

NEXUS Now



06 In the Community

Crossroads and Aim High create opportunities for MA students to give back

17 Night of the Arts

A wonderful showcase of creative student artworks



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EDITOR

Hervé Ernest

CONTRIBUTING WRITERS

Abby French
Kevin Rees
Laurie Clark
Rebecca Abbey

PHOTOGRAPHY

Marin Academy Communications
Blaine Covert
Brian Benson
Andy Mercy
Art Ringness
Kristi Duchon
Marin Academy Parents

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Marin Academy
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Any feedback, thoughts or concerns you may have about NEXUS Now: Please [click here to email us at communications@ma.org](mailto:communications@ma.org)





CARE

A big thank you to all of our Wildcat heroes who participated in the Community Action blood drive!

Poets, writers, and artists of MA:

"And, thank you, writers and artists, for the courage and care to share your voice and visions with us, so penetrating and ceaseless on the page, like the incessant hum of an insect chorus reassuring us through the long night."

—Laurie Clark, English Teacher



MA AUTHOR GIVES VOICE TO WINE COUNTRY'S UNDERREPRESENTED PEOPLE

MA's own, Alex Brown, celebrates the release of her new book, "Hidden History of Napa Valley," which explores overlooked parts of Napa's history and curates MA's new Alumni Book Club.

“

And Mary's journalism class had been such a joy: As a younger student, I loved bantering with the older editors. When I led the paper senior year with my best friend, mentoring younger students became deeply rewarding.

”

LENA FELTON '13



GIVING THANKS TO OUR COMMUNITY

BY TRAVIS BROWNLEY
Head of School

Closing out our academic year with gratitude



Welcome to a new edition of NEXUS Now! I'm delighted to be able to share news and activities with you through this digital format filled to the brim with stories and clickable links to videos, connected articles, alumni news, and

school-related information and events designed to provide our community with greater access to the academic, creative, athletic, and social life at MA.

As we wind down the school year and prepare for the commencement ceremonies of the Class of 2019, I want

to express my gratitude and pride in the resilience and accomplishments of our school community. We have much to celebrate as we close out this academic year: the launch of our Mind, Body, Brain program and the Transdisciplinary Learning Program pilot; the record number of scholastic awards achieved; the transformative classroom experiences happening every day, as well as the many unique experiences outside of the classroom; and terrific performances in arts and championship seasons in athletics. In the pages that follow, you'll read stories that reinforce the rich and dynamic community we have here at MA. And as Giving Day nears, I want to give thanks to everyone who helps make our community the supportive and compassionate environment in which to grow, learn, and thrive.

Warm regards,

IN THE COMMUNITY

BY ABBY FRENCH
Spanish Teacher &
Crossroads Program Director

Engagement through action



A longstanding opportunity for MA students to give back

For nearly two decades, the Crossroads Program has created an opportunity for MA students to connect and engage with the larger San Rafael community. Supporting the Crossroads Program is an important way that MA puts our mission statement into action and challenges students "to accept the responsibilities posed by education in a democratic society."

Through their participation in Crossroads, we ask MA students to reflect on their own educational experiences and to think about issues of educational equity and how they impact our communities and society. Current MA junior Jasmine W. '20 explains, "We talk a lot at MA about educational equity and how we can see it in our own communities - the inequities between different schools."

Crossroads is a great way to be able to get involved and actually get outside of MA and into other schools to support students who may not have access to tutors and opportunities that we have at MA."

During the school year, MA students work with 7th and 8th graders at Davidson and Venetia Valley Middle Schools, most of whom will be the first generation in their families to graduate from college. When MA students first join Crossroads as tutors or fellows, they often focus on what they will be able to offer or teach our middle school students. However, in my experience as the Crossroads Program Director, one of the things I value about the program is how much MA students learn from participating in Crossroads. By forming relationships with middle schoolers and supporting their academic growth, MA students are able to gain an appreciation of how challenging teaching can be and how gratifying it is when their guidance leads a student to an "aha moment." They also build their communication and leadership skills through real-world experience. Additionally, MA students often gain valuable perspective about life experiences that may be different than their own. The dynamic bidirectional

learning that takes place between middle schoolers and high schoolers is one of the most exciting aspects of the Crossroads Program.

