

# Spirit

SANTA FE CHRISTIAN SCHOOLS



# Spirit

SANTA FE CHRISTIAN SCHOOLS | VOLUME 5 • 2016 - 2017



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Dear SFC Family & Friends,

Welcome to the 2016-17 school year and the second issue of our annual Spirit Magazine. Our hope is that you see the heart and soul of Santa Fe Christian Schools in this year's Spirit.

You'll get a behind the scenes look at the making of an "Exemplary High Performing" National Blue Ribbon School in our feature story. Discover why Santa Fe Christian Schools was the only middle school in California to receive this prestigious award. Plus, don't miss a chance to learn more about a few of our incredible faculty starting on page 8.

It's exciting to see how students live out their faith through missions and community service in 'Therefore Go.' You can also catch a sneak peak of our new multi-purpose learning center on page 74. There's a lot packed into this issue including student retreats, alumni stories, athletic accomplishments and much more.

As we approach SFC's 40th anniversary, I am amazed by how God has continued to move and work on this campus and through this community. We are so grateful for the faculty and staff, parents, students, alumni, friends and legacy families who have heard God's call and then acted on that call to support Santa Fe Christian Schools. We have all been blessed as a result.

In His Service,

Dr. Tom Bennett, SFC Head of Schools

# TAKING THE BLUE RIBBON



## SFC Middle School Earns Prestigious National Blue Ribbon

SANTA FE CHRISTIAN MIDDLE SCHOOL was the only middle school to receive this award in California in 2015 and one of only two middle schools in the United States. We caught up with Dr. Todd Deveau, Middle School Principal, and Michelle Glenn, Middle School Dean, to learn more about how SFC's Middle School achieved this amazing accomplishment.

### Why was SFC's Middle School recognized as a 2015 National Blue Ribbon Exemplary High Performing School by the Department of Education?

SFC's Middle School received the National Blue Ribbon award based on multiple factors. SFC's test scores were above the 85th percentile in all areas measured on standardized testing, at all grade levels. Our exceptional electives and Advisory programs set us apart from other middle schools. We have an





|| Principal Dr. Todd Deveau and Dean Michelle Glenn lead SFC's Middle School team.

outstanding Performing and Fine Arts program as well as participation-based sports teams. Plus, our administration and faculty are dedicated to the highest standards of learning for all students and undertake professional development to stay at the forefront of best practices.

**Tell us more about the Middle School Electives program.**

We believe middle school is a time of discovery and students should have opportunities to explore, grow and try new experiences. One of the ways we do this is through electives. We expanded our elective offerings from eight to 35, and added interesting new courses including Draw Like da Vinci, Improv Theatre and Introduction to Computer Coding. Then we challenged traditional

scheduling by arranging the majority of our electives to meet two days per week for the semester, which increased student choices four-fold. Depending on their core classes, students may choose two to eight electives over the course of the year.

**What role did SFC's faculty play in helping SFC receive this award?**

The greatest strength of SFC's Middle School is our talented and dedicated faculty and staff. With an average tenure of almost ten years, we have a balance of both experienced and young educators. Each year SFC teachers travel to national conferences and workshops to stay on top of best practices. Plus, all our teachers participate in Professional Learning Communities (PLCs) where they work collaboratively on teaching



SFC Middle School Surf Team/Club is a fall-winter sport and is open to all students regardless of their ability.

best practices that increase student engagement.

**What are some other academic activities available in Middle School?**

Student learning goes way beyond the classroom. Seventh graders participate in the San Diego County Science Fair, California State Science Fair, and an after school SeaPerch Underwater Robotics program (now an elective

during the school day). There is a Mathematics Club that participates in several math competitions each year including the Mandelbrot Exam and the American Mathematics Competition. The sixth grade class travels to Indian Hills for a three-night, four-day, experience-based science education program.

**How important are the arts in Middle School?**

We like to say the arts are center-stage at SFC. In addition to our art electives, students participate in the ACSI Musicale, band competitions, San Diego Little Italy Chalk Art Festival and Art Splash. The Middle School Talent Show is an annual favorite event on campus, and we launched our first ever Middle School musical last year. We

The greatest strength of SFC's Middle School is our talented and dedicated faculty and staff.

Students need an environment that supports the opportunity to take risks and learn from their mistakes.



believe experiences in fine, digital and performing arts are designed to foster each student's God-given talents and gifts.

#### What about Middle School athletics?

We encourage students to try a variety of sports activities in Middle School. There are 12 different sports for a total of more than 32 "no-cut" teams. Our coaches pour into young athletes to help them be the best they can be. Students interested in participating in Upper School athletics are well prepared for the rigors of competitive CIF sports.

#### Would you explain the Advisory program?

We believe students need an environment that supports the opportunity to take risks and learn from mistakes. One way we create this environment is through Advisory. In Advisory, small-groups of single

gender students meet each day for discussion, fellowship and community-building activities. While all of the teachers purposefully build meaningful relationships with students, Advisory assigns an adult advocate to a small group of students. We also have annual grade-level retreats and recently introduced an off-campus Community Day designed to foster community and build relationships.

#### How do SFC Middle School students put their faith in action?

We encourage our students to put God's Word into action. Seventh grade students have the opportunity to take a mission trip to Tucson, Arizona, to serve the underprivileged youth population by processing and sorting donations, assisting with food preparation and helping children with homework. Eighth grade students can

serve in a San Diego Urban Outreach Ministry by sorting food, preparing meals and hitting the streets with food and sundries for the homeless. All Middle School students also must complete off-campus service hours through their Bible courses.

SFC's Middle School program is unique in that it trains the whole child – academically, emotionally, socially, physically and spiritually. We feel privileged to work with amazing administration and faculty as we guide our students each day. We are grateful for the committed SFC community of parents, grandparents, students, staff and coaches who helped to make possible the Middle School's National Blue Ribbon Award. **Spirit**

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Sarah Oberst organizes and cleans donations during a community outreach in San Diego.



# SUSTAINABLE FAITH

These men and women live out their faith, leaving a legacy more valuable than sheer knowledge

## CONNECTING THE DOTS

**AN INSPIRATIONAL** Bible teacher and coach, Mark Andriany, or as students call him, Coach A, has a love for middle schoolers. What is it about this age group that has Coach A so jazzed? It's that they want to know more about life. "I am thankful that I get to have the students for two years; it allows me the opportunity to be with them as they grow and mature. My relationships with students are strong."

Part of what Coach A loves about teaching Bible is teaching students that scripture is God telling us how to actually live. "I have a pastor's heart, but thank God, I am a teacher. My primary hope for my kids is that they have deep and personal relationships with Jesus and that they would gain a better understanding of how much God

loves them. From there, that they'd have a passion to pursue a godly lifestyle." Coach A says leaning in intently, "I'm passionate about God's word and about kids knowing Jesus in a real tangible way, not just in their brains. While I believe that it is by grace that we are fully saved, I think action should follow suit."

His love for this age group is obvious by his investment in the Middle School athletics program too. "I helped pioneer the Middle School baseball program, am in charge of all Middle School flag football and coach Middle School basketball," something Coach A relates to as he played basketball in high school.

With a desire for the kids to live out faith and grow in compassion, Coach A worked with Mr. Lyons to start a Middle School mission program. The program began with weekend trips to downtown San Diego serving the



“While I believe that it is by grace that we are fully saved, I think action should follow suit.”

MARK ANDRIANY SFC TEACHER

MARK ANDRIANY  
4 YEARS AT SFC  
TEACHES 7TH & 8TH  
GRADE BIBLE  
MIDDLE SCHOOL COACH  
UPPER SCHOOL  
WORSHIP LEADER



homeless. Soon after, they added a trip to Tucson, Arizona, for a week-long mission of service. “We give kids the opportunity to love people and spend time with the less fortunate. Interestingly enough, junior high students are not that good at loving

each other at times, but they have an unbelievable ability to connect with the people we serve on these trips.”

“I’ve been leading worship since I was eighteen, and I love it! I got involved with music at SFC early on and would poke my head into Chris Whyte’s chapel classes and offer pointers. Sure enough, when Chris left, they gave chapel over to me,” Coach A smiles. “I also lead worship in the mornings for students who are interested. It blesses me to see thirty high school kids worshipping God out of their own free will. It is mind-blowing!”

