



SANTA CATALINA UPPER SCHOOL

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LETTER FROM DR. MURPHY

Parents' Weekend is a very special event in our school year. As families come to campus and visit with teachers, the weekend serves to remind us that everything we do at school is, in actual fact, grounded in our relationships with one another. It reflects the value we place on community and speaks to the vital role our parents play. While we believe that Santa Catalina is a school where everyone can become their very best selves, we also believe that we become our best in a community where relationships with one another are so valued. At the end of the day, students, parents, and faculty are all working towards the same goal. We celebrate all of this during Parents' Weekend and thus we hope that, as you visit with your daughter's teachers, meet her friends, and speak with other parents, you find a warm welcome and genuine hospitality.

As many of you may know, the chair of our English Department, Mr. Donald Hackling, is recovering from major surgery due to throat cancer and will not be back to school at least until next semester. Mr. Hackling has been an important member of the Santa Catalina community for over 25 years. He is a most respected and loved teacher. He is also a dear friend to many of his colleagues and all of us at school are praying for him. We ask that you keep Mr. Hackling in your thoughts and prayers as well. I know he is appreciative of those prayers and grateful for the many outpourings of support and concern he has already received.

In this mailing you will find a number of important items including the November calendar. We are also sending you a copy of your daughter's Mid-semester Report. This report includes all work completed through October 14th. Please note that these grades are not recorded on your daughter's permanent record. They are intended only to serve as a reminder of progress mid-way through the semester. If you have any questions concerning your daughter's Mid-semester Report, I encourage you to contact your daughter's advisor. If it is a particular grade with which you are concerned, feel free to phone the teacher of the class. Please know that all of us on the faculty are happy to answer questions and address any of your concerns.

We look forward to seeing many of you 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.

Parents' Weekend Update 10/28-10/30

1. Families who requested faculty appointments in advance will receive a personalized schedule by Tuesday, October 25.
2. If you did not request a faculty appointment before the deadline, you may sign-up for appointments at the reception in the Study Hall on Friday, October 28.
3. In order to accommodate all reservations, please note that faculty appointments are ten minutes each.

IMPORTANT DATES IN NOVEMBER

- 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.)

ON THE HORIZON

- 12/8 Service League Christmas Luncheon at 12:15 p.m.
- 12/10 Candlelight Mass at 7:30 p.m.
- 12/13 - 12/16 Semester Exams
- 12/16 Depart for Christmas Vacation after last commitment.
- 1/3/2006 Classes Resume

COLLEGE COUNSELING INFORMATION

Senior Checklist for November

This information is also on our website at santacatalina.org > [upper school](#) > [college counseling](#).

This is the month when University of California and most Cal State applications are submitted. We will be helping with the process, but your daughter is responsible for making sure everything gets done on time. November 30 is the final day for online submission. Paper applications must be postmarked by November 30 as well.

If the college to which your daughter is applying has a deadline of February 1 (or earlier) Mr. Peck would like to receive all School Report, College Counselor, Recommendation, Transcript Request Forms, etc. before Thanksgiving break. It is not necessary for her to provide him with stamped envelopes. While he will accept these forms later on, completing this step by November 18 is helpful for your daughter and Mr. Peck.

As noted in the October checklist, please encourage your daughter to give her teachers plenty of advance notice when she requests recommendation letters and to provide them with the list, any forms (if applicable), addressed envelopes, and a notation of the deadline for each college.

Your daughter does not need to submit any of her applications before a college's deadline, but Mr. Peck strongly suggests that she complete as many as possible before the end of Thanksgiving break. She will have a very full schedule in December, including exams, not to mention the holidays. Many colleges have deadlines of Jan. 1 or Jan. 15; some operate on a rolling basis – which can mean first come, first served – so your daughter should plan ahead.

If your daughter is applying Early Action or Early Decision with a notification date around Dec. 15, she does not need to send in additional application material until after she has heard the results of the EA or ED. She might have them ready to go just in case.

For those applying for financial aid, Mr. Peck will let your daughter know when the FAFSA forms arrive. She should already be checking to see if her colleges require any other forms, for example the CSS PROFILE.

Many colleges and universities visit the school in November. An updated schedule can be found on the school web site.



Featured in this Fall's play, *Once on This Island*, are (l to r), Lower School student Victoria Kvitck, Courtney Smith, Genevieve Taricco, and Camila de la Llata. The play is 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, as a means of passing down history, values, and insight from one generation to the next. Dates: 10/21, 10/22, and 10/27 at 7:30 p.m., 10/28 at 12:15 p.m., and Parents' Weekend, 10/29 at 8:00 p.m.

SERVICE LEAGUE NEWS

- 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
- Please see the enclosed flyer about our December shopping trip to San Francisco.

Membership is ongoing throughout the year and is \$20.00. Please visit the website to download membership information.

WINE AUCTION NEWS

THANK YOU to the entire school community who generously supported Santa Catalina's financial aid program through the Wine Tasting and Auction. Thanks to you, deserving students can benefit from a Santa Catalina education.

The Wine Tasting and Auction committee is delighted to announce the event raised approximately \$120,000 for the school's financial aid program. The Class prefects raised \$10,000. Thanks to all who helped to create these wonderful memories, the auction raised \$533 in seven days. A very special THANK YOU to the Alumni Board of Directors who generously donated items for the silent auction. THANK YOU to the entire committee, parent volunteers, faculty, and students who gave their gift of time to make this event possible.

Plans are underway for the Twenty-fifth Anniversary of the Santa Catalina Wine Tasting and Auction. School will celebrate the silver anniversary of this tradition in the fall of 2006.