Our strong partnerships with Davidson and Venetia Valley have allowed us to continue to provide important opportunities for our middle school students and for MA students during the school year. In addition, our partnership with Aim High has allowed us to expand and strengthen our summer programming. This coming summer our Crossroads middle school students will join the Aim High Program hosted at MA, which will provide free academic and enrichment programming for 120 middle schoolers for five weeks. This summer, Crossroads Program Coordinator Maribel Albarran, and MA and Crossroads alumna, Rebekka Dagher will be taking the lead as the Site Directors and several MA students will be participating as High School Interns. We are proud that Aim High has been awarded two Excellence in Summer Learning Awards from the National Summer Learning Association. Aim High is the first organization in the history of the award to receive the honor twice. We look forward to another engaging and joyful summer of learning!

“
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a great way
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and actually
get outside of
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other schools to
support students
who may not
have access
to tutors and
opportunities
that we have at
MA.

”

JASMINE W. '20

Student



Minicourse Highlights



A



A



B



B



C



C

A NETWORKED TECHNOLOGY | This minicourse utilized the issue of how people interact with networked technology to then teach a group of sophomores about the design thinking process. As part of the course, students took a trip to the Oculus lab at Facebook where they interviewed lead designer, Andrew Roscoe. Then, students took a tour of the main Facebook campus in Menlo Park. After visiting Facebook, they had lunch at the Nueva School in San Mateo, which is a school founded on design thinking principles. The MA students interviewed a number of Nueva students for their individual projects as part of the research design phase.

C EXPLORING MARIN – GETTING TO KNOW MARIN'S ENVIRONMENTAL DIVERSITY | As Bay area residents, we have a luxury that many in the world do not have – a world-class set of national and state parks literally on our doorstep. This minicourse gave students an up-close understanding of the wildlife and sights that surround them. Each day, students explored a different facet of Marin's environment: they ascended Mt. Tamalpais and learned about the microclimates of Marin County, engaged in service with the Golden Gate National Parks Conservatory around trail restoration, performed a creek cleanup (in kayaks!) through the Gallinas Watershed Council, and ended with a surfing excursion in Bolinas. During these adventures students learned about our ecosystem, protection of water and soil, prevention of erosion and water pollution, wildlife conservation, how public access is protected, and the general history of the area.

B BOLLYWOOD | The Bollywood minicourse experience explored the sights, sounds, dances, and tastes of India's largest film industry. Students watched some of the most famous traditional and contemporary Bollywood films while eating chaat (snacks) and sweets, learned and collectively choreographed a Bollywood dance, explored the making and symbolism of costuming and jewelry in Indian historical dramas, and tackled discussions about caste, race, gender, tradition, Modernity, religious fundamentalism, and postcolonialism in the films seen. The course involved a field trip to the Hindu temple in Livermore and a field trip to the gurdwara in El Sobrante.

Minicourse Highlights



D RIVER OTTER ECOLOGY PROJECT: FUN IN THE FIELD FOR FRESHMEN! | This minicourse was a rare opportunity to work closely with an environmental non-profit, the River Otter Ecology Project, engaged in studying and protecting one of the region's most significant mammals. The North American river otter (*Lontra canadensis*) is a charismatic watershed ambassador that had once been largely eliminated from the San Francisco Bay Area by the mid-twentieth century. As a sentinel apex predator species that uses every part of a watershed, from headwaters to the ocean, their return to our watersheds indicates a hopeful change in conditions and can encourage continuing wetland restoration and conservation. Since very little is known about river otter population, health, behavior, and ecology within our watershed, students contributed by spending the week looking for river otter tracks and signs, collecting and processing DNA samples, identifying prey samples, checking wildlife cameras, and helping with native wetland restoration.

F BRAZILIAN CAPOEIRA | In this minicourse, students practiced basic capoeira, a non-contact martial art developed in Brazil centuries ago by slaves as a way to prepare for rebellion while masking their training from the slave masters as "simple singing and dancing." Students learned the basics of instrumentation (percussion) and singing in Portuguese and watched films to study the development of capoeira, the history of slavery in Brazil, and how capoeira is used today as an escape from poverty. As a break from physical activity students participated in daily drum circles and enjoyed delicious Brazilian snacks, such as pão de queijo (cheesy bread) and brigadeiros (truffles).

E SAILING SAN FRANCISCO BAY | Students spent five days in the capable hands of the experts at the Point Richmond Yacht Club learning to sail on the San Francisco Bay during this minicourse. Students began with an introduction to boating and on-land drills of basic sailing skills, moved onto maneuvering a two-person FJ sailboat through the water, and concluded with how to work the mainsail and jib, tack, and move the boat upwind. Students capped off the week with a sail on the Bay on a much larger sailboat where they were able to put their new skills and knowledge to the test.