Teaching Bible, coaching sports, leading worship and missions trips, the fingerprints of Coach A can be seen all over campus. Coach A gleams as he says, “I love my job and couldn’t imagine doing anything else.”



thinking of things they are good at, things they may want in life and what is important to them.

When asked which she likes better, Government or Economics, Janelle calls it a toss-up. “AP Government is fun because we get to talk about the “whys” and depth of the government, which leads to great conversations. My hope is that my students become active and engaged citizens, have an opinion and are able to support it, find their voice and use it.” One of her favorite topics to teach

*The Ink on Mark Andriany*

**Family:** Married to Lauren with two daughters, 8 and 2

**Influence:** His wife

**Pastimes:** Play and write music, play basketball, read and hang out with friends, spend time with his family

**Interesting Fact:** 1998 Junior League World Series champion (Taylor, Michigan)

**Big Dream:** Teaching

**Other Talents:** Trained as a carpenter, now does home projects

**Would You Believe:** The purpose behind his tattoos is a gospel mission. They are great conversation starters.

**Favorite verses:** Philippians 1:6, Ephesians 6:10, Isaiah 64:4, Malachi 1:6-14

in Economics is life budget skills where students learn the value of money. “I like teaching them practical life applications that they can take with them.”

Ms. Ruge is a very active woman. She’s led the Ski & Snowboard Club, coached Middle School Cross Country and is very involved in SFC’s Missions program. She’s joined Middle School missions trips to Tucson, Arizona and City Heights in San Diego. She currently leads the Upper School trip to India, but has led many others in the



JANELLE RUGE 12 YEARS AT SFC TEACHES U.S. GOVERNMENT & ECONOMICS



## Stepping Out with Janelle Ruge

**Hometown:** Lincoln, Nebraska

**Biggest Influence:** Her dad, who modeled generosity, hard work, and enjoying life to its fullest

**Favorite Pastimes:** Hiking, snowboarding, spending time with friends

**Interesting fact:** Played hand bells in high school and played in her teacher's wedding

**Big Dreams:** Backpack and hike around South America and see the Carnival in Brazil

**Would you believe:** She came face to face with a grizzly and black bear, was charged by caribou, and had a mountain lion breathing down her neck

**Favorite food:** Coffee (especially Caribou Coffee from Minnesota)

**Life Verse:** Ephesians 5:1-2

past. “India has become my heartbeat,” Janelle confesses, “I love everything we do there.”

And although it may seem she is constantly on-the-go, Janelle does take a break every now and then, “I recharge in the mountains. It is there where I feel most connected to God and can enjoy His creation.”

Once recharged, she continues to pour herself into her real passion. “I love young people and working with them in whatever capacity. I really enjoy teaching, but I love the in-between moments with my students, too – hanging out at lunch, during breaks, mission trips, coaching. These kids need adults in their lives to point, direct and encourage them, and I am blessed that I get to be one of those adults.”



## PLANTING SEEDS

ENTER MRS. BRUNER'S classroom, sit in a small chair, breathe in the scent of crayons and immediately the wonderment of first grade comes flooding back. “The Lord has given me a love for kids. Teaching comes so naturally for me. I remember my first class of first graders,” reminisces Mrs. Bruner, “I stood up in the front of the room with 30 pairs of eyes staring at me and thought, this is what I want to do, this is what God gifted me to do. I

have the responsibility of molding and shaping the kids, and I don't take that lightly.”

Tender-hearted with a passion for teaching, Colleen Bruner welcomes eager young minds into her classroom and begins to impart the joy of learning. What is it about teaching first grade that makes her heart sing? “I love teaching and shaping what they think about school. I want them to have a love for the Lord and others foremost. Next to that, my desire is that they would embrace

the love of learning and that passion for learning would go on and on.”

Mrs. Bruner beams with joy when she talks about the activities they do in her classroom. When asked to give an example of something the kids get excited over, she smiles and says, “Building on foundational skills, we begin the day with a little game.” Each day is titled differently: Magazine Monday, Tune-up Tuesday, Word Search Wednesday, Think-Outside-the-Box Thursday, and what every first grade



COLLEEN BRUNER 21 YEARS AT SFC TEACHES 1ST GRADE

### *In the Garden with Colleen Bruner*

**Family:** Married to John for 31 years, three grown children (SFC alumni)

**Biggest Influence:** Artistic grandmother who loved the Lord

**Pastimes:** Gardening, cooking, baking and reading

**Interesting Fact:** Never been in a limousine

**Big Dream:** Travel to different countries and learn their specialties

**Would you believe:** While working for Campus Crusade (now CRU) she had the joy of serving Corrie ten Boom on her 83rd birthday

**Joy:** Seeing the students she taught grow up, get married, have kids and return to tell about their life

**Favorite Scripture Verse:** John 1:16



student loves, Fidget-With-it Friday. “This gives the students a chance to get oriented, relax and prepare for the day. And they love it!”

Her investment goes far beyond first grade students. Mrs. Bruner has lead several mission trips to France. She prays with coworkers and mentors and touches the lives of many parents. “Parents of first graders hang on every

word I say to them,” Mrs. Bruner explains, “I have to make sure I am in touch with the Lord and right with Him so I am effective in guiding and directing parents too.”



## MAKING HISTORY LIVE

**MIKE SICILIANO LOVES** American history. So when SFC was in search of an Upper School teacher for history courses, Mike jumped at the chance to return to his alma mater. He was excited to work with teens in the classroom and hopes to instill the love of discovery and debate.

“History is so relevant and practical for today. There is so much we can learn from history. Not just what happened, but more, why did it happen? What did it create? What were the effects?

And how does knowing that help us as we move forward? Our biggest clues for solving problems are looking back on what happened. History repeats itself and if you don’t know how it repeats itself, it will keep repeating.” It’s thought-provoking questions like these that get the kids in Mr. Siciliano’s class enthusiastic about American history. And his approach works – over 90% of his students passed the AP U.S. History exam since he began teaching at SFC.

Mr. Siciliano prompts rigorous class discussions. “I want my classroom to be a place where you can come with

your questions, even those that push the envelope a bit. I want students to say what they think.” He works hard at getting students to understand the historical characters they read about. “I try to get the students to think about what they would do if they were in that spot. I tell them the conversations they are having are not new. Alexander Hamilton and Thomas Jefferson had debates like these more than 200 years ago.”

“What do I hope the kids catch? I want some of them to fall in love with history, but I hope they all become



MIKE SICILIANO 3 YEARS AT SFC TEACHES U.S. HISTORY SFC FOOTBALL OFFENSIVE COORDINATOR SFC ALUMNUS

historically literate. By that I mean that when they’re sitting in a job interview or business meeting and someone makes a joke involving a historical figure, they laugh because they get it,” he chuckles. Mike Siciliano has aspirations for the students who step foot in his class, “I want them to consider and understand all sides of issues and come up with an opinion. I want them to see there are no easy answers, because reality

is much more complicated.” From a faith standpoint, Mr. Siciliano wants his students to know God is alive, real, and tangible – not a set of rules.

This story would be incomplete without talking about the other passion of Mr. Siciliano. He loves teaching but has a love for coaching football. As the offensive coordinator for three



### Time Out with Mike Siciliano

**Family:** Married to Michelle for nine years, daughter Violet is one year old

**Biggest Influence:** His dad, who modeled significance in his work, and his wife, who helps slow him down and be more thoughtful

**Pastimes:** Spend time with family, play golf, watch sports, read fiction, and play board and card games

**Interesting Fact:** Grandfather was Special Assistant to President Eisenhower

**Big Dream:** Write a book about current events, politics or faith

**Would you believe:** Born in Singapore

**Favorite SFC memory:** Going on SFC's first-ever international mission trip to Australia

**Verse:** John 13:35

years (his seventh year coaching overall), Coach Siciliano invests in the lives of teenage boys. "Football teaches so many life skills. These boys learn how to push themselves, and control themselves. They also learn how to manage when

they don't get to play a position they want, or even play in the game. They learn to handle winning and losing. It is significant to talk kids through those struggles."

Mr. Siciliano is actively engaged in SFC students' lives both in the classroom and on the field, you may even hear him crack a joke or two. If you were in his history class, you might just get it and laugh!



