



SANTA CATALINA LOWER SCHOOL COUGAR CONNECTION

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Volume 3, Issue 16 • Wednesday, April 30, 2008

Music Festival Awards

Many Lower School music students performed at the California Music Educator's Solo and Ensemble Music Festival on Saturday, April 5, at Seaside High School.

The following students received an "excellent" rating (the 2nd highest rating):

Richard Berry, Grade 3
Dana Donaldson, Grade 1
Hannah Donaldson, Grade 3
Alethia Halamandaris, Grade 5
Gwen Humble, Grade 8
Emily Hunter, Grade 7
Cate Liner, Grade 1
Kylie Magpusao, Grade 7
Emma Phillips, Grade 7
Sarah Ruhnke, Grade 8
David Sanchez, Grade 2
Dominic Scattini, Grade 2
Ben Stork, Grade 3

The following students received a "superior" (the highest possible rating):

Chloe Bernal, Grade 1
Courtne Breitfuss, Grade 4
Simone Brown, Grade 1
Sophia D'Amelio, Grade 3
Tamsen Forrest, Grade 7
Alexandra Ghinn, Grade 4
Annie Goldsmith, Grade 4
Alexandra Guerrero, Grade 1
Anna Hunt, Grade 3
Samyuktha Masilamani, Grade 6
Grace Pryor, Grade 3
Caitlyn Rodriguez, Grade 4
Livia Viviani, Grade 5

Grade 8 student **Sarah Ruhnke** competed in the Central Coast Section of the California Association for Music Education Solo and Ensemble Festival and was awarded a second place medal.

Student Council Elections

The Student Council elections for 2008 – 2009 were exciting! Students presented interesting new ideas and gave thought-provoking speeches. We congratulate all students who ran for office. We wish our new council much success next year.

New Student Council

President: **Jack Tardieu**
Vice President: **Emma Bhaskar**
Secretary: **Elena Dreyer**
Treasurer: **Laila Joseph**

Thank you to the candidates:

President
Evan Etienne
Emily Hunter
Michelle Lee
Jack Tardieu

Vice President
Emma Bhaskar
Maria Christensen
Tamsen Forrest
Billy Rudiger
Lucy Scattini



Secretary
Elena Dreyer
Katie Griffin
Jordan Goodman
Amanda Nansel-Giuliano

Treasurer
Andrew Arnold
Margaret Bozzo
Laila Joseph

Mathletics Championship Winners



Lower School students outdid themselves at the 40th Annual Mathletics Championship by winning awards at every grade level from Grade 5 through 8!

On Saturday, April 12, twelve lower and middle school students competed in the county wide math competition against 350 students from 50 different schools. As a school, we won the top team award in Algebra I. The members of the Algebra team were grade 8 students Kevin Tang, Matthew Lindly, and Ryan Katz.

Individual winners were awarded U.S. Savings Bonds for first place (\$100.00), second place (\$75.00), and third place (\$50.00). Our teams and individual award winners were as follows:

Grade 5
Margaux Coniglio (Mathletics clock)
Makena Ehnisz (3rd place winner)
Aaron Ray (Honorable Mention)

Grade 7
Katherine Berry (3rd place winner)
Rachel Herrera
Laila Joseph

Grade 6
Amanda Etienne (Honorable Mention)
Megan Hand (Honorable Mention)
Cameron Johnson

Grade 8/Algebra
Ryan Katz (Honorable Mention)
Matthew Lindly (Honorable Mention)
Kevin Tang (1st place winner)

We are very proud of our teams and their high achievement. A big thank you goes to our math teachers Jane Gallegos, Mike Raggett, and Lorna Monroe. Mrs. Monroe was the coach for all four teams.

Important Dates and Events

See our Web calendar for the latest details and updates.

- **May Community Service:** Soles4Orphans
- **C Schedule**, Thursday, May 1
- **Parent Association Board Meeting**
Thursday, May 1, 8:15 a.m., The Cottage
- **Mass**, Chapel Dress
Thursday, May 1, 10:30 a.m., Rosary Chapel

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CARNIVAL on MAY 10: Rides, Benefit Drawing, Books, Flowers, Food ... see page 4

Important Dates and Events

Continued from page 1...

