

SANTA CATALINA UPPER SCHOOL

Volume 5, Issue 1 • September 2009

DATES TO REMEMBER

US Students

- **Senior Rafting Trip**
September 4–6
Departs 3:00 p.m.
- **ACT Exams**
Saturday, September 12
- **Tennis Invitational**
September 11–12

US Parents

- **Freshman Day Parents Supper**
Tuesday, September 15
6:00 p.m.
Dining Room
- **Sophomore Day Parents Supper**
Tuesday, September 22
6:00 p.m.
Dining Room

Parent Association

- **PA Board Meeting**
Thursday, September 3
8:15 a.m.
The Cottage
- **Benefit Celebration Meeting**
Wednesday, September 9
8:15 a.m.
Dining Room

Alumnae Board

- **Alumnae Board Meetings**
September 12–13

Vacations/Holidays

- **Open Weekend**
Departure: Friday, September 25
Dismissal after last class
Return: Tuesday, September 29
By 7:30 p.m.
- **School Offices Closed**
Monday, September 28

Please visit the Web calendar for the latest detailed information:

santacatalina.org/calendar

Greetings from Dr. Murphy

Dear Parents:

We hope you had an enjoyable and restful summer and are prepared for the new school year.

As you may know, this year Santa Catalina's Upper School will launch a school-wide focus captured in the three words *Women/ Global/ Leadership*. Building on our school's tradition, we will undertake a complete review of our curriculum in order to better prepare our students for the future. Along with our academic program, an innovative co-curricular program entitled *Journey* will include an enhanced advisory program with expanded student services and greater college counseling support for students. Other changes at School include a shared lunch period for all and a weekly Chapel Service. We are very excited about, what we have termed, our "RENEW" efforts here at school. You will no doubt hear more about these as the school year progresses. In the meantime, I invite you to read several articles about the efforts in this issue of the newsletter.

Because we are making a concerted effort to be more environmentally conscious, all school mailings, with the exception of grades and comments, will be sent electronically this year. You can keep up to date with all that is happening at School by regularly visiting our school online. Our website calendar will continue to be the primary source of information about School and the most up to date and include any last minute changes to the schedule. The dates of major events and vacation times can be located by scrolling

through a yearly view of the Upper School calendar, as well. You can also find helpful information about School, including contact information.

We once again ask that both resident and day student families who may be traveling at major vacation times remember to make vacation travel arrangements now. We have mentioned this before, but it is always a helpful reminder. As I am sure all of you can appreciate, class attendance is most important, and the absence of several from a given class can easily disrupt the nature of that class for others. It is important to note particularly that we are not able to change the time of a final examination in December in order to accommodate travel plans. Those traveling at Thanksgiving, Christmas, and Easter vacations should make arrangements now. We very much appreciate those of you who have taken care of these details so promptly and correctly over the years.

Please know that all of us at Santa Catalina are committed to create the best opportunity for your daughter's success – to help her grow into the person she is meant to become. And, as always, we work in partnership with you towards that goal. All best wishes as we begin the 2009–2010 school year.

Sincerely,



John J. Murphy, Ph.D.
Head of Upper School

From the Santa Catalina Parent Association

The Parent Association had an overwhelming response to our volunteer opportunity forms - thank you to everyone! I am looking forward to a fun and exciting year. Our first board meeting of the year is Thursday, September 3 at 8:15 a.m. in the Cottage. As always, our meetings are open to all parents and we welcome new

faces! A special thank you to Mariana Avalos-Feehan and Lori Hightower for their gifts of time and energy in helping to welcome the freshman class.

—Debbie Etienne '82
President, SCPA



2009 ANNUAL BENEFIT CELEBRATION

Saturday, October 10 • 5:30 p.m.
Santa Catalina School
\$80 per person

All proceeds benefit the financial aid program.

Join us at the Fiesta and Celebrate Our Santa Catalina Family!

We'll taste some tequila and wine, enjoy some singing and dancing, dine at the Mexican buffet complete with margaritas and sangria, and raise money for our financial aid program. Join the fun by returning your R.S.V.P. card today!

Benefit Drawing - Don't Miss Out!