## STAGING A REVOLUTION

**TRAINED IN SOCIAL WORK,** Jackie Lewis found joy working with at-risk youth. One day, as she was leading a group of homeless students, she realized teaching was her sweet spot, "When I taught the kids, I came alive." Lead by God, Ms. Lewis immediately went back to school to get her credential. Going back to school and then changing careers was a huge test of faith. Following God's direction, she interviewed at SFC and was offered the perfect position teaching social studies, science and Bible.

"History excites me – it's people's stories! And the best way to learn is to make those stories come to life!" Wanting her students to truly understand the American Revolution, Ms. Lewis found a way to engage the kids by having them stage a musical about our nation. "The kids did everything from choreographing movement, costuming and prop design, to putting together the program and writing acknowledgments. They learned much more than by just reading the material, they lived it."

Ms. Lewis also enjoys teaching other subjects. "Science is hands-on, the kids are learning by doing. Beyond history and science, my real passion is teaching God's Word. I've done that for years so it's a natural fit to teach Bible to fifth graders."

When discussing education, Ms. Lewis believes in cultivating a growth mindset. "A growth mindset says you have the capability to learn more and become more with hard work and perseverance." With Ms. Lewis' background in social work, she discovered first-hand that if children

**JACKIE LEWIS**  
2 YEARS AT SFC  
**TEACHES 5TH GRADE**  
LOWER SCHOOL STUDENT COUNCIL  
**STAFF WORSHIP LEADER**



have a champion, they can do much more than they thought possible. "I hope the kids know I believe in them. As the saying goes, 'My teacher

thought I was smarter, so I was.' Really, I just have fun with the kids, and they blossom." **Spirit**

### The Buzz About Jackie Lewis

**Hometown:** El Dorado Hills, CA

**Biggest influence:** Her mom, a passionate, kind leader

**Pastimes:** Beach walk/run, volleyball

**Interesting Fact:** Helped develop an academic summer camp with mom

**Big Dream:** Travel to Europe and stay for a while in Italy

**Impacted by:** Christian sorority in which she developed faith, leadership

**Favorite Food:** Iced coffee

**Verse:** Psalm 46:10

# THE WRITE STUFF

## Lower School Builds Foundations in Writing

EFFECTIVE WRITTEN COMMUNICATION takes a lot of practice. In Lower School, students learn how to write for different audiences and genres beginning in second grade. Following are some samples of past student work that caught our attention, written in their own words.



### 2ND GRADE: ARGUMENT – OPINION

**Dogs are Amazing Pets** by Lily Stafford

Would you like a dog as a pet? I think a dog would make a better pet than a horse!

Dogs are very helpful to use. Dogs are always there when you are scared. It helps when they're by you. They love to sniff you to make sure are a good person. Dogs are fun to play with all the time. It is fun to play fetch with them outside. It is fun to play tag with them. They run fast. They are intelligent day by day. They can smell if there is danger near you. If there is someone bad they bark and protect you. Dogs make wonderful pets.

### 4TH GRADE: POEM

**Explorers** by Katie Powell

Seawater sprays the side of the ship.  
 Many can feel the cold wind's whip.  
 The wooden ship bumps into land.  
 And weakened sailors kiss the sand.

### 5TH GRADE: INFORMATIVE/EXPLANATORY

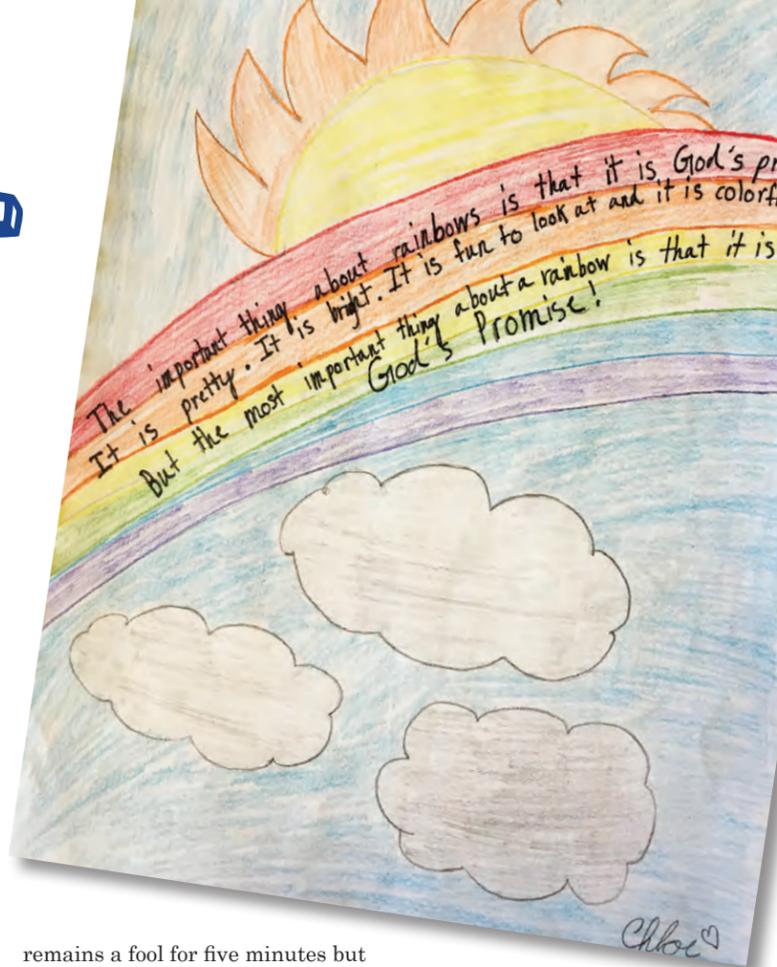
**PROMPT:** Write a letter to an incoming 5th grader, explaining one of these challenges an incoming 5th grade student might face. Be sure to support your choice with suggestions and tips so that these students can have a successful 5th grade year.

Dear Friend,

In fifth grade, the workload will be more challenging and you will have more of it. You shouldn't be scared or fear fifth grade, because you have been prepared for harder work and more responsibility. That is what your 4th grade teachers have gotten you ready for!

But I will try to soothe your worries anyway.

If you want to avoid running into bad grades, you have to use your time wisely and pay attention in class. Using your time wisely is very, very hard. You have to remember to study throughout the week so you aren't cramming the information in your head the morning of the test. Some people get bored in a class and want to doze off. Maybe you are one of these people. Asking questions is a great way to keep your mind stimulated. One quote I have learned is, "He who asks a question



remains a fool for five minutes but he who doesn't ask a question remains a fool forever."