ALUMNI NOTES

BY REBECCA ABBEY
Director of Alumni Relations



With graduation around the corner, there is an air of anticipation and reflection felt palpably on campus. With less than one month to go, the excitement and concern can be seen on the faces of our seniors as they prepare to embark on an unknown journey. I find myself looking back on my own experience of this moment in time - a time when the future is both mapped and unmapped, and when the introduction of a new idea can swing your next steps in a completely different direction. I reflect on the people who inspired me at this

crucial point in time and ask myself who might be inspiring our students now with a new idea? Perhaps it was one of the many alumni who joined us on campus this year and had the chance to share the way MA shaped them.

Through the Conference on Democracy, **Zia Grossman-Vendrilla '11**, **Ruby Fisher-Smith '13**, and **Margot Reisner '10** shared with students their work with Planting Justice and the Insight Garden Project exploring what it's like for organizations

to work at the intersection of environmental and social justice. COD also brought us **Hossain Albgaal '10** who spoke to students about the organizational strategy known as the "snowflake model" and how it can be leveraged to achieve social change for a cause students care about, and community builder, tree planter and UN delegate, **Kyle Lemle '07**, shared how an overnight Outings experience changed his college path.

I had the pleasure of meeting **Lena Felton '13** and **Peter Nachtrieb '92**

when they returned to campus as part of this year's LitFest. Attending workshops led by both was a memorable experience. Peter took the students through a wild and engaging exercise in playwriting that resulted in each student creating their own play within the 90-minute workshop window. The plays were hysterical and intriguing and I'd love to see any one of them performed on the MA theater stage. Lena's workshop, while more controlled, was just as much of an exploration of how to tell important stories today as the evolution of journalism unfolds around us. Lena challenged and encouraged students to think about how stories should take shape on platforms like Instagram and Snapchat.

We were also honored and thrilled to have **Jason Rezaian '94** return to campus as he launched a book tour for his memoir, *Prisoner*. It was incredible to hear from Jason as he engaged in conversation with Derek Anderson, MA teacher and Librarian, who was Jason's history teacher when he attended MA. I hope you'll join me in reading Jason's book for our [new Alumni Book Club](#) so we can all be inspired by his story.

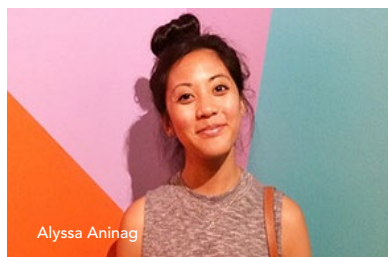
LITFEST

MA's Literary Festival

Each one of the workshops held at this year's LitFest pushed literature and storytelling beyond how it's taught in a conventional classroom. That's the point of MA's LitFest, actually: not only to provide entertainment, but to celebrate and emphasize the importance of writing beyond what is required in school.

From Pulitzer Prize-winners and United States Poet Laureates to cherished local writers, this two-day gathering celebrates the oral and written word in bold ways.

This year we were thrilled to bring seven inspiring writers, poets, artists, and storytellers to MA. Spoken word artist, **Jarvis Subia**, is



Alyssa Aninag



Peter Sinn Nachtrieb

San José's 2018 Poetry Grand Slam Champion. He led a workshop on crafting an Ode, one of the oldest ways to hype up, show affection for, or praise someone/something. Students explored some of the different ways one can develop an Ode and how we can recite it with the same passion we used when penning the poem. Afterwards, he led an open mic where students got the chance to voice their newly created poems. **Maia Kobabe** is a graphic novelist whose workshop was a hands-on introduction to making comics. Students began with warm-up sketching exercises, drawing comics from story prompts, and moved into writing and illustrating some of their own ideas. **Kim Cope Tait** is a published author of two novels and poetry books. Her workshop focused on examining the "formalism" that exists with writing free verse poetry. **Brendan Constantine** is a poet and the author of four collections of poetry. He led a generative poetry workshop where participants crafted and discussed ways of creating new poems. **Alyssa Aninag** is a short story writer who is currently working on a novel-in-stories that challenges the reader to consider how children internalize class, race, and gender dynamics. She explored the collaborative and composite spirit of writing in her workshop, first examining Sandra Cisneros' "My Name," then having students generate their own writing, individually and collectively, pulling from students' own lived experiences



Jarvis Subia



Kim Cope Tait



Maia Kobabe



Brendan Constantine

about the story of their own names.

