

OUR MISSION

We are a diverse learning community dedicated to creative, intellectual and ethical growth.

We support our students to become caring, self-aware, discerning and articulate individuals. We believe a fulfilling life includes personal accomplishments, meaningful relationships and service to society.

WE VALUE:

Our learning community, which includes our students, faculty, administrators, staff, families, alumni and local, national and international peers communities

Each individual, and all of their unique qualities which weave into the tapestry of our shared humanity

Intellectual inquiry that fosters a love of learning, open-mindedness, curiosity, self-discipline and perseverance

Commitment to practices that support equity and racial, social, economic and environmental justice

Reaa more:



COVER PHOTO: Elementary students in the children's garden. By Kami Pacheco

We gratefully acknowledge and thank the photographers whose work is included in this issue:
Ann Goewert, Carly Wheelehan, Cassia Laffin, Chrislaine Miller, Devin Kumar ('06), Jasmine Horan, Jessica Cambell, Jim Kavitsky, John Welch, Kami Pacheco, Katie Comartin, Kevict Yen, Leigh Ann Clifton, Lisa Catterall, Michelle Gunsky Photography, Nicole Silva Culbertson, Nicole Tervalon, Rebecca Kershnar, Robyn Pearson, Sara Sobkoviak, Shmuel Thaler, Stevan Manzur and other volunteers.

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INSPIRED LESSONS and MEANINGFUL LEARNING

Mount Madonna School (MMS) has a rich tradition of innovative education dedicated to creative, intellectual and ethical growth. MMS' philosophy of nurturing meaningful relationships coupled with offering an education ripe with experiential learning opportunities fosters an environment that supports students to dream big and think differently.

One inspiring lesson gleaned from the COVID-19 pandemic was our community's dedication to the school's traditions, values and mission. The community was committed to reviving the enduring traditions and programs that make our school stand out, such as performing arts. Students returned triumphantly to the stage with the lower school spring concert, middle school's "Matilda Jr.," high



school's "Beauty and the Beast," and our school-wide "Ramayana!" and the shared humanity, joyfulness and hope on display served to remind us of the importance of community.

By instilling curiosity, building awareness about global challenges and providing the tools for developing caring and discerning citizens, MMS is shaping the leaders of tomorrow. MMS graduates will propel progress, facing the world with kindness and compassion and challenging norms to create a more sustainable, just and socially minded society. As a student-centered school, MMS values and honors each student's academic and personal journey, recognizing that each person explores and grapples with their unique voice, perspective and lived experience.

Making thinking visible is integral to the fabric of the school's program. Learners are encouraged to be curious, ask questions, consider viewpoints and perspectives through different lenses and construct meaning for creative solutions. Experiential learning and learning journeys exemplify how thinking is visible and are instrumental in shaping students' understanding of complex and nuanced issues, appreciating the value of service to society and beauty of the shared human experience.

ann Soewert

Ann Goewert, Ph.D. | Head of School

MMS EQUITY and INCLUSION STATEMENT

Mount Madonna School (MMS) is committed to providing an inclusive and equitable learning environment. This is an inherent core value of our school. As a diverse community of learners, we believe that an inclusive and equitable education system is critical in unlocking the full potential of each and every student, faculty and staff member.

What we have learned in over 40 years is that we cannot have equity without inclusion. We also recognize that creating an equitable and inclusive school is an iterative process. We are committed to engaging in this important work in several ways:

- By continually exploring the ways in which teaching and learning are used to bring awareness of unjust and harmful systems of oppression, and how they can also be used to help develop empathy and compassion
- Exploring the structural ways that MMS can actively support equity and inclusion
- Helping our students and ourselves reflect on our own knowledge and experience
 of race, color, ancestry, culture, religion, ability status, sexual orientation, gender
 identity, gender expression and socioeconomics
- Focusing on developing behaviors, forms of communication, and relationships that reinforce our commitment to equity and inclusion
- Dismantling conditions that prevent everyone from inhabiting the educational space, and feeling seen, heard and valued

Read the complete statement:



THE POWER of SELFLESS SERVICE

Students, from the youngest preschoolers to high school seniors, got their hands dirty – and hearts full – working cooperatively to improve their school campus, Mount Madonna Center (MMC) and to benefit the broader community during a nationwide day of service on January 14, 2022.

Teachers and MMC residents worked alongside students on projects including cleanup outside the MMC Ayurvedic center, caring for chickens, gardening, baking cookies for participants and organizing donations for local animal shelters.

"It feels good to help people," commented a kindergarten student who pulled garden weeds alongside his classmates and teacher.

The day was organized by Shannon Kelly, upper school director, and Jameelah Johnson, middle school yoga teacher and basketball coach.

"The Mount Madonna School (MMS) Day of Service in honor of Martin Luther King Jr. Day is something I have wanted to do for many years," Kelly said. "It is important for our students to understand the issues facing the local community and to understand the power of selfless service. When Prabha Pacey ('86) became the executive director of Mount Madonna Center, I saw it as the perfect opportunity to collaborate. We wanted to honor the legacy and vision of Martin Luther King Jr., as so often we enjoy holidays without understanding why we celebrate them."

"It is important for our students to understand the issues facing the local community and...the power of selfless service."

The day began with a school-wide presentation on the life of King Jr. Later, first, second and third grade students heard from Brajesh Friedberg, MMC yoga and social justice teacher and a former principal of MMS, who told stories of participating in civil rights marches with King Jr.

— Carly Wheelehan





FEEDING HOPE and NURTURING EMPATHY

While it's not unusual for school communities to contribute to local food drives, it may be unique to have the effort led for more than a decade by six- and seven-year-old children. Each fall, Mount Madonna School (MMS) second graders share their learning about food insecurity and request donations for the Second Harvest Food Bank of Santa Cruz County.

"Please consider filling up a bag with items like canned food, dried beans, rice and pasta to donate," said student Katherine Nissly, during a school community circle.

For this practical lesson in social responsibility, students collect monetary contributions and food donations.

"There are different reasons why people might need more food," said second grader Lyra Brinton. "It could be too hard or unsafe for older people to go to the store to get groceries."

