of California, Santa Cruz
- University of Southern California (Maia)
- UAL Camberwell, England (Bella)
- University of Chicago (Eli)
- University of Colorado, Boulder (Kathryn and Sophie)
- University of Hawaii
- University of Oregon
- University of San Diego
- University of Utah

*Partial list

**Congratulations to these Class of 2015 high school graduates for receiving the following awards and scholarships:**

- **Katie Buckley** was awarded the Mercedes Eichholz Art Scholarship from the Scholarship Foundation of Santa Barbara.
- **Evan Knight** received a merit scholarship award from the Scholarship Foundation of Santa Barbara, and was selected as 1 of 3 student speakers to present at the South County Annual Awards Dinner.
- **Lily Linz** received the Deep Space Sparkle Art Scholarship from the Scholarship Foundation of Santa Barbara.
- **Caroline Sjerven** was awarded SBHS “Top Don” in Dance.
- **Ben Speirs** was awarded SBHS “Top Don” for MAD Academy and received the Lorna Hedges Art Scholarship from the Scholarship Foundation of Santa Barbara.
- **Jensen Steady** was awarded SBHS “Top Don” in English.
- **Layla Stoutenborough** was awarded the Jack Baker Memorial/ Wallis Foundation Art Scholarship from the Scholarship Foundation of Santa Barbara.
- **Kristin Trent** received the Gail Berkus Memorial Art Scholarship from the Scholarship Foundation of Santa Barbara.
- **Bella Venable** received scholarships from the Scholarship Foundation of Santa Barbara and the Santa Barbara High School Alumni Association.

Let us know where you’re headed! Email Kara@sbms.org with your news.
Missy Flannigan ’82

Which SBMS motto do you remember most?
Do you still use it today?
This motto wasn’t spoken when I was a student at SBMS, but it was in later years and I connected with it right away, “Because of them, us. Because of us, them.” The widespread application of this concept is utilized in my daily life.

What was your favorite song to sing around the fire?
Probably “Teach Your Children” or “Fire and Rain.”

Where did you work for Career Study Week?
Ha! Fashion Conspiracy in La Cumbre Plaza.

Which academic project challenged you the most?
I honestly don’t remember, but I took French from Domi the entire time I was at Middle School. Besides the fact that I respected her and was a little afraid of her, she made a loving impression on me. When I was 19, I lived in Paris and spoke French regularly. Domi helped me accomplish that.

What was your happiest moment at SBMS?
Happiest moment(s) at SBMS were around the campfire. I felt connected to something greater.

What were you most afraid of at SBMS?
Being teased by peers.

Which talent did you develop most at SBMS?
Do you still use it?
Knowing that I have resource inside, despite what my head tells me about my ability or lack thereof. It’s also where I first sang in public.

What do you consider your greatest SBMS achievement?
Bike riding just one more mile when I wanted to quit. Navigating sometimes rough junior high waters and surviving the cool kids, only to one day feel like one.

Which book did you read at SBMS that made the biggest impression on you?
I don’t believe it was SBMS assigned reading, but while at SBMS I read “Meetings at the Edge” by Stephen Levine. It is a book of conversations with those who are grieving a death or dying themselves. It had tremendous impact on me and helped to answer the deep questions I was asking at that time in my life.

If you were to die and come back as one of your SBMS teachers who would it be?
It’s a tie between Whitney, Domi, and Kent. All wise. All kind. All strong.

Do you have the life/career you imagined for yourself when you were student at SBMS?
Yes and no. My life and my career has had so many twists and I have had an infinite number of rich experiences. I do remember thinking at that time in my life that I might want to be a psychologist (my current career), but there were other interests that I needed to pursue to satisfy curiosities. I don’t know one person whose life has unfolded as imagined. The richness belongs in the daily experience. One certainty for me is that my time at SBMS planted an everlasting seed in my heart that has been in bloom since the day I left. It has informed much of my choices- for better and for worse. Kent, among others, had an enormous impact on my inner voice, guiding silently and steadily through the years. I will be grateful forever for SBMS. You’ll see my kids in 8 years!

Alumfest!

This year we had the 2ND ANNUAL ALUMNI SONGFEST or ALUMFEST at SohO Music Club. Following a full day of student performers with the GRATEFUL DADS as backup, alums gathered at SohO for an evening of alumni song. Emceed by alum KATE GRAVES, the night took on (as most SBMS events do) a theme of honoring. As a way to introduce each performer, Kate asked them four questions about SBMS and shared their answers with the audience before each set.

Performers spanned the 40 years of SBMS with JESSE RHODES ’84, KATE GRAVES ’94, LIGE ’02 & LEV ALLANBLITZ ’06, NOAH GIBBINGS ’06, GIBSON FIELD ELLIOTT ’15 and THE HANSEN FAMILY BAND from the mid 90’s! The talent on the stage that night was breath-taking—a wide range of musical styles and genres, everything from rap to folk and electronic. Songs were dedicated to Whitney and Marco who taught many of the performers how to play the guitar!

After dinner, the Grateful Dads took the stage once again on that long and joyful April day and we danced the night away.

We’d like to feature an alum in each issue of The Diamond. If you’re interested in being featured, please contact Kara via kara@sbms.org.
SAVE THE DATE

AUGUST

Wed. Aug. 29
Diamond Day for New & Returning 7th Grade Families, 5-6:30 pm

SEPTEMBER

Mon., Sept. 3
Labor Day -- No School

Tues., Sept. 4
9th Grade Orientation & Lunch 9 am - 1 pm
9th Grade Diamond Day 1-2 pm
Diamond Day for 8th Grade Families 2-3 pm
Wed., Sept. 5
First Day of School for All Students
Thurs., Sept. 6 - Fri., Sept 7
Orientation Ride & Overnight Expedition
Thurs., Sept. 13
School Photo Day
Fri., Sept. 14
6/7 Pedal & Picnic, 9th Grade UCSB Marine Bio, 8th Historical Field Trip
Sun., Sept. 23 - Thurs., Sept. 27
9th Grade Islands Expedition

OCTOBER

Tues., Oct. 2
6/7 Back-to-School Night
Wed., Oct. 3
8/9 Back-to-School Night
Mon., Oct. 15 - Sat., Oct. 20
All School Fall Expedition
Sat., Oct. 20
Homecoming
Mon., Oct. 22
Recuperation Day (No School)