Peter Sinn Nachtrieb '92 is a San Francisco-based playwright and an MA grad who has a significant body of work in the theater world. Embracing the "Yes, And" spirit of improvisation, Peter led a fun and intensive exploration of the craft of Playwriting and explored the various tools the playwright has to create a performance piece. And, we were lucky enough to catch up with **Lena Felton '13** to ask her more about her trajectory in journalism, and how her experience at MA helped her along. Read the interview on the next page.

Your current role as a multiplatform editor for *The Lily* includes working with freelancers, writing pieces of your own and producing a weekly newsletter all encouraged by *The Lily*'s mission statement to "Empower with news and information and promote inclusivity by exposing diverse voices." How did you find your way to *The Lily* and what is it about this type of journalism that drew you in? I knew I wanted to write or edit for a magazine or newspaper after college, and was lucky enough to land an editorial fellowship at *The Atlantic*. To be honest, I never expected to end up in Washington, D.C. — most journalism jobs, I thought, were in New York City. But I fell in love with working at a professional publication, and with the city. As my year-long fellowship came to a close, I serendipitously stumbled upon the job posting for multiplatform editor for *The Lily* at *The Washington Post*. It seemed almost too good to be true: a mix of news, features and personal pieces all centered on women. I'd been inspired by the groundswell of women's voices coming to the fore since the 2016 election, and I couldn't wait to be part of a team that elevated those voices.

During your time at MA, you were the co-editor-in-chief of *The Voice* and a student in Mary Collie's journalism class, which you've noted as a profound moment in your history. What was it about this class or your experience editing *The Voice* that seemed to launch you in a journalism direction after graduation from MA? I'd always loved to write, but editing for *The Voice* taught me the power in collectively creating something. I relished getting that printed paper and being able to hold it in my hands, knowing how it had all come together.

And Mary's journalism class had been such a joy: As a younger student, I loved bantering with the older editors;



when I led the paper senior year with my best friend, mentoring younger students became deeply rewarding.

I'm grateful to have kept finding that fulfillment — of being in it together, of creating a product that an entire staff is proud of — working in journalism ever since. I knew that's what I wanted to pursue in college, where I ended up becoming Magazine Chair of *The Harvard Crimson*. That experience, not dissimilar from mine at *The Voice*, solidified my desire to work in journalism for potentially the rest of my life.

As part of our annual LitFest event, you graciously returned to campus to share your perspective and expertise on how traditional journalism has been reimaged for the digital age. What was it like to be back at MA and participate in LitFest as an educator instead of a student? It was a little strange! I hadn't really been on campus since I graduated in 2013;

I assumed that I would feel like a student again. I've always felt incredibly grateful to have attended MA — my friends from college can tell you how much I gloat about my high school experience — but I never anticipated that I would return in this capacity. I've never thought about myself as an educator, but I was more than happy to talk to current students about how my time at MA shaped the rest of my life.

After your LitFest workshop sessions in which you had the opportunity to spend time with current students, was there anything that stood out as a shared experience with and what is different? I was very sad to hear that *The Voice* isn't in print anymore, but that's the nature of the business these days! Mostly, it was heartening to meet students who are as passionate about what they do — whether that's writing, or playing in a championship soccer game — as I remember my friends and I being when we attended.

MATH NIGHT



How can we use the power of even and odd to understand complex relationships, and to note moments when “two wrongs make a right?”

This was the thread throughout Paul Zeitz’s keynote address at Math Night 2019. Paul, parent of alumnus Eric Zeitz ’15, math department chair at USF, and co-founder of the Proof School, used three examples to show

the audience how breaking a problem down to a binary even/odd distinction often can lead to amazing results. Paul engaged the audience in gameplay—challenging everyone to a game of cat and mouse—and wowed everyone with a card trick producing a perfect straight flush after students used multiple shuffles. Paul’s explanations of how just associating 0 and 1 values to even and odd to solve each situation were,

indeed, brilliant. For a final example, Paul brought up a group of students (see picture on next page) who were randomly assigned red or black “hats” and challenged to find a way to save each other—as they would be asked their hat color and be eliminated if wrong. With Paul’s assistance, the group was able to develop a strategy guaranteed to save all but one person (whose fate was up to chance).

“

Math Night is the epitome of our philosophy of mathematics at MA—exploring your own idea, taking risks, reflecting on your process, collaborating, and presenting that idea to a wider audience. I am constantly amazed at the level of research, engagement, and intellectual rigor that our students put into their presentations—all for the love of math.