"People might need help because of wildfires and fire season, COVID, or losing their home or maybe being too ill to work," said classmate Liam Copeland. "Second graders have a genuine desire to make a difference in the lives of others and feel deeply empathetic and compassionate toward those who are hungry," said teacher Prema Gammons. "They have a sense of where food comes from and how it is produced, and we've added classroom conversations about how and why some people don't have enough to eat."

MMS food drive participation aligns with its commitment to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and specifically SDG 2: Zero Hunger. The SDGs are a collection of 17 interlinked global goals designed to achieve a better and more sustainable future for all.

"MMS has a rich tradition of developing its students' capacity to think critically, creatively and empathically to solve pressing global issues," commented Head of School Ann Goewert. "Empowering our second graders to lead the school's participation in this annual community food drive nurtures students' sense of social responsibility."





"Together we can make a difference," said student Kailani Houston. "We need to help feed our hungry friends."

— Leigh Ann Clifton





SUSTAINING the LEGACY

Mount Madonna School (MMS) expresses a deep gratitude to the Bess Family Charitable Fund for its generous donation of \$271,000 to the MMS endowment fund.

This was the only donation to the endowment fund for 2021-22, which in its fourth year has reached \$1,156,610. These funds will be used to recruit and retain talented faculty and staff as we work to improve the compensation of our dedicated employees. Funds may also assist with student scholarships.

The overall goal is to raise \$5 million over the next few years. The board of directors continually reviews the investment strategy and efforts to raise additional funds. It is also responsible for directing the use of these funds.

Please join us in continuing the MMS legacy for years to come with an endowment gift. You may donate online at www.mountmadonnaschool.org/support/endowment/. For more information contact (408) 846-4032 or school@mountmadonnaschool.org.

— Linda Manzur

Ocean View (\$250,000+) — Bess Family Charitable Fund

OUTSTANDING CONTRIBUTIONS

Middle school teacher Chrislaine Pamphile Miller was commended for her outstanding leadership and academic contributions to the Grade 6 Group of the California History-Social Science Project (CHSSP).

"There is no question that the last two years have presented unprecedented challenges to teachers, as they have to all of us in different ways," commented Shennan Hutton, Ph.D., Grade 6 Group leader, CHSSP program coordinator and University of California, Davis instructor. "Chrislaine rose above those challenges to help her fellow teachers. At the CHSSP, we believe that working with history teachers to improve their content knowledge and teaching skills is the best way to improve students' knowledge, skills and engagement. Chrislaine is one of the finest teacher leaders I have ever met. Your school and her students are very fortunate to have her."

The CHHSP is one of nine subject matter projects established by the State of California under the authority of the University of California Office of the President. Its mission is to improve the teaching of history in K-12 schools through a collaboration of university historians and K-12 history teachers.

— Leigh Ann Clifton



THE JIVANTI RUTANSKY MEMORIAL AWARD





To honor the memory of the late Jivanti Rutansky, the faculty gives one high school student and one middle school student an award in her name each year. These awards are presented to students who embody the qualities that made Jivanti such an important ambassador of the school mission. The recipients are involved and dedicated members of the school community, empathetic, compassionate classmates, engaged and curious learners, honest and self-reflective individuals, and protectors of the environment. The recipients, junior Zoey Ocampo-Sobkoviak and eighth grader Nikowa D'Costa-Hemp, also demonstrate support of their classmates in their endeavors, and commit themselves to service.

NATIONAL HONORS

Last fall, the United States Environmental Protection Agency recognized the 2019-20 fifth grade class with the President's Environmental Youth Award. The students, now seventh graders, were awarded for their "SOS: Save Our Sharks – A Fintastic Tale" project.

"It is particularly meaningful that these students' hard work is being honored at a national level," commented teacher Jessica Cambell. "My students continually inspire me as they find their voice to create

positive change within the world."

"Sharks are in danger and plastic pollution is a big problem for them, the oceans, our environment, and threatens not just wildlife, but ourselves too," commented a student. "We all need to take action, and do it now." — Leigh Ann Clifton



MOUNT MADONNA SCHOOL

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

We pause to acknowledge that Mount Madonna School sits on the land of the Ohlone people. Ohlone are alive and well and the people trace their ancestry through the local missions. We recognize that Native Peoples of California have essential knowledge of place and traditions of caring for the Earth that need to be continued to protect the human right to clean air, water and a healthy environment.

While this is the homeland of the Ohlone people, today it is shared with many newcomers. From the beginning, California has been a place of great diversity of Native Peoples and now of peoples of all races and backgrounds from around the world.

As you consider this place you now call home, please give thanks for the opportunity to live, work, learn and pray on the traditional homeland of the Ohlone people. As they cared for this land, it is now our responsibility to take care of this part of Mother Earth.

As you go about your day, from this day forward, the Ohlone ask that you pay special attention to the native plants and animals that surround you. We can reflect on how much of the environment has been changed and how much has been lost since Europeans arrived on these shores.

It is said that once the history of a place is acknowledged, a greater understanding of vibrant cultures will happen.

So please walk gently, and respectfully, with an open heart and an open mind, as you pass through traditional Ohlone land.

TEAMWORK, DEDICATION and SELFLESSNESS



Editor's note: Athletic competitions in California continued to be impacted by pandemic-related restrictions and protocols. Despite the challenges, athletics offered needed boosts for participants' social-emotional and physical well-being.

CROSS COUNTRY —

Middle School (MS): Coached by Nicole Silva Culberston, the team competed against the other local small schools and won many of the meets. Kenzie Culbertson, Pierce Culbertson and Romy Sirk-Traugh finished first, second and third at every meet! Students worked hard throughout the season and were a dedicated group arriving before school to run the hilly trails for practice. Felix Alvarado and Nikowa D'Costa-Hemp also had some great finishes.

High School (HS): On September 10, 2021, Sam Kaplan claimed the Mount Madonna School (MMS) record for the Pinto Lake Course, running 2.93 miles in 18:46, narrowly surpassing his brother Noah ('19), who set a 2017 record of 18:52 on the same course. The Hawks, coached by Nick Cabassa, participated in their final Santa Cruz Coast Athletic League (SCCAL) meet on a wooded



trail at the University of California, Santa Cruz campus. Kaplan finished 10th, while classmate Jacob Sirk-Traugh finished 13th of 30 runners.