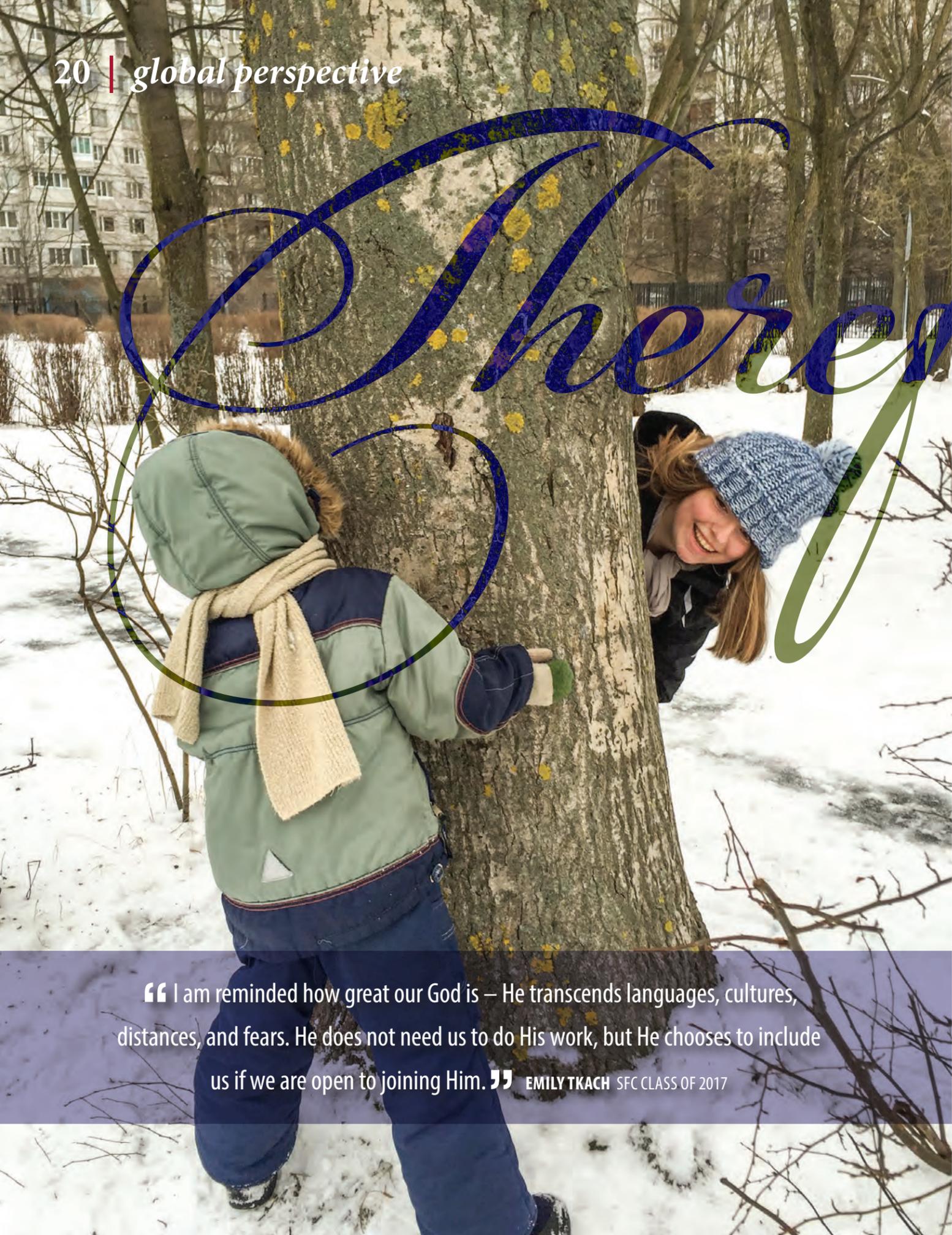
If you ask a question you will learn and benefit from that question, but if you don't ask any questions, you will never get smarter. When you listen in class, you process new information so maybe, just maybe, you won't have to study as long or hard. God wants us to try our best no matter what.

This means that he also must want us to try our best when we are at school. So, remember to do everything not for man, but for the Lord.

Sincerely, Eloise Martenson

Written while in 5th grade, Eloise is now an SFC 7th grader.





“ I am reminded how great our God is – He transcends languages, cultures, distances, and fears. He does not need us to do His work, but He chooses to include us if we are open to joining Him. ”

EMILY TKACH SFC CLASS OF 2017

# Therefore Go

“Pray that the Lord your God will tell us where we should go and what we should do.” JEREMIAH 42:3 (NIV)

**T**HROUGHOUT THE YEARS, hundreds of SFC students have been a part of the lives of thousands around the globe. There are many mission trip opportunities for students to go and work alongside our seasoned partners. Upon returning to the states, the kids come home grateful with a fresh perspective of the world.

Nearly 80% of SFC's students will take a life-changing international mission trip by the time they graduate. Stateside mission trips are offered in Middle School. Some destinations include Russia, Thailand, France, Fiji, Rwanda, Uganda, India, Dominican Republic, Texas, Kentucky, Arizona, and City Heights, a neighborhood of San Diego. **Spirit**

**RUSSIA**  
ST. PETERSBURG – 9<sup>th</sup> YEAR PARTNERING WITH  
KARGEL & BAEDEKER SCHOOL





“ India is such a spiritually indifferent country with different gods but I’ve never felt the presence of the one true Lord more than when I was at Grace Home. I went to India with the intention to serve others and change their lives, but my life was the one that was changed. ” **LILY MORGANS** SFC CLASS OF 2016





“ I experienced first hand the faith of the people from the Thai church who make up a small minority of the Christians in that area. ” **BRET JOHNSON** SFC CLASS OF 2016



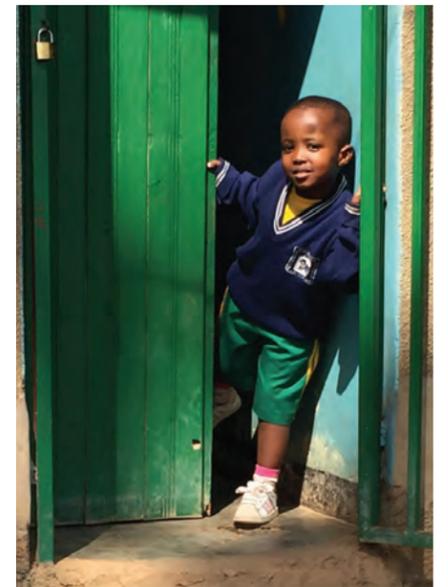
“ The French are intrigued by the concept of a loving God and listen intently as we carefully drip the gospel in our conversations, whether it be in what we say or how we treat them. ” **GRACE OLSON** SFC CLASS OF 2018

“ I discovered that happiness is an attitude, and having a loving, close-knit community  
is more fulfilling than a higher standard of living. ” **NICK MOCERI** SFC CLASS OF 2016





“ It is safe to say that our hearts are being radically changed by the kids and by our wonderful Creator! ” **NICOLINA DUHS** SFC CLASS OF 2017



“ I was stretched beyond comfort in the best way possible and found a new love for a new culture filled with Christ. ”

**KEVIN LONEY** CLASS OF 2017

**DOMINICAN REPUBLIC**  
SANTA DOMINGO – 1<sup>ST</sup> YEAR PARTNERING WITH CHILDREN'S HERITAGE FOUNDATION



“ Within the first hour upon our arrival to the village, the kids were jumping, hanging, playing and loving on us. My life was changed for the better and the Dominican will forever hold a place in my heart. ” **MALLY WALDVOGEL** SFC CLASS OF 2018

**ISRAEL**  
GALILEE, DEAD SEA, JERUSALEM, NAZARETH  
TEMPLE MOUNT

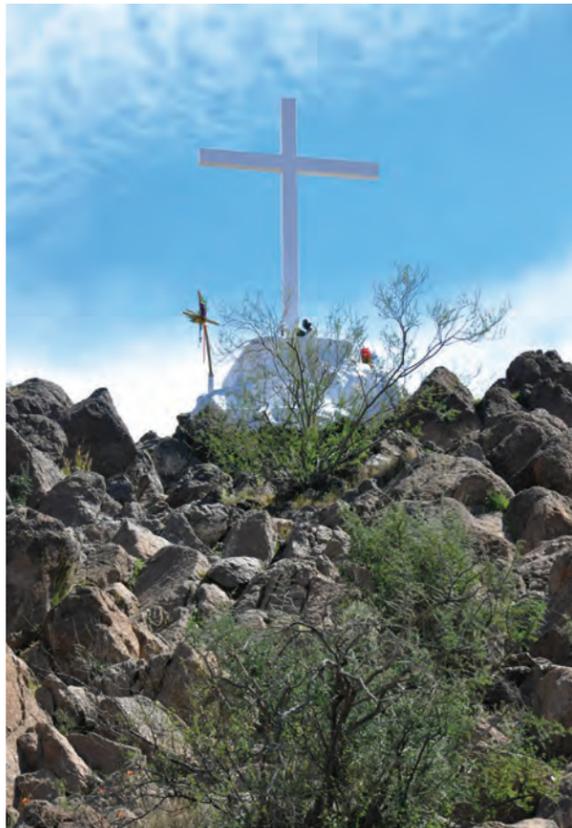
*Therefore Go*



“ I was baptized for the first time where Jesus was baptized, in the Jordan River. My experience in Israel gave me a newfound desire to dive into God’s Word. ”

**HANNAH FLYCKT** SFC CLASS OF 2016

**ARIZONA**  
TUCSON  
2<sup>nd</sup> YEAR PARTNERING WITH PRAYING PELICANS



**CALIFORNIA**  
SAN DIEGO CITY HEIGHTS  
3<sup>rd</sup> YEAR PARTNERING WITH URBAN MISSIONS



“Going out on the streets, I had the mindset that I was going there to be a light to the people I met; I had no idea how much their stories and lives would impact me.” **SARAH OBERST** SFC CLASS OF 2020

# A Winning Season

## SFC Lacrosse and Golf Teams Make History

### BOYS LACROSSE WINS BIG

**ALTHOUGH A YOUNG TEAM** with only three seniors, RJ Walker, David Divjak and Chad Clerke, SFC's lacrosse team was one of the strongest high school teams in San Diego. SFC was undefeated through most of April 2016 with an impressive 11-0 record before

losing a close battle to arch rival The Bishops School, giving the 2016 season the best start in SFC's program history. SFC finished the season with a 13-3 record and won the San Diego Division I Championship.

