

SANTA CATALINA UPPER SCHOOL



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LETTER FROM DR. MURPHY

We are only a month into the new school year but so much has already taken place, especially for our students. Besides acclimating to new classes and different teachers, students have been involved in trying out for varying sports teams, auditioning for the school play, or busy choosing between the many clubs and activities offered at school. It is a wonderful time of the year, one filled with so much optimism. As we approach the month of October, we are thankful for all that the new school year brings and the many blessings we all enjoy.

It is from a sense of gratitude that Santa Catalina has a commitment to community service. On Wednesday, October 5th we once again plan to have our all-school Service Day. This is an important aspect of our school's educational mission. It helps teach our students that all of us have a responsibility to those who are less fortunate. On this day, students, along with faculty, attend one of twenty Service Sites. Our hosts, the site participants, such as the Salvation Army or the Monterey Boys and Girls Club, provide our students with an awareness of the important work they do as well providing them with the opportunity to help as they make a difference in our community.

In my experience, students at Santa Catalina have always seemed to respond, in an admirable fashion, to the needs of others. Whether it be by participating in our Service Day activities or by helping raise funds for victims far from Monterey, our students are always willing to give of themselves. And it is inspirational. Last year, for example, students in the Upper and Lower Schools helped raise over \$20,000 for victims in last year's terrible Tsunami disaster. This was an incredible accomplishment. No less significant, though, was the lesson it provided. We believe that when students reach out and care for others, and then experience the gratifying impact of their efforts, they discover a greater meaning to their lives.

We live in a wonderful part of the world and at times it can seem almost insulated from the pain and suffering we witness on television. With our Service Day, we make a conscious effort to educate our students of the many needs that exist, both locally and globally. This year, that lesson is once again poignant with the call to respond to the needs of victims in the wake of Hurricane Katrina. Therefore, students have expressed a desire to raise funds for those in need in our Gulf states by hosting a "Karnival" on October 2nd at Santa Catalina's playing field with games and activities for children (see details inside this newsletter). They are also selling "Katrina Relief" bracelets. We are proud of our students and their response. We hope you will support them in all of their efforts this month and, of course, we look forward to seeing many of you very soon at Parents' Weekend. In the meantime, thank you once again for all of your good will and support as we work in concert with you to provide the very best education for your daughter.

IMPORTANT DATES IN OCTOBER

- 10/2 Karnival for the Cause
1:00 p.m.
- 10/5 Service Day
- 10/8 Wine Tasting and Auction
5:30 p.m.

10/28-10/30 Parents' Weekend

ON THE HORIZON

- 11/10 Service League Holiday Bazaar 12:30 p.m.
- 11/18-11/27 Thanksgiving Holiday (Dismissal after class on the 18th; residents return evening of 27th.)

Parents' Tip: You can download the school calendar (in PDF format) by going to our website (www.santacatalina.org), choosing Calendar, and clicking on Download PDF US October 2005. You'll need Adobe Acrobat Reader to read the calendar file, available for free download at: <http://www.adobe.com/products/acrobat/readstep2.html>.



Photo Credit: Liz Crosby '06

NEWS FOR THE PARENTS OF THE CLASS OF 2009

Dear Freshman Parents:

It has been a very busy and productive first month at school. As we are sure you have heard, the girls have been very busy with academics, tryouts and auditions, class activities, and learning perhaps all the details of a new high school, as well as, for resident students, life in a dormitory. We feel that the year has had a successful start.

The freshmen have accomplished a great deal thus far. In many ways they have already established their own identity and have demonstrated a mature independence. Whether learning to manage their time here at school or at home, each student seems to be developing organizational and study habits. While there have been many challenges your daughters have faced these first few weeks, we are happy to report that the class as a whole has met these challenges well. Classes are in full swing, tests have already been given in many subjects, clubs have presented themselves and offered sign-ups, and we have had a very fine start to our fall sports season. Many freshmen are finding success in Volleyball, Field Hockey, Water Polo, Tennis, and Cross-Country. Last week, a number of clubs ranging in focus, including ecco, an a cappella singing group; Accents, a dance team; and BURRITO, an improvisational comedy team, offered a presentation to the student body in our morning assembly. Members of the freshman class turned out to audition for all three of these student run groups and will most likely be represented in each.