GIRLS BASKETBALL —

MS: "Mount Madonna's first girls basketball team was one of my favorite sports to coach," shared Coach Jameelah Johnson. "It was several students' first time learning basketball or playing organized sports. We started with the basics and by the end of the season, the team was able to not only understand the game, but play defense very well which then allowed the team to be in the lead with scoring."



GIRLS VOLLEYBALL —

MS: This team, guided by Coach Sam Lee, brought enthusiasm and a willingness to work hard.

"They created a good team environment and enjoyed playing with each other," observed Middle School Athletic Director Michael Sarmiento. "Most of the girls are relatively new to volleyball and I enjoyed seeing the more experienced players being so supportive of those new to the sport. In spite of a short season, the desire shown by our student-athletes to learn and grow provides optimism for the future of MMS athletics."

HS: After a year of no indoor volleyball due to the pandemic, the Hawks competed in an exciting season led by Coach Natalie Picone that included challenges and new players. They finished with a record of seven wins, 14 losses and tied for fourth place in the league. The team battled their way to Central Coast Section (CCS) quarter finals, where they fell to University Prep.

TRACK and FIELD —

MS: The competitive and mighty Hawks returned for a successful four-meet season with several school records set, including: Kiko Horne, 100 meters; Kenzie Culbertson, 800 meters; Pierce Culbertson, 1600 meters; 4x100 meter relay: Kiko Horne, Marlowe Yen, Romy Sirk-Traugh; and 4x200 meter relay: Kenzie Culbertson, Kiko Horne, Pierce Culbertson, Romy Sirk-Traugh.

HS: In March, the Hawks competed in their first invitational and meet of the season at the 49th Wildcat Relays in Watsonville. Athletes sported new singlets that were generously donated to MMS by Business Manager Rosa Segura.

"We are extremely grateful for the donation and are loving our sleek new look!" commented Coach Sara Sobkoviak.

The Hawks dominated in the girls varsity long jump division, with Bea Miller leading the pack in long jump. The combined scores of Miller, Zoey Ocampo-Sobkoviak and Ona Musoll-Buendía in long jump secured the first place team position. Miller set a new school record with her jump of 16'01"! Musoll-Buendía took fourth place overall in triple jump and set a new school record with a jump of 32'04" and Sky Weir placed third in triple jump with a new school record and jump of 40'05".

In addition, Miller took first place in the varsity girls 100-meter dash (13.32) and second place in the 200-meter dash; Mariah Cohen took first place in the varsity girls shot put (27'-2"); and Weir won the boys varsity triple jump competition (37'-2").





At the SCCAL opener Weir was the top thrower in the shot put (37'10.50"); Cohen placed second in shot put with a throw of 25'10". Both Weir and Musoll-Buendía were the top jumpers overall in varsity triple jump. Miller took fifth place overall and first in her heat for the varsity 100-meter sprint, setting a new school record time of 13.72!



SOCCER —

MS: The season began with a 5-2 win against Tierra Pacifica for the sturdy, 22-member Hawks team. Mateo Borrego scored four goals, while classmate Nikowa D'Costa Hemp scored one.

"They were fast, worked well as a team, were positive and genuinely had a great time," said Coach Nicole Silva Culbertson. "While the team won the majority of its games, the camaraderie and positivity were the best parts of the season, which lends itself to a lot of laughter sprinkled with competitive drive."

Coach Luis Hernandez agreed. "It was an amazing experience to see how team members improved their skills by helping each other during training," said Hernandez. "Each person had

the opportunity to play in the field against other schools and I consider it a valuable lesson for them to build confidence and to know they can face challenges at a personal level and as a team."

BEACH VOLLEYBALL —

HS: Beach volleyball is the newest sport recognized by the California Interscholastic Federation, and the Hawks competed in six SCCAL meets over a six-week season. "Everyone had fun and played well together," commented Coach John Welch.

BOYS VOLLEYBALL —

HS: The varsity Hawks finished league in third place with a 15-15 record. The team won their CCS opener, and then lost to the top seed in the quarter finals. Ben Pearson highlighted the season being awarded SCCAL Most Valuable Player and setting a league kill record for a match with 54 kills.

— Leigh Ann Clifton

SPECIAL HONORS

All-SCCAL

High School Volleyball, Girls & Boys

Most Valuable Player — Ben Pearson

First Team — Ben Pearson

Second Team —
Bella Cambell, Sky Weir

Honorable Mentions — Grace Timan, Zoey Ocampo-Sobkoviak





ASPIRING to EXCELLENCE

Mount Madonna School's boys volleyball team took third place in the Santa Cruz Coast Athletic League this season, but there was little question that the Hawks boasted the top individual talent. Senior Ben Pearson, a four-year starter for the Hawks, was named Most Valuable Player.

The 6-foot-2 outside hitter averaged more than 30 kills a match for the Hawks and recorded a school record and league record 54 kills in a five-set loss to league champion Santa Cruz. The previous mark of 52 was set by Mount Madonna's Tobias Aguirre in 1994 against Harbor.

"He was nothing short of spectacular this year," said PK McDonald, the Hawks coach. "He gave us a chance and was key to us being competitive."

He helped the Hawks qualify for the Central Coast Section Division II playoffs and reach the quarterfinals, where they lost to No. 1 seed Sacred Heart Cathedral 25-21, 25-19, 25-20.

— *Jim Seimas*, Santa Cruz Sentinel June 2022, excerpted with permission

Pearson graduated in June and plays National Collegiate Athletic Association Division 1 volleyball for the University of California, Santa Barbara. He is majoring in astrophysics.

PLENTIFUL SMILES, OLD FRIENDS and CONNECTIONS

On April 23, the Mount Madonna School (MMS) community gathered to celebrate at Summit for the Planet, after raising \$26,071 gross (\$22,896 net) for environmental education programs.