"This group learned early on that they would have to play as a team to be

effective and achieve their goals this season. We knew we were young and down the stretch would need all of our guys to contribute to be where we wanted to be," said Coach Tom DeMaio. "I am excited to be a part of developing young lacrosse players into future leaders and role models."



**COASTAL LEAGUE WINNERS** Three additional SFC teams had strong season finishes in the 2015-16 school year. Our football, softball and baseball teams each won Coastal League Championships. Congratulations to all our Eagle teams!

In just two years, the Eagles took their first-ever Division I CIF Lacrosse Championship.



## GOLF TEAM FINISHES AT TOP OF LEADERBOARD

**THE SANTA FE CHRISTIAN** golf team won the 2016 Division III San Diego CIF Championship in the late spring, beating fellow Coastal League member The Bishops School by one stroke. This is the first title for the Eagles in the program's history, and caps the most successful season from a team perspective. "You can't just show up at CIF and win it," says Coach Tyler Gray. "It is something that has to start much earlier in the season."

The CIF golf championship match is a two-day, 36-hole tournament held annually at Admiral Baker's North Course. Coach Gray adds, "I am so proud. We wouldn't be talking about a CIF title if it wasn't for how well the whole team played. Nick Cable played great all year, he is 1st team all-league for a reason."



NICK CABLE  
CLASS OF 2018

The Eagles finished the CIF tournament with a two-day count of 785 total strokes, an average of 78.5 strokes per round. **Spirit**



VAN COYKENDALL  
BASEBALL, MIT

"Coaches reward hard work emphasizing its value in all aspects of life. They create an atmosphere for players to strive for goals bigger than themselves."

# Taking it to the Next Level

Seven from SFC's Class of 2016 committed to play collegiate sports



CALI CUBEL  
BASKETBALL, WHITTIER COLLEGE

"Coach Byrd taught me the importance of being a leader on and off the court and the sisterhood built on a team."



KYLE FERRARO  
BASEBALL, WHEATON

"The coaches at SFC have helped me learn the definition of hard work to help get me on my path to play in college."



GAIGE HOWARD  
BASEBALL, KENYON COLLEGE

"The SFC baseball staff this year was the best group of coaches I have ever had. These coaches elevated my game and increased my passion for baseball."



BRET JOHNSON  
BASKETBALL, CALTECH

"The coaches at SFC poured as much into my spiritual life as they did my athletic career. They were more than coaches; they were mentors to me."



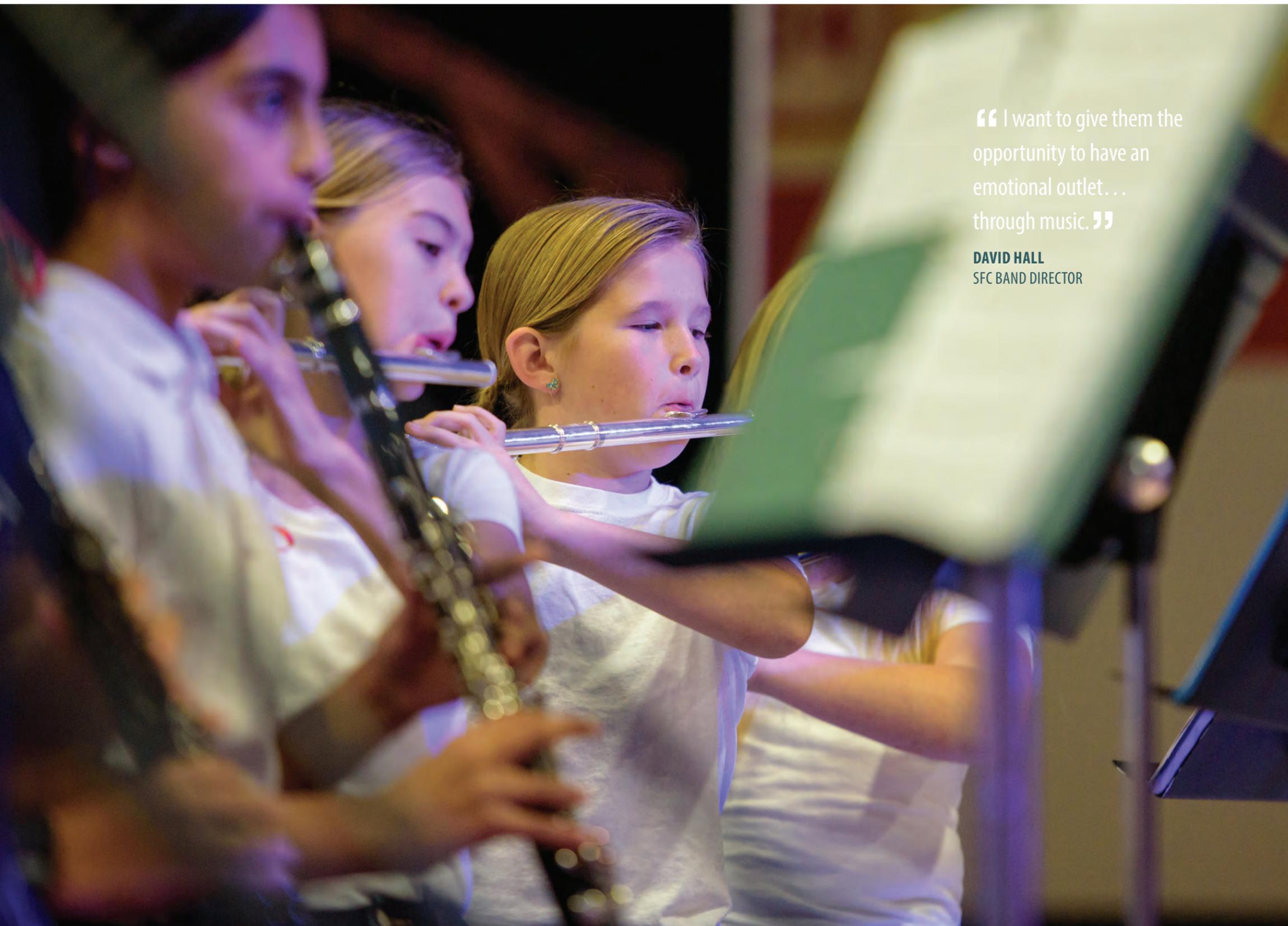
MATT PIERSON  
BASEBALL, TRINITY

"The coaches at SFC encouraged hard work and teamwork in order to build unity and instill a common goal to be a champion for Christ."



RJ WALKER  
FOOTBALL, SOUTHERN OREGON

"SFC gave me the opportunity to be a difference maker on the field rather than just another number on the team."



“ I want to give them the opportunity to have an emotional outlet . . . through music. ”

**DAVID HALL**  
SFC BAND DIRECTOR



## MORE THAN A Melody

Inspiring Arts for a  
Bigger Purpose

**A**S HARMONIES COMPLIMENT THE MELODY of a composition, so too does art compliment the foundation of a well-rounded education. Harmonies fill gaps to make the music whole. Core curriculum is the base melody while supplementary programs like music and art bring out the beauty of that foundational knowledge.



## PROGRESSIVE PROGRAM

**BAND IS AN ONGOING LEGACY** at SFC, of which Mr. David Hall, SFC's music maestro, has been leading since 1992. "First and foremost, I want my musicians to come away with a love for the Lord and glorify Him in everything they do." The incredible thing about the program is that students of the Lower, Middle and Upper Schools can join in the group. "The interplay going on in the brain as kids develop and are exposed to music is fascinating," states Mr. Hall. Starting from a young age, our students are able to learn about how music plays a role in their lives.