- **C Schedule**, Friday, May 2
- **Primary/Intermediate Assembly**
Friday, May 2, 8:15 a.m., MPR, Kindergarten Presents
- **Moms in Touch** (Prayer Request Box in LS Office)
Friday, May 2, 9:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m., MPR
- **Grade 3 to Santa Lucia Preserve**
Friday, May 2, 9:10 a.m. – 11:45 a.m.
- **Middle School Talent Show**
Friday, May 2, 10:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m., MPR
- **Carnival Meeting**
Tuesday, May 6, 8:15 a.m., The Cottage
- **Grade 8 Parent Meeting**
Thursday, May 8, 8:15 a.m., The Cottage
- **Lower School Education Committee Meeting**
Thursday, May 8, 3:30 p.m.
- **Board of Trustee Meetings**
Thursday, May 8 – Friday, May 9
- **Carnival Free Dress Day**, Friday, May 9
- **Pre-K Mommy Tea**, Friday, May 9, 11:30 p.m.
- **Kindergarten Mommy Tea**, Friday, May 9, 1:30 p.m.
- **Primary/Intermediate Assembly**
Friday, May 9, 8:15 a.m., MPR
- **Moms in Touch** (Prayer Request Box in LS Office)
Friday, May 9, 9:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m., MPR
- **Carnival**, Saturday, May 10, 11:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.
- **C Schedule**, Tuesday, May 13
- **Middle School Sports Recognition Program**
Tuesday, May 13, 10:30 a.m., MPR
- **Lower School Private Music Recital**
Tuesday, May 13, 3:45 p.m., Mary Johnson Recital Hall
- **Grade 2 to The Farm in Salinas**
Thursday, May 15, 9:00 a.m. – 11:15 a.m.
- **Grade 4 to Gold Country**
Thursday, May 15 – Friday, May 16
- **Primary/Intermediate Assembly**
Friday, May 16, 8:15 a.m., MPR, Grade 3 Presents
- **Moms in Touch** (Prayer Request Box in LS Office)
Friday, May 16, 9:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m., MPR
- **First Holy Communion, Grade 2**
Saturday, May 17, 10:30 a.m., Rosary Chapel

Upcoming Events at School

■ Parent Association Spring Luncheon

The Parent Association's annual Spring Luncheon will be Tuesday, May 20, at 12:30 p.m. in the Hacienda Courtyard. This is a perfect opportunity to dine with friends before vacation begins. Make checks payable to Santa Catalina Parent Association, \$15.00 per person. RSVP to Kathy Gibbs at kogibbs@sbcglobal.net.

■ Last Chance to Buy Girl Scout Cookies!

Girl Scouts will hold their final cookie sale of the year on Thursday, May 1 from 3:00 to 3:30 p.m., on the lawn in front of the Pre-K room and in car line. Cookies are \$4.00 per box. Thank you for supporting Girl Scouts!

Earth Week Celebration



Lower School celebrated not just Earth Day, but instead, an entire Earth Week with special events focusing on climate change, recycling, water conservation, and an all-around need to “Think Green and Protect Our Environment.”

On Monday, April 2, Grades 4 – 7 (Grade 8 was in Washington, D.C.) gathered in the Mary Johnson Recital Hall to hear Dr. Wieslaw Maslowski and his associate, Jaclyn Clement Kinny (oceanographic researchers from the Monterey Naval Postgraduate School) speak about climate change and its effect on the polar ice caps. Meanwhile, Grades Pre-K – 3 enjoyed a musical Earth Week program with Dr. Doug Smith and Mrs. Leslie Turrini-Smith in the MPR. Dr. Smith and Mrs. Turrini-Smith are parents of Rio in fifth grade and Tio in second grade.

On Tuesday, many students wore dark glasses outside the classroom to demonstrate concern for the world's blindness to environmental crisis. Wednesday morning Lower School turned off lights from 8:00 to 10:00 a.m. to emphasize a need to conserve energy. On Thursday, Grades 4 – 7 joined with lower grade “buddies” to plant acorns as part of a plant restoration project for “Return of the Natives,” an environmental group associated with the Watershed Institute at CSUMB.

Across all four days students discussed the need to car-pool, ride their bikes, or take the bus. They learned why reusable cloth grocery bags are far superior to disposable plastic bags, and why it is important to turn off the tap and save water when they brush their teeth. Parents may learn from their children how “thinking green” can become an important part of all of our lives.

Spring Art Show

Be an Art Show Volunteer!

There is still time to volunteer! Creating the Art Show is fun and rewarding. Would you be willing to assist us? Absolutely no experience is necessary! Please join us—and bring a friend! Volunteer flyers are available in the Lower School Office.

—Susan S. Smith, Art Teacher, K–8



Art Show Workshops and Installation:

- Thursday, May 1, 10:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m., LS Art Room
- Tuesday, May 6, 8:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m., LS Art Room
- Tuesday, May 13, 8:00 a.m. – 3:30 p.m., LS Art Room
- Monday, May 19, 8:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m., Installation in MPR
12:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m., Installation in MPR

Sports Schedule ~ Go Cougars!

All games and matches are subject to change or cancellation due to weather or other circumstances. If you have any questions, please contact Coach Jeff Hrepich at 831.655.9353. Thank you for your support and "Go Cougars!"