The day started with students reading the school's Land Acknowledgement, followed by a land blessing led by Patrick Orozco, an elder of the Pajaro Valley Ohlone Indian Council. Walkers and runners then embarked on either 1K or 5K courses along one of the campus' beautiful redwood forest trails. Smiles were plentiful as old friends reunited and new connections were formed. Students kicked off our eco-carnival celebration with their vibrant voices as they sang songs to honor the day.

Among the event's highlights:

- The class of 2022's vegetarian burger bar and seedling sale, led with their teacher, Sara Sobkoviak, to raise funds for the MMS student garden and culinary program. A portion of the proceeds were donated to the Santa Cruz-based Homeless Garden Project
- Fifth grade students led a baked goods, lemonade and handcrafted items sale. 100% of the proceeds went to protect endangered Steller sea lions
- Student clubs: Rainbow Unicorns, That's on Period Project, Art and Activism and Environmental Justice, ran booths to raise awareness and funds for causes including AIDS awareness and issues surroundings women's equality and health
- · Eco-carnival games hosted by lower school grades
- Student Trash Fashion participants showed us all that fashion can be fun and sustainable!

Our community partners, Bay Area Herpetological Society (BAHS), Wildlife Education and Rehabilitation Center (WERC) and Mt. Madonna Stables, brought animal friends to share and teach us how to respect and appreciate them. PG&E provided an interactive electrical safety demonstration. To Be Herd, Honeybee Ceramics, senior Liana Kitchel's Capstone Project, Botanicalia, Mount Madonna Center and Kaya Kalpa, and India Gourmet, all brought with them their terrific energy, which they use to fuel their environmentally focused causes.

We are grateful for our hardworking volunteers, as the day would not have been possible without their support. We thank all parents, grand-parents, aunts, uncles, friends, faculty and staff who attended to support the day by helping with walker registration, trail work, ice cream sales and first aid, some of the many ways the school received support.

In its 16th year hosting this event, MMS hopes to continue the tradition of Summit for the Planet for years to come. We thank our sponsors, Michael Lee Environmental Education, Morgan Hill Life, Gilroy Life, GMH Today, Santa Cruz Sentinel, 90.3 KAZU, Growing Up in Santa Cruz and SantaCruzParent.com for their generous support of the event. We look forward to year 17!

— Linda Manzur













PROTECTING SEA LIONS

For their year-long, cross-curricular environmental project, fifth graders studied sea lions to help raise public awareness and reduce threats facing these marine mammals. "Sea lions are pinnipeds and they're a huge

part of our food web," observed student Pierce Culbertson.

"They're an indicator species," said classmate River Brinton.

"This means that if sea lions are washing up on the beach, something is going on with the health of the ocean," added student Amelie Thams.

'Climate change is a big part of the problem too," said Brinton. "Fish

are migrating to warmer or colder waters and so sea lions end up eating different types of fish that don't have the same nutrition."

Students wrote letters to state and federal representatives requesting actions to protect sea lions, including banning the use of wildlife for entertainment, increasing funds for cleaning up plastic pollution, banning single-use plastics, and amending the Clean Air Act. They also collaborated with Save Our Shores on a local beach cleanup with their ninth grade and kindergarten buddies.

The students partnered with the Pacific Marine Mammal Center to "adopt" a rescued sea lion and help support its rehabilitation and release. Fifth graders created an educational video parody of "The Goonies" movie and proceeds from selling DVDs of their video were directed to supporting their adopted sea lion.

- Leigh Ann Clifton



LESSONS in the MYTH

The story of "Ramayana!" was brought to the Mount Madonna community by Baba Hari Dass (1923-2018) and the beloved annual stage production is a unique tradition we carry forward. It's the culmination of months of work during the academic year and a year-end celebration embracing diversity and creative self-expression.

"Ramayana!" not only connects us to a tale from India that's thousands of years old, but also to the very roots of our community. This whole-school production brings together all students, big buddies and little buddies, connecting them in ways they may not otherwise share during the school year.

As the process unfolds, the performing arts team guides and provides structure, but more importantly, endeavors to "create space" for young actors to instill their own creativity, imagination and ownership of their parts and their play. "Ramayana!" is an emblematic example of theater as community. The development of theatrical skills and strengthening of confidence to be bold in presentation are woven into the team's time with the students.

All myths have lessons for us, regardless of the cultural tradition or origin. These myths, including "Ramayana!," tell universal stories of good versus evil, of devotion to something greater than our own individual selves and the importance of creating a community of service. Whether a student has been in "Ramayana!" for one year or 15, these lessons have a way of seeping into one's mind and actions, and as students embody these life lessons onstage, they are also absorbed into other aspects of their lives.

— Gitanjali Lori Rivera











PHILANTHROPIC GENEROSITY

Annual Giving

Annual Giving ensures all of our students receive a quality education by adding to the tuition revenue that covers about 85% of the program expenses. This annual campaign also shows support of the school's mission and program from the wider community to our accreditors. Mount Madonna School (MMS) relies on the philanthropic generosity of its committed donors and their tax-deductible gifts.

Thank you to our donors who contributed a net of \$195,925, including \$17,925 raised through the Drive for Schools fundraiser. Annual Giving netted \$178,000 in donations which surpassed the \$151,000 goal. This is the seventh consecutive year that our community has surpassed the fundraising goal! We appreciate the generous support from our families, alumni, faculty, staff, grandparents and friends of MMS.

Thank you to the following donors for their support:

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Gerald Wood

Vivian and Matthew Wright Berra Yazar-Klosinski and Clinton Klosinski

Jessica Zovar and Tobias Aguirre ('94)

Maureen Zwaag

Every effort has been made to avoid errors, misspellings or omissions. If, however, your name has been incorrectly listed or omitted, please accept our sincere apology. For corrections contact Head of School Ann Goewert at 408-847-2717.









EXPLORATION and DISCOVERY

The archetypal hero's journey consists of three parts: the preparation, the journey and the return. Mount Madonna School learning journeys mirror these stages concretely and abstractly. Students physically and intellectually embark on a journey. Their intellectual journey relies on their willingness to be curious, to be open to opportunities, and to not be afraid to take risks. It tests each person, challenges assumptions, and forces students to engage in perspective taking and critical thinking.

