



# THE FACULTY CORNER

FROM THE ANACAPA SCHOOL ARTS DEPARTMENT. . .

## **PERFORMING ARTS: DRAMA AND CHORUS**

Anacapa may be a small school, but we have a big performing arts program. Throughout the year, students have many opportunities to show off their talent, whether it be singing, dancing, playing an instrument, or acting.

The benefits of instruction in the arts are widespread. Many studies have shown that students who participate in the performing arts perform better academically as well. These students not only experience personal fulfillment but also learn attributes such as self-discipline, collaborative spirit, and perseverance, which are necessary to the arts and can transfer to all other life situations as well. The Anacapa School understands the value and importance of the arts in education, and we are pleased to provide our students with a comprehensive performing arts program.

Grassroots Theater: During the fall semester, students presented *At the Movies*, a production that showcased skits, songs, and dances from their favorite movies. The audience was entertained with scenes from *Forrest Gump*, *Grease*, *The Godfather*, and *The Devil Wears Prada*...just to name a few. The Grassroots Theater production is a long-standing Anacapa tradition. Coming Fall 2008...*New York, New York!*

Chorus: There are several opportunities for those students who enjoy singing. This year, the chorus performed holiday songs at our Secret Santa Celebration and entertained guests with traditional Chinese songs at our annual Auction. Not only is singing fun but these students also learn music terminology, sight-reading, and two- and three-part harmonizing.

Spring Play: This year's spring production will be *How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying*. This is a story of a bumbling window washer who makes a meteoric rise from an entry-level position to head of the company armed with nothing more than a self-help book and a lot of ambition. Our students have been hard at work memorizing lines, designing scenery and costumes, and perfecting their acting skills. We hope to see you in Elliott Hall at 7pm, Friday, May 16 and Saturday, May 17 for this great production!

~~ SALLI EVE

## **PERFORMING ARTS: MUSIC**

Lower School Music: This semester's Music class with the seventh graders has been fun and challenging. Students have been learning the fundamentals of music: time signature and whole, half, and quarter notes. Students are playing basic melodies with the guitar; they also are improving their skills of reading music. In addition, students are learning the chords: C, G7, D7, and G. Some of the varied melodies they have played are: *Ode to Joy*, *Rockin' Robin*, *Au Claire De La Lune*, *Yankee Doodle*, *Surf Rock*, *Aura Lee*, *Worried Man Blues*, *Tom Dooley*, and *Amazing Grace*. My goal in this class is to motivate the students to continue playing music and to discover their musical talent.

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Ensemble Music: The afternoon elective Ensemble Music class has been full of energy; students are always ready to play music and to share their talent. I'm impressed that our students can pick up any musical instrument and quickly play it. At our recent auction, this group played tunes of different genres, from Jazz to Rock and Latin. Right now, we are working on Traditional Mexican music from the State of Veracruz, a genre called *Son Jarocho*, using traditional instruments from that region. We are also getting ready to perform for our Cinco De Mayo Celebration; I hope you can join us. Music is part of our daily lives; for some it is playing a musical instrument and for others it is enjoying music.

~~ HUGO MACARIO

### **STUDIO ART**

We are just back from the annual school visit to the Santa Barbara Fair & Expo, and I am so very proud of the award-winning original work that Anacapa Studio Art students had displayed—their beautifully rendered landscapes in charcoal, self-portraits in scratchboard, night scenes in pastel, and many more. Beginning with the basics back in September, the students are to be commended for their efforts in building their understanding and mastery of artistic skills. Composition, value range, positive vs. negative space, style and focal point are just some of the vocabulary that students can now apply to their own work and the work of the nearly 100 artists studied as well.

The projects of fourth quarter Studio Art are the culmination of the learning all the rest of the year, and it is really exciting to see the confidence of the students as they undertake these progressively more complex challenges, both artistic and conceptual. From schools of fish in water color to contemporary cultural reflections in acrylic, the students are producing consistently high-quality work—and having a lot of fun doing it! You all have the opportunity to see the whole collection of this fantastic work at the Anacapa Student Art Show on campus on Friday and Saturday evenings, May 16 and 17—so mark your calendars; you are sure to be impressed!

~~ SUZIE SICHI

### **CERAMICS**

This year in Ceramics class, the students and I have been enjoying the projects and the camaraderie. The first semester, we had excellent results making a tabletop using handmade tiles. The students chose something of importance to them in their life and translated that to the tile pieces. They then set tiles in a large wooden frame that they hand-stained. These will be grouted and shown at the Student Art Show on campus May 16 and 17. Come see them!

Continuing with the tabletop theme, this semester's students did a table setting that included a plate, bowl, cup, and saucer. The themes varied from flowers and animals to tie-dye colors, nature, and Asian-inspired subjects—and they were all successful! We are always pleasantly surprised at the outcome of the students' beautiful pieces. It is always rewarding as I continue to teach and inspire the Ceramics students with projects, examples, demonstrations, and guest artists throughout the year and to see how their level of craftsmanship, their confidence in themselves, and their imagination all grow. This has been another great year at Anacapa!

~~ PAULA CAMPANELLI

### **PHOTOGRAPHY**

Basic Photography: I can't believe the year is almost over! The Basic Photography class has been enjoying our time venturing throughout Santa Barbara. The class has gone for a stroll at the park, tagged along with the golf class, and visited the zoo. One of the highlights of the semester was at the zoo when the elephant started swimming and spraying water. Suddenly, all the students began snapping photos as fast as they could. It seemed as if the elephant was modeling for our photo class. Currently, students are creating self-portraits and starting to put together their final portfolios. This is my favorite time of year because each student combines all the skills they have acquired, turning their work into unique and personal art.

~~ BRENT SIEBENALER

Advanced Photography: As a new teacher at Anacapa, I was unsure how coming in half-way through the year would be. Walking around campus, I was encouraged to see familiar faces all around! I realized that going to Anacapa events with Brent over the last two years somehow melted away the "newbie jitters."

It is a very unique experience to have the opportunity to teach what I do for a living to an enthusiastic, youthful audience, ready to interpret their world with their new digital cameras. Although the technical part of digital technology has brought much confusion to my students, I love seeing the furrowed brows and the puckered lips turn to smiles and excitement when they start to "get it." As they blend theory with their unique perspective on life, each student returns with a dazzling portrayal of what they think about the assignment, captured in a single image. We have critiques after each assignment, a time when students talk about what was successful about an image or what could be changed. This is such a rewarding time. With each critique, students gain confidence in verbalizing their thoughts and opinions about each other's art, and about art in general, and in turn utilize the comments to enhance their future projects.

~~ **KELLEY SIEBENALER**