Middle School Track and Field

- **Saturday, May 3, 10:00 a.m.,** MTJAL Championships at Carmel Middle School
Coaches: Margaret Scattini & Catherine Tardieu

Middle School Golf

- **Monday, May 5, 1:00 p.m.,** MTJAL Tournament at Rancho West
Coach: Jeff Hrepich

Middle School Tennis

- **Tuesday, May 6, 4:00 p.m.,** All Saints at Carmel Valley Ranch
Coach: Julie Forrest

Sports Recognition Program

- **Tuesday, May 13, 10:30 a.m.,** MPR



Education Committee Update

The mission of the Lower School Education Committee is—in keeping with our school's mission—to address issues and opportunities pertaining to the Lower School community, to provide parent education, to facilitate communication among the varying constituencies, and to communicate information to parents in an effective and timely manner.

The Education Committee met on January 17, and discussed a variety of issues outlined below.

Old Business

- **Letter Grades in Special Subjects:** After discussion with the faculty, the administration has decided to keep letter grades in special subjects.

- **Recycling of Textbooks:** The administration will report on this in May.

- **Middle School Music Class Size:** It is anticipated that Middle School music classes will be split into smaller groups next year.

- **Labor Day Picnic:** The Labor Day Picnic will remain as it is with the possibility of an added assembly.

New Business

- **Community Service:** A suggestion was received to make community service forms available online. This change has been made. Forms are currently online.

- **Hot Lunch:** A few complaints were received regarding the quality of the hot lunch program this year. Administration will look into this.

- **Honor Roll Assembly:** Some parents have expressed concern that the Honor Roll assemblies may make some students feel excluded. Faculty and administration feel that students are recognized for a variety of reasons over the year, and those who make Honor Roll should be recognized for their hard work.

- **Advisee Groups:** A concern was voiced regarding the current advisee system for Middle School. Administration will evaluate it for next year.

- **Outdoor Education:** A parent expressed an interest in having administrators attend Middle School Outdoor Education programs. Administration will consider this.

- **Upper School/Lower School Interaction:** A suggestion was made that we look into ways to enhance the interaction between Upper and Lower School students. The Parent Association will work with administration to find opportunities for this.

Committee Membership

Committee Chair: Debbie Etienne, Trustee

Committee Members: Frank Garcia, Steve John, Mary Nikssarian, Lori Wong, Kathy Gibbs, Parent Association President

Trustee Committee Members: Michael Bruno, Matt Gibbs, Nonie Ramsay

Administration: Sister Claire, John Aime, Rich Patterson, Linda Mutty, Christy Pollacci, Laurie Pope-Browne



Annual Fund: Every Parent Counts!

Number of Families Needed to Reach 100%

Grade	Annual Fund Donors (%)	Families
8		10 more
7		14 more
6		10 more
5		12 more
4		7 more
3		13 more
2		8 more
1		6 more
K		9 more
Pre-K		8 more

It is not too late to contribute!

Our parent participation is growing! Thank you to all who have contributed; your donations make a big difference to our school. Since April 16, 9 more families have contributed, bringing overall participation from 62% to 65%.

Even a small contribution—such as \$5.00—makes a difference. Parent participation is a factor when foundations consider our grant requests and help us continue the programs that set our school apart. Make your gift today at www.santacatalina.org, or call 831.655.9384.
Every Parent Counts!

Room Parents for 2008 – 2009

The forms to sign up as a Room Parent were due by April 16. If you are interested in being a Room Parent, please pick up a form in the Lower School Office or contact Christy Pollacci. Thank you.

Carnival: Going for the Gold!



■ Carnival: Saturday, May 10, 11:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

It's no longer months, nor weeks, but days until Carnival is here! Ten days to be precise—so plan on joining family and friends for a day of “Olympic” fun on Saturday, May 10.

■ Next Meeting: Tuesday, May 6, 8:15 a.m., The Cottage

Contact Carol Bonan or Kelly Davi for more information.

Rides & Attractions

We have new rides and attractions in the Olympic/sports theme: Grade 4 basketball challenge, inflate-a-derby 3-horse race, and obstacle courses for older and younger kids. We also have favorites including water balloon attack, 4-in-1 bungee trampoline, bounce house, rock climbing wall, mini-train rides, mini-golf, go fish, fish pong, giant slide, face painting, petting zoo, dunk tank, rope climb, Hi-Striker, and Karaoke!