It is our intention to support the development of the citizens the world most needs now, those who can respond with creativity and care in these changing and challenging times, and those who can balance their own needs, in relationship to the needs of others in the communities of which they are a part. What follows are reflections on some of these experiences by the students and their teachers.

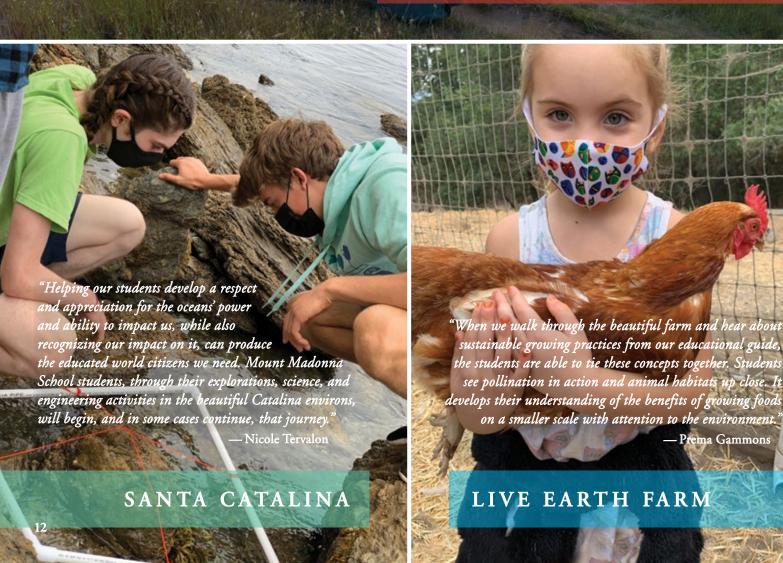
— Shannon Kelly ('92)

"My biggest 'ah-ha moment' was when Sophia, Ona, and I built our remotely operated vehicle (ROV). I never really took myself for a science-engineering type of person, but all of a sudden I found myself collaborating on an ROV. It was really fun trying to figure out the different ways we could build the boning of the ROV structure, and where to put the motors and camera.

I enjoyed the balance of science work and free time we had which made it easier for our class to bond."

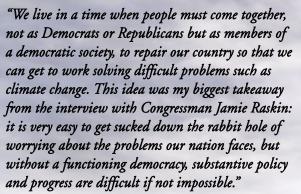
— Anya Gonzalez, grade 10

SAN SIMEON









WASHINGTON, D. C.

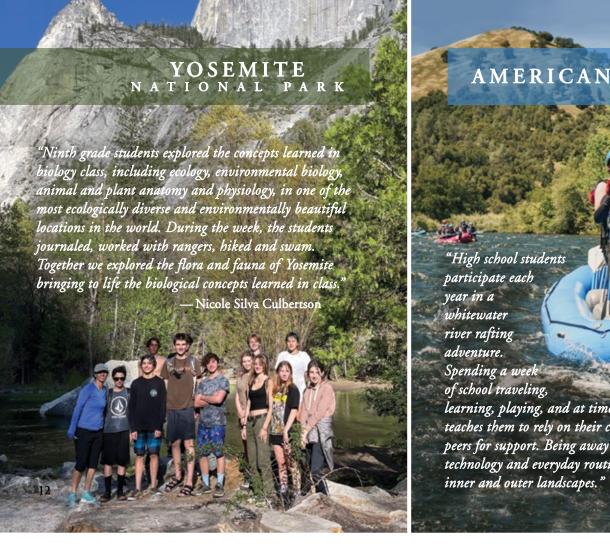


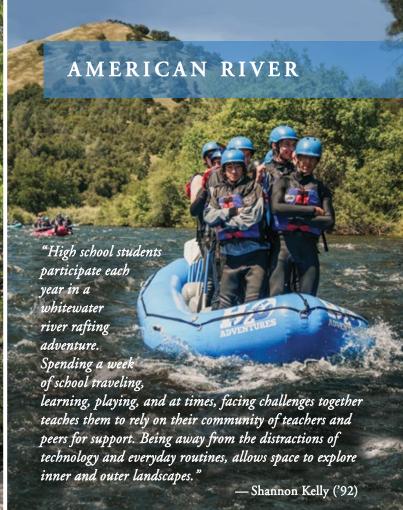


"Middle school students began school with a four-day camping trip. Upon arrival, students are organized into small teams with whom they take turns cooking and cleaning for all of the others. There is ample time for forest hikes, creek dips, team-building projects, hangouts around camp and evenings by the campfire. This sets a tone for the year: a sense of belonging, the navigation of responsibility and ease, balancing the needs of individuals and the wider community. When students return to the classroom, they are ready to take on the joys and challenges of the learning environment, knowing that they are connected to a rich support system of peers and adults."

— Bob Caplan







PRESCHOOL PRACTICE:

Nurturing Creativity, Collaboration, Curiosity and Resilience

Young children are curious, hands-on humans who like exploring their surroundings - and the broader world – using all of their senses. During a spring visit to the preschool, the classroom "hummed" with positive, focused energy as students created colorful paintings and chatted as they engaged in creative, free choice lessons.

In the "bakers' corner" laughing students donned aprons and used small wooden rolling pins on the floury table top and cookie cutters to prepare and cut bread dough shapes to be baked and enjoyed by the class later in the day.

Nearby, a classmate sat quietly focused on a sensory/practical life skills lesson by caring for a small classroom houseplant. The student carefully spritzed water from a small bottle onto cotton balls and then gently used the moist cotton to wipe off each leaf free of dust.

"When a child notices a plant needs care, they often choose to care for it," commented teacher Danielle Barr. "This cultivates a singular focus as well as compassion and supports the child's initiative in caring for the environment."

In the small "sound room," students found their rhythm and a beat, playing a drum, xylophone and hand percussion instruments, while other classmates danced.

Meanwhile, classmates worked on challenging puzzles, turning over the wooden frames to remove the pieces, and then taking satisfaction in being able - individually and collaboratively - to replace each piece and complete the puzzle pictures.

Later, the class assembled in a wide circle for some relaxing breaths and yoga mudras or hand and finger gestures employed for focus and brain development.

After several minutes of practice and different hand mudra poses, the energy in the room noticeably calmed, and teachers guided students through an empowering, hands-on lesson in advocating for physical space and personal boundaries.