”

KEVIN REES

Math Teacher



In addition to Paul's keynote, the audience was enthralled by our student speakers, whose talks all focused on a theme of persistence, being wrong, and adjusting your work to find a better solution. Michael L. '21 and Zach C. '21 led us off with their work on how to find an optimal solution to the game 2048, including a mathematical strategy to maximize one's score. Flora E. '20 explored a philosophical wonder she had about why we don't use complex numbers with parametric equations, leading to a look into current cutting edge mathematical research. Laura C. '20 and Sarah P. '20 used statistical techniques to try to discern what components of an Instagram post would maximize likes, with some non-intuitive

results. Aurelia MG '20 wrapped up the night with a look at her research into how tidal forces and the curvature of space-time has allowed her to use machine-learning algorithms to predict the presence of black holes. One other highlight of the evening was when Ellie B. '20 and Eli F. '20 provided a musical performance of the song "Horizontal Asymptote."

The night was an amazing look into how math is about trying on new methods, taking risks, being persistent and looking for insight. Attendees were given an insightful look into the mathematical work our students are doing outside the classroom.

SOMETHING IS COMING. SOMETHING BIG.

GIVING DAY 2019



WATCH THE TEASER HERE:



TUNE IN:



MAY 15, 2019

MA.ORG/GIVINGDAY



NIGHT OF THE ARTS

Night of the Arts is a dynamic annual campus event that celebrates student art and design work completed during the academic year. Students taking art and design courses all are required to participate in the exhibition and are given the opportunity to show their work to members within and outside the community, often for the first time.

The evening is a milestone that showcases the strongest and most creative visual art and design; a

tangible record of the hours of labor creative pursuits require in developing and completing. The exhibition is a culmination of student classwork for the year as well as a community builder, where parents, faculty, students, and alumni meet and catch up on student accomplishments, growth and progress.

We selected several students and representations of artwork that they've produced, and we asked them to tell us about the importance of Night of the Arts for them. Read their insightful responses in the next few pages.

- A** Eliotte M. '21
- B** Gracyn H. '21
- C** Emily F. '21
- D** Flora E. '20
- Page 16** Ashley C. '19





A



B



C

- A SOFIA A. '19** I love and appreciate the MA Visual Art Show because it is a way to come together as an arts community to share and celebrate work made throughout the year. I have taken ceramics for the past 3 years and the art show is a great place to see what students in other mediums and levels have been working on. I always leave feeling inspired for future projects!
- B JUSTIN C. '20** The art show is a great opportunity for the MA community to celebrate all of the young artists on campus. The show includes pieces from all sections of art at MA, allowing for a diverse collection of students' work to be seen. Each student is asked to compose their pieces from different perspectives so that every piece has a different meaning. The show is a great opportunity for younger students to see older students' work and take inspiration from more experienced artists. The art show is particularly exciting for me, as I will be able to show off my first piece that got a spot in the national show. However, the thing that makes the show so great is that you do not need to have accomplished work to have your pieces admired by those who attend the show. Overall, it is a fantastic opportunity for

members of the award-winning arts program at Marin Academy to enjoy each other's work from the year.

- C CAROLINE N. '21** I have been coming to the MA Visual Art Show since I was twelve years old. My older sister would show me around the countless rooms of photos, paintings, and ceramic pieces. I was in awe of the beautiful artwork done by my sister and her peers. At the time, I couldn't fathom creating something so intricate and creative. Now, four years later, I still come to the art show every year, but this time with a different perspective as an art student myself. Looking at the wide range of artwork, I have a new understanding and appreciation of how much time and effort goes into creating each and every piece. Marin Academy has so many talented artists and I encourage everyone to come to the art show to see what they have created.



A



B



C

- A KATHRYN W. '20** The MA Visual Art Show is the perfect opportunity for all of our hard work throughout the year to be showcased to our community. The variety of personal expression in the works of all our peers is inspiring and I look forward to the show every year.
- B NATALIE S. '20** The Marin Academy annual art show is a great opportunity for art students to share their work with the broader community. My family and friends are always impressed by the level of thought and detail each piece contains, and so many people who usually don't interact with the visual arts at MA do so through the art show. It's an event that brings different parts of the MA student body together.
- C JESSI S. '20** In our world today, we so often hide ourselves behind this conventional persona. Because of this, I sometimes feel this is the only way I see many of the people I know. But when it comes to art, I always see a side to them that I never knew was there, whether it be a style, a perspective, a way of thinking, or a pain that I ever could've imagined that person had within them. The MA Visual Art Show is one of the rare opportunities where these profound parts of people can come out of hiding.