In the Lower School, fifth grade students can play in the Cadet Band. In Middle School they are able to participate in the Battalion Band. Finally, in the Upper School they may perform in the Eagle Band. "I want to give them the opportunity to have an emotional outlet and be able to convey their thoughts and feelings through music," Mr. Hall expresses. "There is power in music."



Upper School 2016 Musical "Godspell"



Lower School Christmas Program



Middle School 2016 Musical "You're a Good Man Charlie Brown"

## God values creativity and desires that man use this gift to appreciate and produce works of art that are beautiful.

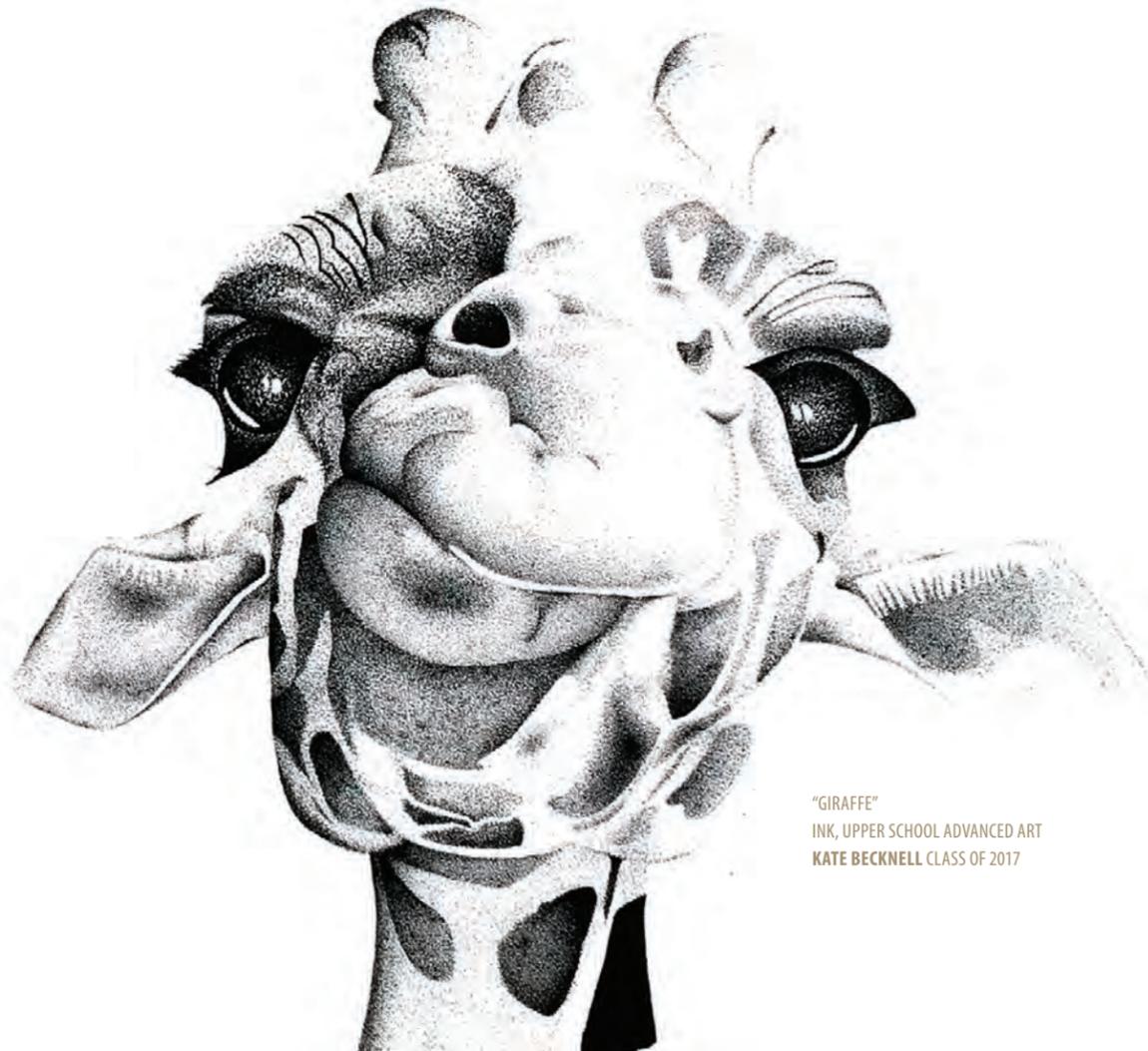
### VISUAL EXPRESSIONS

**THE VISUAL ARTS PLAY** an integral part in the philosophy of education at SFC, providing students with tangible ways of communicating their feelings to God and the world. The Middle and Upper School curriculum allows students to further develop specific skills through a variety of media.

Besides the standard Introduction to Art, Upper School students may elect to take AP Studio Art-Drawing Portfolio,

AP 2D Design Portfolio and Studio Art. Middle School students are able to explore a variety of disciplines such as drawing, printmaking, graphic design and photography. Lower School artists focus on the basics – line, form, and composition.

Each one of SFC art venues are designed to foster each student's talents and abilities and offer performances, concerts and exhibits, giving students opportunities to blossom in creativity. **Spirit**



"GIRAFFE"  
INK, UPPER SCHOOL ADVANCED ART  
KATE BECKNELL CLASS OF 2017



"SUMMER ASSIGNMENT" NEWSPAPER, CHARCOAL, BLACK & WHITE PAINT, PAINTER'S TAPE, AP STUDIO ART  
EMMA CALLANT SFC CLASS OF 2017



"REFUGEE" ACRYLIC ON WOOD LUCI FRYER SFC CLASS OF 2016



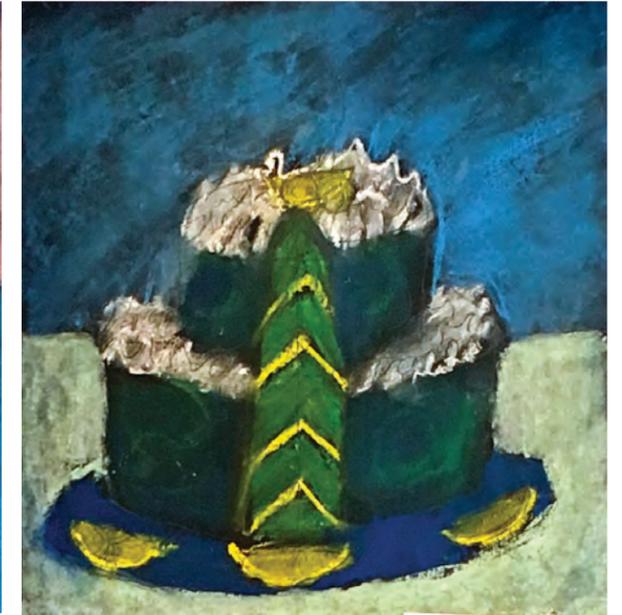
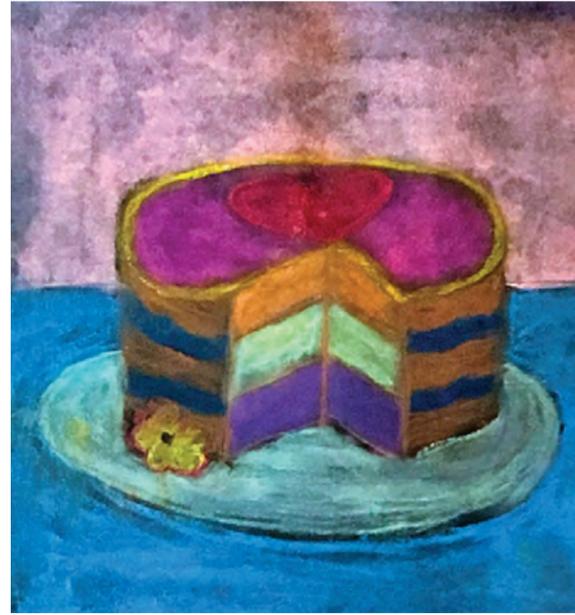
"BERRIES & STARS" WATERCOLOR GENEVIEVE WOOD SFC CLASS OF 2017