Using a Hula Hoop as a prop to identify a comfortable "space bubble," the children took turns identifying their "personal" space and practicing responses in regards to physical contact. This activity provides an opportunity to learn about setting healthy boundaries at a young age.

This Montessori-influenced program provides a preschool practice incorporating a broad exploration of lessons and activities nurturing creativity, collaboration, curiosity and resilience.

– Leigh Ann Clifton

ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT

Mount Madonna School (MMS) operates under the committed stewardship and oversight of our trustees, board of directors and finance committee. The tuition generated by enrollment remains the primary source of operating revenue, while salaries and benefits comprise the majority of operating expenses. The school ended the 2021-22 fiscal year on June 30, 2022 having received revenue from 168 students. We raise money each year for the operating budget in three fundraising campaigns: Annual Giving, which netted \$178,000, Drive for Schools, which netted \$17.925, and Summit for the Planet, which netted \$22,896. In addition, we raised \$271,000 for the Endowment Fund in the 2021-22 fiscal year.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, MMS applied for and received \$188,488 through Emergency Assistance to Non-Public School (EANS) grants. We are grateful for this assistance, as the pandemic caused significant financial disruption for many of our families and reduced our tuition revenue. The school continued to respond by granting significant financial assistance to families. As we were often responding in real time to the needs of the moment, this introduced unusual uncertainty into the budget for the 2021-22 school year. We are grateful that we were once again able to offer athletics, middle and high school performances, our learning journeys and the "Ramayana!"

— Rosa Segura, Business Manager

Tuition & Fees \$3,007,330.00			Wages & Benefits \$2,966,510.00		
Donations/Fundrais	ing/PPP \$686,0	017.00	Student Su	oplies & Services	\$486,545.00
Productions & Othe	r \$141,2	203.00	Administrat	ion	\$298,850.00
Total	\$3,834,5	550.00	Facilities &	Debt Service	\$158,700.00
			Total		\$3,910,605.00
			Surplus (Lo	ss)	(\$76,055.00)
			Administration		
	3.7% n & Fees 8.4%		Supplies & Services 12.4%	Wages & Ben 75.8%	Facilities & Debt Service 4.2%
	2021-22 (Budget)	2020-2	(Actual)	2019-20 (Actual)	2018-19 (Actual)
	2021-22 (Budget) \$3,834,550.00	2020-2 \$4,187,4	• •	2019-20 (Actual) \$3,067,497.00	2018-19 (Actual) \$3,459,733.00
Revenue	. ,		416.00	· · ·	
Revenue S	\$3,834,550.00	\$4,187,	416.00 951.00	\$3,067,497.00	

Note: The audit for this fiscal year will be conducted by the Harrington Group in March 2023. That report will be available in June for anyone wishing to review it.

DIRECTED and IN-KIND CONTRIBUTIONS

Each year, Mount Madonna School (MMS) families, friends and community members give generously to the school. Some donors choose to direct their gifts to specific programs. During 2021-22, some of the gifts MMS received were directed cash donations for student scholarships.

Other gifts were in-kind contributions including soil and plants for the upper school garden, floral arrangements, face masks and toys and furniture for our preschool program.

— Linda Manzur

Thank you to our in-kind and directed donors:

Audio Production Group Inc Elizabeth and Laurence England Jim and Diane McComb Preston Merchant Amanda Seely and Paul Magill Sierra Azul Nursery Juvy Timan Vinaya and Gopal Wood

FUNDRAISING with SCRIP

MMS receives funds every year thanks to families who consistently use Scrip for their everyday shopping and buying gifts via Scrip gift cards. Through the Scrip program, MMS earns 3-20% of the total revenue of gift cards purchased. In the 2021-22 school year, MMS families raised \$2,133. Visit mountmadonnaschool.org/scrip to purchase gift cards today. If you have any questions or would like to volunteer to sell Scrip gift cards at community events or school bus stops, please contact me at (408) 846-4032 or linda.manzur@mountmadonnaschool.org.

Linda Manzur

FINDING SOLUTIONS: INVENTION CONVENTION

Three students competed in the national Invention Convention based on their invention prototypes presented at Mount Madonna's inaugural Invention Convention last winter. Cala Watson, third grade, Felix Alvarado and Kahdin Watson, fifth grade, traveled to Michigan in June to present their inventions along with 300 students nationwide.

"Inventing is important because it helps to think of problems in the world and then you can figure out how to fix them and help more people," Cala Watson said.

Watson created "Feetch: Stretch Your Feet on the Go," inspired by her mother's foot pain. "Feetch" placed third for all third graders in the United States.

Felix Alvarado and Kahdin Watson collaborated to create the prototype for "TuckKit," a hydraulic pressure release arm that reminds students to tuck their chair under their desk.

"I noticed that kids did not push in their chairs a lot of the time and people trip over them," said Kahdin Watson. The TuckKit won the Safety Category for all grade entries in California.

"The judges were happy to hear about our invention and took us very seriously as inventors," said Alvarado.

At Mount Madonna's invention fair, inventions ranged from mosquito-repellant, to an app that translates technical articles into a more kid-friendly, readable language. To prepare, first through fifth grade students spent several weeks in their technology, engineering and art (TEA) classes ideating and creating prototypes of their original inventions.

"I value Invention Convention because you hear kids say 'I am an inventor'," said Rebecca Kershner, Cala and Kahdin's mother. "They start identifying with being an inventor – feeling empowered to make a positive impact on problems in their lives and world. I love the confidence, skills and positivity Invention Convention fosters; it prepares our children for the world they will inherit."

— Carly Wheelehan





SENSE-INFUSED DESCRIPTIONS and COLORFUL IMAGERY

From squid and jellyfish to sand, surf – and even Santa Cruz's iconic Big Dipper roller coaster – each has inspired the sense-infused descriptions and evocative art pieces of Mount Madonna School fourth graders. An in-depth study unit on poetry culminated with each student writing an original poem and accompanying art piece. Their finished pieces were entered in the 2022 K-12 Coastal Art & Poetry Contest sponsored by the California Coastal Commission.