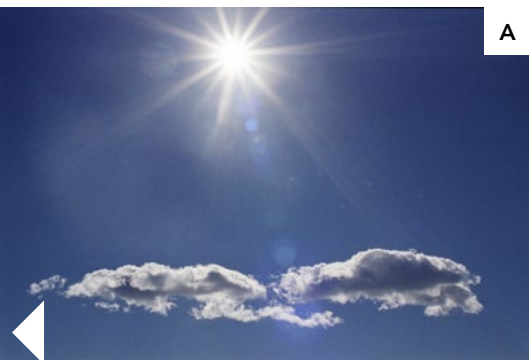
A



B



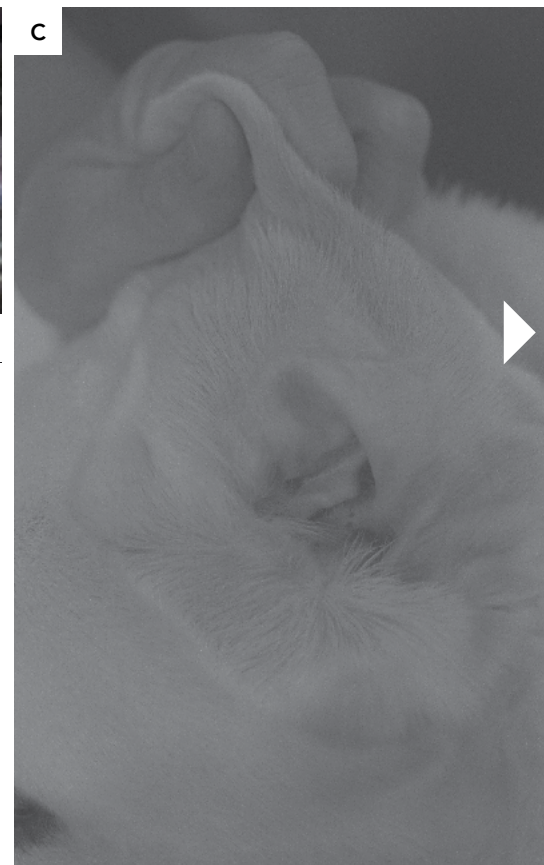
B



A



C



C

- A CHLOE W. '20** I love the art exhibition because you are able to see the world through the eyes of other artists. MA is full of talented artists, and being able to see their work is truly eye-opening.
- B LUKE N. '20** When I come to the art show I am so impressed by the huge range of work that is created here at MA. It's incredible to see so much individuality on display in such a big way.
- C FRANCESCA W. '20** Everyone in the MA art program works incredibly hard, and it is wonderful to be able to appreciate everyone's hard work and talent. It's also a great opportunity to take my experiments from throughout the year and bring them together in a polished body of work.

ECHOES

BY LAURIE CLARK
English Teacher

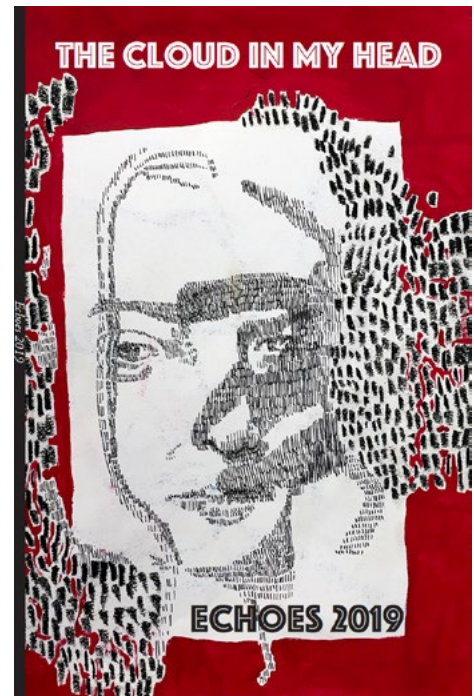
As an English teacher and sponsor of *Echoes* for the past three years, I had always known gifted writers existed in our midst here at MA. But they seemed to prefer the shadows, shying away from exposure. Gradually, though, something has shifted. Writers have started emerging from their shells. Attendance increased at *Echoes* meetings as writerly types found their community, those fellow toilers braving the blank page. Students sacrificed free time to meet with LitFest workshop leaders, hungry to know more about the life and process of published writers. Supportive banter ricocheted during lunchtime writing sessions. Through the inspired leadership of editors Eleanor B. '20 and Kevi J. '20, a true writing culture has evolved organically at our school.

Then came loss. After the great American poet Mary Oliver passed away, at an *Echoes* meeting, Kevi shared a recording of Oliver reading her poem "The Summer Day." An awed quiet hung in the air afterward, then a slightly breathed, "Wow." One *Echoes* member there, Kathryn W. '20, a gifted artist, would subsequently find inspiration in Oliver's grasshopper image, which she drew from the poem to create our *Echoes* publicity poster.