"MERMAID" TISSUE PAPER, MS INTRO TO PAINTING SAVANNAH SHOOP SFC CLASS OF 2020



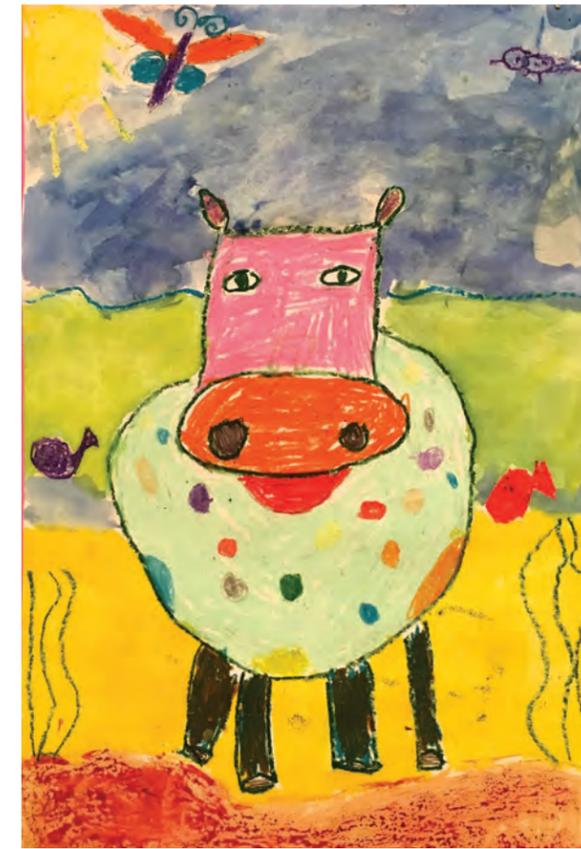
"POSITIVE & NEGATIVE SPACE REPEATING PATTERN" INK, 6TH GRADE ART JACK BLOUT SFC CLASS OF 2022



"CAKE" OIL PASTELS, 5TH GRADE ART CLASS (L) PRIYANKA JOHN (R) MATTHEW MERCER



"POP ART PORTRAIT" ACRYLIC, MIDDLE SCHOOL INTRO TO PAINTING GRANT RAYNERS SFC CLASS OF 2021



TEMPERA AND OIL PASTELS, 2ND GRADE ART CLASS ISABELLA PATRIGNANI

# Class Time

Sharing Christ, Team Building  
Creates Class Unity

RETREATS MODEL FOR STUDENTS the priority to occasionally step away from daily routines in order to pursue a deeper relationship with Jesus. All retreats are similar in goals yet each one is unique. While friendships with peers and faculty are transformed and strengthened, the class becomes united, and most importantly, the students grow in their faith. **Spirit**

Class Time  
**US10**

10TH GRADE RETREAT  
PINE VALLEY, JANUARY



“ I loved the night we studied the constellations and learned about God’s creation down to the tiniest details of the stars that make up something so huge as the universe. It made me appreciate how big and awesome HE is! It was a night I will never forget!”

CHARLOTTE ADAMS SFC CLASS OF 2022



*Class Time*  
**ms6**

6TH GRADE RETREAT  
INDIAN HILLS, OCTOBER

*"The worship time at the 7th grade retreat was really special. I enjoyed the songs and felt really close to God and my classmates."*

LUKE VALDEZ SFC CLASS OF 2021



*"On the last night we all hiked the mountain.  
When we reached the top, Coach A began to play music. God was  
so present touching the hearts of everyone, especially me."*

**KIRSTEN DRAKE SFC CLASS OF 2020**



*Class Time*  
**MS8**

8TH GRADE RETREAT  
CATALINA, OCTOBER



*Class Time*  
**US9**  
FRESHMAN RETREAT  
IDYLLWILD JANUARY

*"Mr. Martin gave a talk about relying on our faith through hard times... I found that being around people who cared about me and who shared my faith in God helped me define myself as a person, which is a struggle almost every teenage kid encounters."*

CHLOE FRISCH SFC CLASS OF 2017

*ClassTime*  
**US** ||

JUNIOR RETREAT  
FOREST HOME, JANUARY





*ClassTime*  
**US12**  
SENIOR RETREAT  
OAKBRIDGE CAMP, SEPTEMBER

**Todd Burns** SFC CLASS OF 1998  
 UCLA, BA Economics & English  
 Pepperdine University, JD, MBA  
 Managing Director of  
 The Roundwoods Group of Companies

# Influencing the World

SFC Alumni Make a Difference in  
Their Every Day Jobs

## Invested in Ministry

**TODAY, TODD BURNS** is discussing the corporate marketing strategy with his company heads, encouraging them to build relationships in new countries to increase profits. The profits will be invested into a ministry in another part of the world. For Todd, no two days are alike. Serving as the co-head of a corporate office based in Japan and Switzerland, Todd manages several businesses throughout the world while living in London.

“We give most of our revenue away to missions work,” Todd relays, “and look for opportunities in Bible translation

and distribution, technology that assists in gospel distribution and mission work in Asia. I love to serve at the intersection of the commercial and ministry worlds. Both are hard to administrate but I believe it is my calling to operate in this window internationally.”

## TAKING THE LEAD

Leading is what Todd does well. He sits on the boards of numerous local and national non-profits in addition to owning a media and technology company. He also advises governments, several dozen nonprofits and individuals as a residual of his law practice.

Todd his wife Carolyn live in London with their three children.



“ I can say with confidence that Santa Fe Christian was the single biggest contributor to my spiritual formation as a young man and to who I am today. ” **TODD BURNS** SFC CLASS OF 1998

“I knew from a young age I wanted God to lead me in my career rather than pursuing a field motivated by money and power. I went to school for law and business but ended up building companies, serving nonprofits and providing counsel.”

At the end of the day, God really is the steward of everything Todd does. “My job is extraordinarily challenging. There are thousands of people that are a part of my business, so unity and alignment can be hard to achieve. I can’t just apply the best practices from the world of business, law and finance. I have to go to the Word and allow God to guide me.”

### TAUGHT BY EXAMPLE

Looking out his office window in London, Todd reminisces about his time at SFC, “I can say with confidence that Santa Fe Christian was the single biggest contributor to my spiritual formation as a young man and to who

I am today. I saw spiritual mentors who were intimate with God. They taught me by example humility, integrity, entrepreneurship, risk – relatively all of the inputs to my spiritual formation and trust in God that I have now. I saw the fruit in their lives and I wanted that fruit in my life.”

An interesting side note, John Couch, executive with Apple and a former SFC headmaster, was a major influence in bringing Todd into contact with computers and his first ministry assignment with Miles McPherson.

“My parents are phenomenally important,” as Todd reflects on those who mentored him, “My mom modeled reliance on God, and my dad, godly integrity. They are always encouraging me that God has a perfect path.”

Over the years, his business partners have been great men who stress the importance of family and marriage and

led by example. “My business partner, Bud, has really taught me to pray and to live intimately with Christ. I have learned how to do right in a corrupt and evil world and rely on God for His justice.”

Finally, after God, his family is his priority, “Marrying my wife and having my children has taught me the incredible gifts that God has in store for us if we wait for Him to lead. My wife is a rock. She is a strong woman of faith and is incredibly consistent in trusting God. I treasure my time with my family. I love playing football (soccer) with my boys and generally hanging out.”



**Anne (Carr) Buehner**  
SFC Class 2003

University of Arizona,  
Creative Nonfiction  
Writing  
Director of Social Media  
and Content Marketing  
Red Door Interactive

## A Social Expert

**@ANRIPLEY TWEETS OFTEN** as the Director of Social Media at Red Door Interactive. How did she get from Santa Fe Christian to her current career? “I knew I wanted to do something that is exciting that involved writing or speaking; something creative that would keep me on the go. I liked

thinking about how to tell a story in a creative way,” Anne reminisces. She had a few internships in college, but her favorite was in Public Relations.

Anne continues, “After college, I worked at a boutique PR agency and ended up starting a social media service there. A few years later, I went to Red Door because I wanted to expand

beyond PR. I get to pursue a career that uses my gifts and how God uniquely made me.”