"For me it's all about the ocean. I am inspired by the sounds of waves crashing, the feel of sand and warm sunshine on my shoulders."

"Poetry as a form of literature is so broad," commented teacher Nick Cabassa. "I want my students to see how simple poetry can be, how they can refine a narrative and move from telling a whole story about their experiences in detail to exploring more descriptive feelings,

utilizing their senses and emotions to present these aspects in a simpler, pared down format."

"Let me tell you why I chose jellyfish," said fourth grader Dylan Kasznar. "They are cool and some of them glow in different colors. I've seen them at the Monterey Bay Aquarium, and the person guiding us around said they use their colors to communicate with one another. That's my favorite thing about them!"

For the project's conclusion, students gathered outdoors on the grass to take turns reading their poems aloud and sharing their artwork and inspiration.

"For me it's all about the ocean," said student Marc Monclus. "I am inspired by the sounds of waves crashing, the feel of sand and warm sunshine on my shoulders."

— Leigh Ann Clifton



ALUMNI NOTES

From the Class of...

Editor's note: Over the past year-plus, an "alumni wave" has reached the mountain, with several alumni returning to help chart the path forward for Mount Madonna School (MMS), Mount Madonna Center (MMC) and the Hanuman Fellowship (HFS).

'85 Lara Kilpatrick returned to MMC in April to serve in the capacity of director of marketing and communications.

'86 In 2022, Prabha Pacey was named as the executive director of the Hanuman Fellowship. "Prabha is an exceptional leader who daily exhibits grace, strength, wisdom, discernment and devotion," commented a HFS spokesperson. "She is a true servant leader, and her depth of relationship with our community and Babaji's teachings guide her work and will lead us toward our common aim."

'89 Usha Kilpatrick is serving as the HFS board president. "One of the greatest joys has been working with fellow alumni," said Usha." The qualities and skills that we all developed at MMS serve as a foundation and compass for our work together – curiosity, creativity, rigor and perhaps most importantly, compassion and a desire to serve." Daughters Ella, 25, and Rowan, 22, live in Rhode Island and Hawaii, respectively.

'94 After 17 years as the FishWise Chief Executive Officer, Mohan Tobias Aguirre stepped down in 2021 to pursue new work at the intersection of self-reflection, well-being and social change. In January, Mohan became the chief financial officer for the HFS and MMC. Ryan Oliver joined the HFS board of directors in 2019. "My main interest," said Ryan, "was to join a generational movement of fellow MMC and MMS alumni eager to sustain the gifts we received through the chosen family at Mount Madonna and ensure they are available and accessible to others in future generations." Ryan, wife Louise and daughter Arabella, 2, live in Pacific Grove and enjoy beach excursions and



Michaela Schuessler ('11) with fiancé Nick Sedenquist



Jake Getz ('13) marries Hannah Whitecavage



Sienna Clifton ('18)



Jack Massion ('10) and Kelsev Moran are married

wild animal walks. Ryan works remotely with BUILD.org.

'99 Sangita Yolanda Diaz-Houston is the coordinator of the HFS Collaborative Innovation Lab at MMC. This effort supports new offerings that create space for community learning and transformation, while generating revenue to sustain Mount Madonna's future. Daughter Kailani and son Koa attend MMS, and partner Jai Raj Brandon Houston is a Santa Cruz County Central First District captain.

'01 Dov Rohan teaches math, electives and leads an outdoor education program at Hood River New School, a private middle school in Hood River, Oregon. Son Griffin Bear is 2, and daughter Hannah Marie is 1. "I look forward to every day spent with my family watching us learn and grow together," said Dov. Recalling a favorite MMS memory, he shared, "one of many thousands would be Sampad's quote, 'no mistakes, only moments'."

'03 "The Archer," a novel by Shruti Swamy, was selected as a finalist in the fiction category of the 41st Annual Northern California Book Award, and longlisted for The Center for Fiction's 2022 First Novel Prize. In October, Shruti presented at Litquake 2022.

'07 Prabha Sharan, a charge nurse in post-op orthopedics at Stanford Hospital, was chosen as Unit Nurse of the Year! "This award means a lot because it was my fellow nurses who voted for me," said Prabha. "The last two years have been especially challenging and now it feels like every day is a challenge; as nurses we pour our heart and soul into taking care of others."

'08 Astrophysicist and politician Amita Kuttner was appointed interim, one-year leader of the

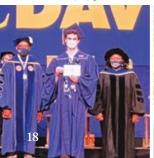
Green Party of Canada in November 2021. Amita is focused on building grassroots party support with a cross-country tour and working their caucus of Parliament in the House of Commons. Jasbir Nijor is a drummer with the bands Drowning Lessons and Marine Noise and works remotely from Santa Cruz as the associate director of affiliate marketing at GR0, a Los Angeles-based digital marketing agency.

'10 Brittany (Lovato) Lint, husband Adam, daughter Ainsley and son Beau welcomed baby Benjamin Brian on May 1. Jack Massion and Kelsey Moran were married in an outdoor ceremony on June 25 in Big Sur. Devin Kumar ('06) was the couple's wedding photographer.

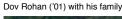
'11 On May 4, Emma (Petersen) Havstad and husband Conor welcomed baby Theodore James. Michaela Schuessler and Nick Sedenquist are engaged, and Michaela graduated from the Licensed Vocational Nursing Program at Unitek College. PK Hattis is a reporter for the Santa Cruz Sentinel, and was recently elected to the HFS board of directors. "Joining the HFS board is an opportunity to give back to the organization that shaped me and also engage with it in new and personally challenging ways," said PK. "As Shiva says, 'The world is for experience and liberation.' Reporting has been similarly illuminating; I now have an opportunity to learn more about how things work and share it with the Sentinel readership." Susie Bryan earned a master's in cognitive neuroscience at Freie Universität in Berlin, and recently moved to Monterey. She is a medical writer with Sage Therapeutics, helping develop drugs to treat brain diseases.