That mysterious grasshopper on posters around campus may have puzzled some. But it spoke of the buzz, the hushed stillness, the observant eye, and then the heated moment when mind and heart converge to produce meaning. Submissions, at first a trickle, started to pour in. It was as if Oliver herself had tapped each writer on the shoulder, whispering in their ear the final lines of her poem: "Tell me, what is it you plan to do / with your one wild and precious life?"

Writers, your work has moved us, cracked us up, and called us up short. You have shown us the world and your place within it – at turns, wondering, angst-filled, and then illuminating with striking clarity. This year, the editors chose 'The Cloud in My Head' as the title. We liked the ambiguity of that cloud, a motif that coincidentally runs through various pieces of writing and artwork in the magazine. Is that cloud fog? Is it confusion? Is it pain? Or is it understanding, amorphous, but slowly gathering shape? We leave it to you to decide.

Thank you, readers, for growing a writer culture here at MA. Thank you, editors, for your warm, insistent leadership.



Thank you, Sachi DeCou (Design & Technology Lead), for your intricate knowledge of the art and science of layout. Thank you, teachers, for prodding your students through the pains of the process. And, thank you, writers and artists, for the courage and care to share your voice and visions with us, so penetrating and ceaseless on the page, like the incessant hum of an insect chorus reassuring us through the long night.

“

Allow me to take
time here to
generously thank
you for all of
your enthusiasm
and energy that
brought this
work to our
collection. It is a
fascinating show
of talent which
I'm sure you'll
enjoy seeing in
print!

”

JAYNE MCPHERSON

Marin Poetry Center

Many of the students who have their work published in this year's issue of *Echoes* have also been selected to be included in Marin Poetry Center's 30th Annual High School Anthology. A total number of 14 MA students will be featured, including a record number of freshmen. This is quite a statement when one considers that Marin Poetry Center received approximately 1,200 submissions and was

only able to select 55 to be included in the Anthology. They also awarded 3 prizes, the top two of which went to MA freshmen. We congratulate all of the students below on their work and look forward to reading more from their developing voices. Thank you also to all of the teachers at MA who work with our students side-by-side everyday to hone their talents and their abilities to think critically and creatively. A job well done!



AIDAN A. '22
Fall(ing)



AMO O. '22
Will You?
(2nd Prize)



ELLA K. '22
Childhood 'To when high-pitched laughter'



ELSA S. '22
Vredenburg
(1st Prize)



ESME O. '22
Childhood 'You are lemons and lemonade'



GRACE S. '22
Bruises



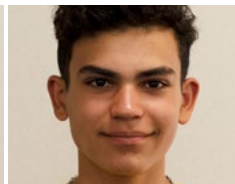
JESSIE R. '22
When Hope Is Forgotten



KATHRYN H. '19
recovery



LILAH R. '22
Fog



LUCA I. '22
Childhood 'I close my eyes'



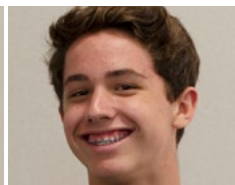
MINNA H. '22
Statue of Liberty



OWEN J. '22
Oh Passion
(Honorable Mention)



SAM R. '22
Yet Another Day



TUCKER F. '22
The Forest

THE ARTS AT MA



Marin Academy Spring Dance Concert

April 26-27, 2019



INDIA BOUND AS A FULBRIGHT SCHOLAR

Just off her successful presentation of the Spring Dance Concert at MA's Performing Arts Center, the incredible Randee Pauve will be off to India quite soon as a recent recipient of a Fulbright Scholarship.

Randee will engage in research at the Simashan Institute as part of a project to study and document Silambam and Tamil folk dances, and she will create a body of contemporary dance works informed by these studies. The project looks to generate mutual understanding through intercultural artistic dialogue, creating new vocabularies for movement, choreography and performance, and cultivating collaborations between Tamil folk dance and martial artists, and American contemporary dance artists.

Randee directs the Marin Academy Dance Company (MADCO), and is the co-founder and facilitator of the annual Bay Area High School Dance Festival. She has served on the dance faculties of University of California Davis, Lewis and Clark College, University of San Francisco, California State University East Bay, and California State University Sacramento. In 2015 Randee received the prestigious Isadora Duncan Dance Award for her acclaimed solo show "Soil." At MA, she has twice been awarded an E.E. Ford grant for dance research in Europe.