The class coordinators for the freshman class are Jane Raab and Anne O'Dowd. Mrs. Raab and Mrs. O'Dowd are also advisors for a number of the students. Each student has been assigned an advisor and your daughters know the identities of their individual advisors by this time. Please feel free to contact your daughter's advisor. Besides Mrs. Raab and Mrs. O'Dowd, the other advisors are Sarah Doering, Deirdre Gonzales, Dana Chapin, Debra Baker, Jodie Hollander, and Sue Pinckney. Each of these advisors is an experienced individual and she will meet regularly with her advisees. Again, please feel free to contact your daughter's advisor or one of the class coordinators should any concern arise. Mrs. Raab's email address is Jane_Raab@santacatalina.org. Mrs. O'Dowd's email address is Anne_O'Dowd@santacatalina.org.

We are truly happy with the freshmen class and the way they have embraced school life. They are clearly a talented group of students, eager to learn and to get involved in all that school has to offer. As always, please feel free to call us with any questions, concerns, or simply to check in. In the meantime, all the best and we look forward to seeing many of you at Parents' Weekend.

Sincerely,

Dr. Murphy
Head of Upper School

NEWS FOR THE PARENTS OF THE CLASS OF 2008

Dear Sophomore Parents,

Welcome back to school. The sophomores have a great deal to look forward to this year. Academically, their classes are more challenging. As they tackle math, science, English, languages, religious studies, and electives, they are also balancing sports and PE, dance, or play rehearsals. In addition to all of this, they will encounter the PSAT for the first time. For many students, thoughts of college have begun to arise. Each student is assigned an academic advisor to help guide her through the path of sophomore year. This year, sophomore advisors are as follows: Joe Raab, Heather Daly, Michele Guido, Brendan Daly, Erin White, Cassandra Brenot, Annick Nardeux, Ned Stork, Sheri Deeter and Merritt Weisenburger. Your daughter's advisor is listed at the top of her class schedule. Please feel free to contact the appropriate advisor for any questions or concerns regarding your daughter's school life, academic or otherwise.

As the sophomores juggle so many components of their school life, it is important to encourage them to have a little fun too. With the wide variety of activities available to sophomores both on and off campus every student, resident and day, has the opportunity to enjoy new experiences with their classmates. Already the sophomore class has gone roller skating, had a pizza party, had a movie night off campus and one on campus in the PAC, participated in Galactic Glow-in-the-Dark bowling, and many sophomores attended the trip to Great America. Moreover, as a class, the sophomores will organize the annual Winter Formal dance for the entire student body. This event is anticipated eagerly by Santa Catalina students, and promises to be one of the highlights of the year. It is a night when students are invited to wear formal dress and dance the night away with their dates and friends. This year the dance will be on February 4, 2006. Sophomores will begin to prepare for Winter Formal during the fall and will set the planning into high gear after the Christmas Break. This class' high energy and creativity is sure to produce a very successful event.

It is our priority as sophomore class coordinators to facilitate a successful year for each sophomore and her family. Please let us know what we can do for you and your daughter. You can reach us by telephone or via email at Heather_Daly@santacatalina.org and at Merritt_Weisenburger@santacatalina.org. In the meantime, we look forward to seeing many of you in the coming months.

Best Wishes,

Heather Daly
Merritt Weisenburger
Sophomore Class
Coordinators

Congratulations,
Heather, Brendan, and
Austin on the arrival of
Elsbeth Keena Daly, born
September 9, 2005!