Where can \$30 buy you a 15" 500 GB MacBook Pro Laptop, a Canon Printer, a 32 GB iPod Touch *and* four hours of technical assistance? At the Fiesta! Purchase a Benefit Drawing ticket for \$30 and you have a chance to win it all! Purchase tickets on your R.S.V.P. card or contact Lisa Knight at 372.6049 or Joan Yu 333.1971.

Come Learn More at Our First General Meeting!

Join us on Wednesday, September 9 at 8:15 a.m. in the Dining Room to enjoy some breakfast and see how you can help us Celebrate our Catalina Family. Our Fiesta is almost here and we need your support to make this a successful event.

Want to Volunteer but Can't Attend Our Meeting?

Call our Volunteer Coordinator, Mary Nikssarian, at 596.4593 or our Upper School Representative, Michelle Blake, at 650.368.6068 to ask about the many ways you can help.

Sign Up: Drive Carmel

Below are the driver's training classroom times for Drive Carmel. All classes meet from 11:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m.

Session 1	Session 2
Stevenson School	Santa Catalina
Sept. 13, 19, 20, 27	Oct. 10, 11, 17, 18

To register, or if you have questions, please contact Mary Gifford at 831.625. 3994 or visit their website at drivecarmelschool.com.



COLLEGE COUNSELING

September College Checklist for Seniors

✓ Meet with Mr. Peck

When students feel ready (but no later than Parents' Weekend), they should make an appointment to review their college interests with Mr. Peck, Director of College Counseling, via the sign-up sheets outside the College Counseling office door. They can make appointments to see him as many times as they wish. Some of your daughters may be thinking about applying Early Action or Decision or considering places that offer rolling admission. If so, please encourage them to see Mr. Peck earlier in the term rather than later.

✓ Request Application Material

If students have not already done so, they need to get in touch with the colleges they are considering to request information, and if applicable, an application. Colleges are often slow in responding to these requests due to volume at this time of year and because most materials are sent out bulk mail.

✓ Online College Applications

Online access to applications to the University of California and Cal State Universities will be available later. These must be submitted by the end of November. Mr. Peck will go over specifics of the process at an appropriate time.

✓ Attend College Admission Presentations at Catalina

Students should watch the college bulletin board for a list of college representatives visiting school this fall, noting that it is frequently updated. If they want to attend a meeting, they should sign up on the sheet. They will need to get permission from their teacher if they will be missing a class. These sessions can be important opportunities to meet with college admissions officers who, in most cases, will be reading the application, as well as to get the most up-to-date information. Students should consider the type of institutions visiting as well as the names. If, for example, her favorite small New England college isn't visiting but a similar one is, it still might be worthwhile to attend,

since both institutions may share many of the same characteristics.

✓ College Resource Room

In the College Resource Room students will find: college catalogs grouped by category, videos and a wide range of reference books which they are free to borrow. There are also extra viewbooks, applications, financial aid materials and a lot of miscellaneous materials that they may keep.

✓ Standardized Testing

SAT I / Subject Tests will be offered on October 10, November 7 and December 5. The ACT will be offered September 12, October 24 and December 12. These test dates are good for all regular applications, including UCs.

Whether your daughter registers for the SAT or ACT online or by mail, the earlier she does so, the more likely she is to get her first choice test center. The closest deadlines are September 9 for the October SAT and September 18 for the October ACT.

✓ Teacher Recommendations

Ideally your daughter has already done some thinking about which of her teachers she will ask to write on her behalf. Writing recommendation letters takes a lot of time and effort, so she should do whatever she can to make the task easier for them. As a general rule, students should have the same teachers write their recommendations to all the colleges to which they are applying. Mr. Peck will go over this procedure in detail later on.

✓ Be Proactive & Responsive

Many things will be going on this fall of which your daughters need to be aware (such as deadlines), and a lot of opportunities will be available to them, so they should keep their eyes and ears open. This is also a very busy semester for Mr. Peck, and students can help him help them better by being proactive and responsive.

STUDENT SERVICES: One-Stop Service!