## LOVE OF WRITING

Anne has always loved writing; it began in second grade and continued into high school where she remembers some of her amazing teacher and

Anne and her husband, John, touring Japan



assignments, “In my freshman year at SFC we did a segment on poetry. We were paired up with a senior citizen at a retirement home,” Anne recounts. Students met weekly over several months to learn the senior’s life story, then both the senior and the student put it to poetry. “That assignment had a huge impact on me. I discovered there is a wealth of stories worth telling inside everyone. Now I get to help tell stories on behalf of brands and their communities.”

Many teachers at SFC influenced Anne. Mrs. Ellis in freshman English opened up her eyes to poetry, Mrs. Buell nurtured her love for literature and both Mrs. Buell and Mrs. Saline challenged her writing.

While at the University of Arizona Anne tried several different majors and through the process of taking a variety of classes she landed on majoring in creative non-fiction writing with a communication minor. “It is ok to not know what you want to do - just try things out. You have to try to know where your gifts and talents are going to be best put to work.”

After college, Anne went to work at a boutique PR agency, “I learned how to pitch the media and write press releases. I loved the competition of trying to get coverage. Social media

was a new thing. I played around with Twitter for the agency and realized that I didn’t have to be on the phone the entire day pitching media. I could send a Tweet and get better results.”

## GRATEFUL TO SFC

Anne, now a social media expert, travels all over working with her clients. “I have gotten to do a lot of amazing things with my job. This year I have been to Japan, Germany and France.”

Looking back, Anne is grateful to SFC, “It was an environment where I could have good clean fun.” While in high school, Anne was very involved in choir, theater, ASB, Spiritual Life class, Speech, cheerleading and more.

“My advice for current students? Say yes. Experience as much as you can at

SFC, you never get that opportunity again in life.” Anne developed life-long friendships at SFC “I valued my Christian friends, which really helped my Christian walk both then and now!” As an aside, although not thrilled at the time, “I am thankful we had to memorize scripture. Those verses still pop into my mind!”

How does her walk with Christ play out in her career? “It is part of the way I am and part of the way I live life. My identity is in Christ not in my job so I am not as stressed as others. I do the best I can do, I have a lot of fun and work very hard, but that is not what defines me or makes or breaks me. The best days I have are when I go into the workplace as a representative of Jesus to love everyone.” #sfcnetwork #socialmediaqueen **Spirit**

“ Experience as much as you can at SFC. You never get that opportunity again! ”

**ANNE BUEHNER** SFC CLASS OF 2003

# A Legacy OF Giving

## LaHayes and Sciaccas Recognized as Faithful Servant Award Honorees in 2016



**T**O FULLY APPRECIATE SANTA FE CHRISTIAN'S history and humble beginnings, travel back in time to 1976. The late Dr. Tim LaHaye was pastoring Scott Memorial Baptist Church in San Diego, ran a private Christian high school and had a vision to open another Christian school in North County. As Dr. LaHaye cast the vision to the congregation, church members Frank and Connie Sciacca heard the call. Frank discovered the San Diego Military Academy, and called the

Frank and Connie Sciacca were instrumental in Santa Fe Christian's beginnings and played a large role in the school for nearly 40 years. Although Connie went to be home with the Lord in 2009, her spirit is alive today. In fact, John Salyer (son-in-law), has taught at SFC for 28 years. Connie and Frank founded Sciacca Development Corporation in 1976 which developed 3,000,000 square feet of commercial buildings throughout San Diego County. The Sciaccas have two children, five grandchildren and two great grandchildren.

Headmaster to see if they would be interested in selling the property. Santa Fe Christian Schools is located on that property today.

The Sciaccas sold a commercial building; donated the proceeds to Scott Memorial Baptist Church to purchase

the San Diego Military Academy and reopened it as a private Christian school. As only God would have it, a buyer for the Sciaccas' commercial property appeared who, unbeknownst to the Sciaccas, was also a member of Scott Memorial Baptist Church. The listing agent the Sciaccas hired to sell



The late Dr. Tim LaHaye, shepherded one of the nation's outstanding churches in San Diego, which grew to three locations. He wrote more than 60 non-fiction books, and co-authored the Left Behind fiction series with Jerry B. Jenkins, which has over 80 million copies in print. Beverly is the Board Chair and Founder of Concerned Women for America, the nation's largest public policy women's organization. The LaHayes were married for 60 years and have four grown children, nine grandchildren and 15 great grandchildren.

### THEN & NOW



The northwest-facing view of the baseball field and the Lower School building in 1977 and 2016.

the property was Tom Sudberry, alumni parent and current SFC grandparent.

At the annual SFC Spring Auction & Gala, the 2015-16 Faithful Servant Award was given to the LaHayes and Sciaccas. Without their combined vision and actions, Santa Fe Christian may

not exist. On behalf of the thousands of students, faculty and staff who have benefited from SFC, and the countless additional lives that have been positively influenced by our students and graduates, Santa Fe Christian said thank you to the LaHayes and Sciaccas. **Spirit**



Lower School After-School Aide Judy Campbell-Smith with students at what will become the base of the innovative two-story learning center.

# SFC to Build Innovative Learning Center

Classrooms of the future need to accommodate modern teaching methods and learning styles

**T**HANKS TO THE GENEROSITY of many donors, including a \$1.25 million visionary gift from a long-time legacy SFC family, we are building an innovative new two-story, 10,000 square foot classroom structure. This structure will replace four old portable classrooms and kick-starts the SFC Master Plan. The new building will integrate some indoor and outdoor flex learning spaces that increase functionality and allow students to better collaborate, work independently or partner on group projects. This multi-purpose learning center will feature a science lab, art studio and eight general purpose classrooms for our students. The architecture of this structure brings in a new era of classroom design for SFC's campus. *Spirit*



Southwest View



Northeast View

SFC is building an innovative new two-story, 10,000 square foot classroom structure. This structure will replace four old portable classrooms located just north of the library along the stairwell connecting the Lower School campus to the Middle and Upper School section. Anticipated completion date is late Fall 2017.



BY THE NUMBERS

- **96** class of 2016 graduates
- **100%** four-year college acceptances (94 applicants)
- **505** acceptances to **182** colleges & universities
- **80%** took missions trips
- **92%** were offered merit scholarships

# Class of 2016 Graduate with High Marks

**SFC'S GRADUATING CLASS OF 2016** has a heart for missions, a mind for academics and will attend some of the most desirable universities and colleges around the country and abroad.

As a college preparatory K-12 school, SFC students are ready for what lies ahead. SFC is proud to be preparing the Christian leaders of tomorrow. Congratulations Class of 2016! *Spirit*



TOP 10 COLLEGE CHOICES FOR SFC CLASS OF 2016

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| Cal Poly SLO 26 accepted, 7 attending                   | University of Colorado Boulder 14 accepted, 6 attending |
| Baylor 19 accepted, 5 attending                         | USC 8 accepted, 2 attending                             |
| Texas Christian University 18 accepted, 7 attending     | UC Berkeley 11 accepted, 5 attending                    |
| Pepperdine 16 accepted, 4 attending                     | UCLA 4 accepted, 3 attending                            |
| Point Loma Nazarene University 19 accepted, 1 attending | Westmont 15 accepted, 4 attending                       |



## Why an OREO?

CONSIDER THE MIDDLE OF AN OREO COOKIE. Although the chocolate biscuits are delicious, what would an OREO cookie be without the yummy middle? The same is true of SFC's K-12 college preparatory experience. Much like an OREO cookie sandwich, the Lower School and Upper School are what sandwiches Middle School, where students have the opportunity to explore and discover their talents and interests. Middle School, it really is good stuff.



HEAD OF SCHOOLS  
Tom Bennett, Ph.D.

CHIEF FINANCIAL &  
OPERATIONS OFFICER  
Scott Travasos

UPPER SCHOOL PRINCIPAL  
Matt Hannan

UPPER SCHOOL  
ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL  
Pamela Oden

MIDDLE SCHOOL PRINCIPAL  
Todd Deveau, Ed.D.

MIDDLE SCHOOL  
DEAN OF STUDENTS  
Michelle Glenn

LOWER SCHOOL PRINCIPAL  
Hannah Park

LOWER SCHOOL  
ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL  
Amanda Walker

PRESCHOOL  
DIRECTOR  
Claudia Lewis