Dear Parents of Juniors:

Greetings from Santa Catalina! After the excitement of the start of school, we have settled into the rhythms and challenges of the school year. As I'm sure you're aware, students often find the junior year to be quite difficult, as their academic classes grow more demanding and they begin to think more earnestly about their post-graduation futures. As co-coordinators of the class of 2007 (and advisors to juniors), we try to help them deal with these stresses productively and to continue reaping the benefits of their education here. We oversee a group of experienced advisors, each of whom is charged with supervising the academic and social welfare of a small group of juniors. Your daughters know the identities of their individual advisors, and you should feel free to contact an advisor if you wish to do so. For resident juniors, the advisors are Nancy Hunt, Simon Hunt, Bill Doering, Melissa Haseltine, Broeck Oder, and Paulette Struckman. For day student juniors, the advisors are Robin de la Llata, Stan Dowson, Dana Hart-Stone, and Noova Ongley. Each of these advisors will be meeting regularly with his or her advisees. Nonetheless, we would like you to know (as we believe students are aware) that we are available—as class coordinators—to address any concerns that may arise.

Of course, rigorous academics—important as they are—comprise just one aspect of the junior year at Santa Catalina School. Along with the other junior class advisors, we are also looking forward to a busy and exciting year outside the classroom. We have already begun to plan some activities with the class officers, and girls are already pursuing their extracurricular goals on athletic courts, theatrical stages, and other fields of endeavor. This term, many girls are involved in the musical and other preparations for Parents' Weekend, and everyone is looking forward to participating in our school's annual service days, when our school seeks to help others in the larger community of the Monterey Peninsula. As an outgrowth of that program, many juniors are also involved in planning our response to the devastation of Hurricane Katrina—as with our “Karnival for the Cause” fundraiser, an event for lower school students and other local children. In the second semester, the girls will enjoy the fun of Ring Week, culminating in a dinner hosted for them by their senior ring sisters. A few weeks later, the juniors will return the favor, putting on the annual Prom.

As they pursue all of these activities (and others), of course, your daughters will need to work hard and remain focused. We're here to help them succeed. Things seem to be off to a good start, and we're very much looking forward to the rest of the year. Please let us know if we can be of any assistance in the coming months, especially if concerns arise that you would like to see addressed here at school. We can be reached by telephone (831.655.9330) or email (Nancy_Hunt@santacatalina.org or Simon_Hunt@santacatalina.org), and we'd be glad to hear from you.

Sincerely,
Nancy and Simon Hunt
Junior Class Coordinators

Dear Senior Parents:

Greetings from Santa Catalina School! It is hard to believe that the girls have almost completed a full month of school. The seniors seem happy to be back for their final year of high school and have made a wonderful impression on the underclassmen. They deserve to be acknowledged for the warm welcome that they extended, particularly to the freshmen as their “big sisters.”

This year, I will be serving as the senior class advisor with additional support from Dr. Murphy, Head of Upper School, and Mr. Peck, the Director of College Counseling. The girls are meeting regularly with Mr. Peck as he provides information about the college process. He also arranges numerous visits with representatives from a wide variety of schools and encourages them to meet with him as soon as possible to discuss their college lists. This is an exciting time in your daughter's life.

Aside from classes and homework, we were all pleased to see so many seniors participating in athletics and theater this fall. Also, many of the girls went on the annual senior rafting trip over the weekend and had a great time. As the year gets underway, please encourage your daughter to fully participate in all that Santa Catalina has to offer. Their continued involvement at school will only make their senior year that much more memorable.

The seniors have so much to look forward to this year: Ring Week, Prom, a trip to Disneyland and Commencement. I am delighted to be a part of it. Your daughters have most likely made strong connections with faculty over the years. Please feel free to contact any one of them and do not hesitate to contact me with any questions or concerns you might have. I can be reached by telephone or via email at Kristi_Solt@santacatalina.org.

I look forward to seeing many of you at Parents' Weekend. In the meantime, all best wishes.