Visitors to campus during the summer may have seen construction activity taking place along the lower hallway of the two-story classroom building. Burly men with power tools were found scrambling around in what was formerly classroom 8 and Mrs. McLaughlin's office. This activity all had one purpose: to bring to reality the idea of combining many important student services in one location. In the space of a few short weeks, the classroom and offices were transformed into the new Student Services area.

Moving classroom 8 to the second story and redesigning the former classroom space for additional offices provides unprecedented access to helpful people and services. Making their home base in the Student Services area are Mrs. Kristi McLaughlin, Dean of Students, and Ms. Sue Pinckney, Dean of Studies. These two women play significant roles in all students' experiences at Santa Catalina, and by centrally locating them along this most-traveled walkway, Ms. Pinckney and Mrs. McLaughlin are more accessible.



Also relocating into the suite of offices is the complete College Counseling operation, including Mr. Bill Peck's office and the College Resource Room. This is the place to visit with college representatives or to browse print resources and the Internet to get an overview of many college and university opportunities available to our graduates. Three computers will be available for student and parent use. Mr. Peck, Director of College Counseling, says, "The new college counseling office, with the resource room immediately adjacent, will provide a convenient 'one stop shopping' environment for information on and assistance with the college search process, not only for seniors and juniors but for all students and parents." He continues, "Interestingly, both the college office and resource room were previously located in these same two rooms in the past. It's great to come home and have exclusive spaces again in a convenient location to help all the young women of Santa Catalina."

Also taking up residence in the new office suite are Ms. Michele Guido, Sophomore Class Coordinator, and Ms. Kate Cerruti, Leadership and Life Skills Program Coordinator. Both Ms. Guido and Ms. Cerruti will divide their time between their classroom and these offices.

To view a slideshow of the construction progress, click on this link: santacatalina.org.

—Mr. John Aime
Assistant Head of School

New Website to Make Its Debut in September

A new Santa Catalina website is being unveiled in September. The site has been designed in partnership with SilverPoint, a company based in Baltimore that develops websites specifically for schools, and coordinated internally by Maria Sutherland of the Communications Office.

The goal of the new site is to communicate the heart of Santa Catalina through images and words. It will showcase the work of Michael Barley, a New Mexico-based photographer who specializes in capturing school images. The text has been rewritten with input from Art & Science, a strategic marketing firm with clients that include Harvard and Dartmouth.

The new site will also provide "grab and go" information for potential and existing students and parents. New features will include a parent section, information center, online donations, and access to Facebook. Over the next year, a new alumnae section, video, and more interactive features will be added.

"The new site is a culmination of two years of work that has involved many talented people," says Rich Patterson, Assistant Head of School for Advancement. "From designers, writers, and programmers to faculty, staff, and students, we are very grateful to everyone who contributed. We look forward to the site's continued evolution as a place to celebrate life at Santa Catalina."

Chapel Services: Reflection, Meditation, and Prayer



We are pleased to begin weekly Chapel Service this year, a way to refresh ourselves both collectively and individually in the midst of very busy lives. Since spirituality is at

the heart of Santa Catalina's identity, this year we will come together each week for an ecumenical chapel service.

These weekly services may include readings, songs, meditation music, or a brief opportunity for a selected individual from our community to share what is in her or his heart about the season of the year or a particular theme. We hope to have chapel leadership from students and faculty from many areas of school life: clubs, academic classes, community service groups, and the visual and performing arts.

Senior Kelsey Pennington will serve as Spiritual Life Coordinator this year. She will be working to help create rich and exciting chapel services to look forward to each week. Here is what she has to say about the new plans: "As I look forward to the coming year, I am both enthusiastic and hopeful about the prospects of the new chapel service that will be implemented into our weekly schedule. It will hopefully serve as a wonderful reminder for all students of the traditions that form the core foundation and mission of Santa Catalina and also help to strengthen our school community.

"The ecumenical gathering, I hope, will also become a place of dialogue between students and faculty and between various faiths and ways of seeing the world. It can be another forum in which members of our school community will be welcomed and encouraged to both share and listen to different perspectives and show each of us the ways in which our friends, teachers, and mentors see spirituality and choose to put their faith into action."