'12 In July, Aaron Storrs, Allison Ota, Blythe

Nate Vince ('17) graduates



Vyvyanne Mackey ('13) and Mikey Enns





Sanika Lakka ('13) and Zachary Gilbert are married



Sangita Yolanda Diaz-Houston ('99) with her family

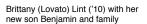




Simon Silver ('13)*









Allison Ota ('12) and fiancé Justin Bates



Jake Ward ('14) and Carl Ward ('18) explore pyramids and sites in Cairo, Egypt



PK Hattis ('11)



Class of 2012 10-year reunion at Arroyo Seco in Monterey County

Collier, Kellyn Cardinal, McKenzie Caborn, Nicole Nascimento and Palak Bhatnagar gathered for an alumni-organized 10-year reunion camping trip at Arroyo Seco in Monterey County. Allison Ota and Justin Bates are engaged. Allison worked previously as a teacher, and in 2022, the couple started the nonprofit Kinnect Volleyball Club. Blythe Collier returned to MMS as the dean of students. During the pandemic, Kellyn Cardinal became a licensed esthetician and is working in Scotts Valley. Kellyn plans to attend nursing school and pursue cosmetic nursing. In 2019, while working as head winemaker for Alfaro Family Vineyards, Ryan Alfaro started his own label, Farm Cottage Wines, devoted to vineyards within the Santa Cruz Mountains. "Being able to work with strictly Santa Cruz mountain fruit brings a personal connection as well as a sense of place," said Ryan.

'13 Jake Getz and Hannah Whitecavage were married on May 1. They live in Oakland, and Jake is a solutions architect in Berkeley. "Just like any good MMS alumnus," said Jake, "you can find me on Main Beach in the summer playing beach volleyball tournaments!" Sanika Lakka and Zachary Gilbert were wed on April 16 in Santa Barbara. Alumni guests included Sanika's siblings Saniya ('16) and Samith ('19), classmates Karina Fox, Brooke Staveland, Graydon Griffin, Jake Getz, Vyvyanne Mackey, Rudy Hooven and Daniel Fust, Blythe Collier ('12), Preethi Balagani ('14), Lekha Duvvoori ('18)* and Daniel Clifton ('14). Devin Kumar ('06) videographed their wedding. The couple live in Santa Monica and Sanika works remotely as a product manager for the San Francisco-based startup, Groove.

Simon Silver*, formerly a competitive mountain biker, now creates custom, artisan wood furniture. "Traveling most of the year for mountain biking had me looking for a productive activity while I was at home in the off-season," said Simon, who attempted simple woodworking projects initially. His interest piqued, Simon pursued woodworking classes through Cabrillo College, acquired a sawmill and began Simon Silver Designs. In his freetime, Simon enjoys mountain biking, surfing and rock climbing. Vyvyanne Mackey and partner Mikey Enns welcomed a son, Nashoba Wren, on November 1; the couple resides in Portland, Oregon.

'14 Ashley Mayou recently earned her architecture license after graduating in 2019 from California State Polytechnic University, San Luis Obispo. Her interest in architecture began with an MMS fifth grade project, where she designed a straw bale house with solar panels. Ashley is working towards a partnership with studio 2G Architects in San Luis Obispo, a fully women-owned enterprise. Jake Ward lives in Hollywood, and works remotely several days a week from a coffee shop inside Paramount Studios! He is a freelance writer, produces music for clients when he has time, and is looking to start a new band/musical project geared toward commercial viability. During 2022, Jake spent several months living in Madrid, and visited London and Cairo (where brother Carl Ward ('18) joined him) and explored Athens and the Greek islands.

'16 Cameron Bess and his father Lane were part of a Jeff Bezos' Blue Origin flight to suborbital space on December 11, 2021.

'17 Nate Vince graduated in December 2021 from the University of California, Davis, with a double major of economics and history. Prior to graduating he interned with the Fulbright Institute in Washington, D.C. Nate lives and works in San Francisco as a sales development representative for Project44, a company focused on supply chain optimization.

'18 Aimee Kerr graduated with a B.S. in computer engineering from Santa Clara University, and works as a software developer for Zoom. Sienna Clifton graduated cum laude with a B.S. in criminal justice from San Diego State University and works as a legal assistant for Wilson Elser in San Diego.

'20 Tabitha Hardin-Zollo was awarded a place in the 2022-23 junior class cohort at Oxford University in England. She received an academic excellence scholarship and plans to further her knowledge base in global health and policy. Tabby is also on the varsity Oxford Blues vollevball team!

'21 Sarah Vince made the dean's list at Otterbein University and is double-majoring in equine business management and finance. She continues to pursue her equestrian passion on the teams for the Intercollegiate Horse Show Association and Intercollegiate Dressage Association.

- Leigh Ann Clifton

*Alumni non-MMS graduate

Stay Connected!

We appreciate learning about the interesting things MMS alumni are doing. Reach out at mountmadonnaschool.org/alumni/stayconnected, or check-in socially:

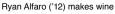
Mount Madonna School Alumni

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Mohan Tobias Aguirre ('94) with his sons

Ashley Mayou ('14)





Aimee Kerr ('18) graduates from Santa Clara University

Ryan Oliver ('94) with his family

Prabha Sharan ('07) makes Nurse of the Year













Left to right: Liana Kitchel, Grace Timan (Valedictorian), Benn Glorfield, Summer Howley, Addison Catterall-Pendleton, Alyssa Manzur,
Blythe Wilson, Jimmy Bregman, Kayla Goldstein, Ben Pearson (Salutatorian).

CONGRATULATIONS and BEST WISHES to OUR 2022 GRADUATES!

2021-22 College Acceptances:

American University*
Cabrillo College
California College of the Arts
California State Polytechnic
University, Humboldt
California State Polytechnic
University, San Luis Obispo*
California State University,
Channel Islands*
California State University, East Bay

California State University,
Long Beach*
California State University,
Maritime Academy
Hawaii Pacific University
Orange Coast College
Pace University
San Diego State University
San Francisco State University
San Jose State University

Santa Barbara City College
Seattle University*
University of Arizona
University of California, Berkeley
University of California, Davis
University of California, Irvine
University of California, Los Angeles**
University of California, Merced
University of California, San Diego*
University of California, Santa Barbara**

University of California, Santa Cruz University of Colorado University of Oregon University of Portland University of San Diego University of San Francisco

*Denotes school graduate(s)
selected to attend