Sincerely,

Kristi Solt
Senior Class Coordinator
Dean of Students

Parents, you can read College Counseling's October Checklist for Seniors on the back of this month's inserted school calendar, or by going to our website (www.santacatalina.org) and choosing Upper School > College Counseling > Senior Checklist for October.



Fall's play will be *Once on This Island*, based upon Rosa Guy's novel *My Love, My Love*, which in turn was inspired by Hans Christian Andersen's *The Little Mermaid*. *Once On This Island* explores the tradition of storytelling, not only as entertainment, but as a means of passing down history, values, and insight from one generation to the next. It deals with the classic themes of love, loss, and redemption through the fabric of Caribbean culture, art, religion, and social structure. Dates: 10/21, 10/22, 10/27, 10/28, and Parents' Weekend, 10/29.

That's right...it's time to plan for the
**Santa Catalina
 Spring Skiing Trip!**

It's fun, it's safe and it's a great opportunity to spend time with your friends and to make new ones!

When: March 24th-26th, 2006

Where: Squaw Valley at Lake Tahoe

Cost: Ski packages range from \$288 to \$370. All packages include lift tickets, rentals (if needed), transportation, lodging in private condos, and most meals.

In order to reserve the accommodations, bus, and ski rentals, we need to hear from you by Friday, October 28th, 2005 at the latest. We only have space for 50 students; therefore, it is on a first-come, first-served basis. Just return the enclosed form with a check for the exact amount (please be sure to sign the form where indicated). Then, simply send it to my attention. Thank you!

Merritt Weisenburger
 Assistant Dean of Students
 c/o Santa Catalina School
 1500 Mark Thomas Drive
 Monterey, CA 93940

SERVICE LEAGUE NEWS

Dates to Remember!

- Service League Board Meeting, Thursday, October 6th @ 1:00 p.m. in the Service League Cottage.
- General Meeting: Thursday, October 13th @ 12:30 p.m. in the Hacienda. The topic will be Childhood Obesity with speaker Naomi Hrepich, RDA with the Monterey County WIC program and wife of coach Jeff Hrepich (LS). Lunch is \$15.00. Seating is limited. Please RSVP to Jennifer Sardina 655.9262.
- Annual Holiday Bazaar, November 10, 10:30 a.m. through 3:00 p.m. in the Hacienda. Light refreshments will be served. No charge. Wonderful handmade crafts, jewelry, charms, clothing, stationery. Contact Tina DeMaria for more info at 626.2644
- Annual San Francisco Bus Trip, Tuesday, November 29th. Bus departs Santa Catalina at 8:30 a.m. Reserved seating. Please contact Diane Chavez at 484.2574, Margaret Abouzeid at 373.5689, or Mary Alice Fettis at 624.7040 for more information. **Membership is ongoing throughout the year and is \$20.00. Please visit the website to download membership information.**

WINE TASTING AND AUCTION NEWS

The Twenty-Fourth Santa Catalina School Wine Tasting and Auction
 Saturday, October 8, 2005

Silent Auction and Wine Tasting
 5:30 p.m. Saint Louis Bertrand Hall

Live Auction 8:30 p.m.
 Santo Domingo Hall

The Wine Tasting and Auction is Santa Catalina School's largest fundraising event. All proceeds directly benefit the School's financial Aid Program. The success of the auction depends on your help!

The auction has various items available for Upper School parents to bid on by proxy. Please review the online catalog preview of items such as the traditional Team Captains Photo, Upper School Art Class note cards, weekend getaways in Monterey – perfect for Parent Weekend or Father-Daughter Weekend! Please complete your proxy bid form and fax it to 831.649.3056 no later than Friday, October 7 at noon.

To reserve tickets for the evening or to purchase benefit-drawing tickets, please contact Cynthia Bennett at 655.9310. Please share the gift of a Santa Catalina education and join us for this special evening.