—Ms. Debra Baker
Director of Campus Ministry

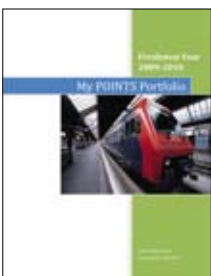
New Advising Program Starts Girls on Their Catalina Journey

This year, we are introducing a comprehensive advising program called *Journey*. Under the direction of Dr. Brenot, the advising program will be quite different from the past. The freshmen, for example, have a curriculum and, as a consequence, their class will meet more often. The freshman class will meet three days a week, and the sophomore, junior, and senior classes will meet once a week. In addition, all classes will meet with their advisor/advisee groups once a week.

■ Freshman Advising

The Freshman Class Advising Team is Ms. Baker, Ms. Cerruti, and Ms. Pinckney, with Dr. Brenot as the lead advisor. There will be approximately fifteen students in each advisee group.

What makes this year's program so exciting is that through advising and class meetings, freshmen will explore such topics as time management, friendship, organizational skills, how girls learn, conflict resolution, stress and ways to cope with it, tolerance and diversity, and the environment, among other topics. Dr. Brenot, Assistant Head of Upper School, stated, "We are thrilled with our new curriculum and really look forward to working with the freshmen as they begin to shape their high school journey."



An exciting new aspect of the freshman advising program is the "My POINTS Portfolio." POINTS is an acronym for Personal Objectives in Navigating Toward Success, coined by a senior, Cathleen

Bettiga, in a French class brainstorming session last spring. As the name suggests, this portfolio will be a representative of each student's life and work during her time at Santa Catalina. In it, a student will record her academic and personal goals, learn more about herself through reflective activities, pinpoint her talents and passions, and devise a plan for this year and beyond of how to develop herself in personal and academic terms.

■ Sophomore Advising

The Sophomore Advising Team, led by Ms. Guido, is made up of Madame O'Dowd, Ms. Ongley, Sister Christine, Dr. Reilly, Mr. Riley,



Ms. Still, Mr. White, Dr. Lumsden, and Ms. Deeter. Advisee groups will consist of five or six students each.

The sophomore class will also have its own "My POINTS Portfolio." Sophomores will explore some of the same topics as freshmen, but with a slightly different twist, more in keeping with the challenges faced by second year students. Sophomores will have a college visit day again this year, but afterward will reflect more deeply on that day. This will be a springboard for them to begin thinking about their future after Santa Catalina and to give some shape to their college plans.

■ Junior Advising

Mr. Aime, Assistant Head of School, heads up the Junior Class Advising Team. The junior team, including Mr. Dowson, Mr. Hart-Stone, Mrs. Helbig, Mr. Oder, Ms. Sheets, Mr. Stork, Ms. Struckman, Mr. Tuttle, and Mr. Whitchurch, will advise groups of roughly seven advisees.

Junior advisory meetings will focus on paving the road for the senior year college application process. "The junior advising team is planning to help this outstanding class begin to navigate the college admission process," Mr. Aime stated, "helping each member of the class identify personal strengths and put together a compelling picture of her educational goals. We also are going to have some fun with traditional events this year, too!"

Besides being a general source of support and knowledge, advisors will help their advisees



develop and write a résumé, fill out and submit a student questionnaire for future college counseling, do some preliminary college brainstorming, and work with members of the English department to help their advisees write a self-reflective college essay.

■ Senior Advising

College counseling is handled by Mr. Peck, the Director of College Counseling, and Sister Claire, the Head of School. In addition, Mr. Peck will be assisted this year by faculty members who will serve as advisors to seniors. The Senior Class Advising Team is Ms. de la Lata, Mr. Hunt, Dr. Hunt, Dr. Kapolka, Dr. Murphy, and led by Mrs. McLaughlin.



College counseling is a part of the academic and personal journey of each student at Santa Catalina. The students' college decisions are informed by their academic, co-curricular, and extracurricular experiences while at school. Thus, students are asked to think critically about their college choices throughout their time at Santa Catalina.

With senior advisors, students will be given assistance with the writing of their college essays, in particular, as well as encouraged and supported throughout the application process.

—Dr. Cassandra Brenot
Assistant Head of Upper School
and Language Department Chair