Benefit Drawing

What a selection of Benefit Drawing prizes: 2 Days at Disneyland Parks and 2 nights at the Grand Californian; an Apple MacBook laptop; 4 tickets to the Yankees vs. Oakland A's; an iPod with wireless Internet and gift card; Nintendo Wii with Sports Package; Black Pocket Mod Vapor Razor Electric Scooter; Nintendo DS Lite with games gift card; and the Del Monte Package (\$150 gift card, plus \$50 gift cards for Borders, PF Chang's, and Cinemark Theaters). Look for Laurel Lembo or Sarah Hainstock during lunchtime or call them for additional tickets. The class sales contest ends Friday, May 9 at 3:45 p.m. The grade that sells the most tickets wins a Pool Party, and the 2nd place grade will win a Pizza Party! Go for the gold!

Grade 3 Cake Walk: Calling all Bakers

We need your help to bake and bring cakes, cookies, brownies, cupcakes, etc. for the Grade 3 Cake Walk. Please deliver your goodies to the Pre-K Classroom on Friday, May 9 after 12:00 p.m. or Saturday, May 10 before 11:00 a.m. Thank you!

Delicious Lunch & Snacks

In addition to our BBQ burgers and hot dogs, we will offer a selection including clam chowder in a bread bowl, two kinds of sushi, pastas, burritos, and an Asian chicken salad... and much more. Make sure to save room for the Grade 6 Snack Shack! Grade 7's new Beverage & Nacho booth will raise money for its class trip to Washington, D.C. next year. Please show your support and stop by for a cold drink and nachos.

Incredible Books for Sale—Antique, Vintage...

Carnival goers will have the opportunity to browse and purchase from a fabulous and varied collection of antique, vintage, and recent books assembled by Michael Doherty. Mr. Doherty will donate all money raised to the Lower School! Many of the books are 50-plus years old (newer titles, too), and include First Editions by Edith Wharton, a treatise by Herbert Hoover, an 1882 single-syllable version of Robinson Crusoe with color lithographs, and a 1771 copy of Osbeck's Voyage to China. Most of the books target adult readers, but there are selections which children will enjoy.

Mr. Doherty will also present a riddle to students. If students solve the riddle, they can pick a book for free!

Who is this generous soul? Mr. Doherty lives in Santa Cruz with his wife, Anika, and sons David, Nathan, and Solomon. On occasion,

he attends auctions with books, whence this collection originated. During one of his early library auctions, he found a small, beautiful book of poetry by Bryant, inscribed to the original owner in 1864. It transported him to an age which no longer exists, and “hooked” him as a dedicated bibliophile. Currently, Mr. Doherty spends the majority of his time here teaching middle school English and, this semester, religion to Grades 1 and 2. Mr. Doherty, thank you for supporting Lower School!

Flower Market: Don't Forget Mother's Day, May 11th!

Mother's Day is the day following Carnival, so make sure you have something special for Mom. Stop by the Flower Market booth to look at the topiaries, flower baskets, and fresh cut flowers. Many thanks to Margaret Scattini and Rita Flores!

Produce Market: A World of Fruit and Vegetables!

We will have a great selection of fruits and vegetables for everyone. Look for the booth in the parking lot near the Chapel. Once again, we want to thank Frank Garcia, Marc Mizgorski, and Tanamura & Antle for donating their time and fresh produce to Carnival.

Wristband Admission Prices

\$30 Ages 5 and older

\$20 Ages 4 and younger

Wristbands will be required for all rides and attractions. Wristbands may be purchased with cash, checks, or credit cards at the Concierge Booth.



Cash Only for All Other Purchases

Please remember that all food and beverages, produce and flower markets, Mr. Doherty's books, photo buttons, and Benefit Drawing tickets are cash only.

In the Community

■ **Free Nature Walk, Singing, Crafts, Art:** Free nature walk, bug stories, songs, crafts, and drawing for children ages 7 to 11 at the Marina, Seaside, and Carmel Valley branch libraries of the Monterey County Free Libraries. To register, or for more information, please call 831.883.7542.

■ **Soles4Orphans:** Brochures are available in the Lower School Office for Soles4Orphans, an organization dedicated to bringing a smile, love, and dignity to every orphan and child through a simple gift of shoes. For more information, please email paulina@soles4orphans.org. This is our May Community Service.

Summer at Santa Catalina

Registration for **Summer at Santa Catalina** has begun! Camp is for girls entering Grades 3 – 9 in the fall. This year's sessions are:

■ **Soccer Clinics:** July 7 – 11, July 14 – 18, July 21 – 25

■ **Basketball Clinics:** June 23 – 27, June 30 – July 4

■ Five-week Session: June 22 – July 26

■ Two-week Session: June 22 – July 5

■ Three-week Session: July 6 – July 26

Camp applications and clinic registration forms are available in the Lower School Office. If you have any questions, please contact Deirdre Gonzales at 831.655.9386.