Read the Fulbright Scholarship Award press release [here](#).

A BOOK TALK WITH JASON REZAIAN '94

As part of his national book tour for *Prisoner: My 544 Days in an Iranian Prison*, Jason Rezaian '94 returned to campus March 14, to share his reflections with fellow alumni, faculty, and current students and parents. Having appeared at the University of Michigan and Stanford University earlier in the same week, Jason said that his appearance at MA proved to be "by far the most poignant of the events I've done for *Prisoner*."

The evening began with a conversation between Jason and history teacher Derek Anderson, who asked Jason not only

about his writing process, the perilous state of journalism today around the world, social media, and the Iran nuclear weapons deal, but also about optimism, faith, friendship, and humor. Very serious moments alternated with delightful ones, such as Jason's celebration of Warriors basketball, his hope that Denzel Washington will be cast to play him in a movie version of *Prisoner*, and poking Derek about a certain grade Jason received in European History decades ago.

After the NPR-fashioned conversation with Derek, Jason took questions from the

audience and signed copies of *Prisoner* for audience members.

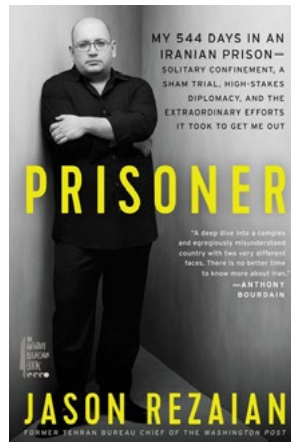
Jason's book has won widespread praise. *The Atlantic*, for example, hails Jason, describing him as a "larger-than-life figure" and "a symbol of press freedom," and his book as a "deeply American story." *The New York Times Book Review* celebrates *Prisoner* as "more than just a memoir that reads like a thriller. It's also an intimate family history, an anguished love letter to an ancient and broken homeland, and a spirited defense of journalism and truth at a time when both are under attack almost everywhere."



ALUMNI BOOK CLUB

Introducing the **Alumni Book Club!** An online, once-a-month selection curated by one of our very own MA librarians and “Book Doctor,” Alex Brown. Launching this May, the first book club selection is *Prisoner* by Jason Rezaian '94. Join us as we read Jason’s memoir about his time as a hostage in Tehran and engage in online discussion together.

In addition to helping MA students daily, Alex is a local historian and author who has recently published her first book, *Hidden History of Napa Valley*, a historical non-fiction examination of marginalized communities in the North Bay. Diversity, equity, and inclusion set the foundation of all her work.



Click here to register for the book club.

[Register](#)



Click below to hear Alex on KQED or read an article about the book.

[KQED](#)

[Print](#)



Athletics

Congratulations to the Wildcats on closing out a historical athletic season!

We want to thank all of our student-athletes for the hard work they've put in during the season and academic year, as well as all of the coaches who have supported their efforts.

Being a Wildcat takes commitment and dedication and we appreciate the tenacity of all of the members of MA's athletic programs.

Go Wildcats!



TEAM ATHLETIC AWARDS 2019

BCL-WEST/BAY AREA CONFERENCE CHAMPIONSHIPS

- Boys Cross Country: 5th Place
- Girls Cross Country: 3rd Place
- Girls Tennis: 5th Place
- Girls Volleyball: 4th Place
- Boys Water Polo (MCAL): 9th Place
- Girls Water Polo (MCAL): 6th Place
- Boys Basketball: 4th Place
- Girls Basketball: 5th Place
- Boys Soccer: 2nd Place
- Girls Soccer: 1st Place

NORTH COAST SECTION CHAMPIONSHIPS

- Girls Tennis: NCS Division 2 Quarterfinals
- Girls/Boys Cross Country: NCS Division 5 Championships cancelled due to poor air quality
- Boys Basketball: NCS Division 5 Quarterfinals
- Girls Basketball: NCS Division 5 First Round
- Boys Soccer: NCS Division 4 Champions
- Girls Soccer: NCS Division 4 Finalists

CIF STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS

- Girls Cross Country (selected by committee) - Chiara Savage-Schwartz - 71st Place
- Boys Soccer: CIF Northern California Division II Champions
- Girls Soccer: CIF Northern California Division III Finalists

* Some missing team information not available at press time. All sports results information will be updated in the next issue of NEXUS.





FROM THE ATHLETICS DESK

The Marin Academy Athletics Department is pleased to announce the launch of our new sports recap, **"From the Athletics Desk,"** a weekly roundup of noteworthy team and individual achievements highlighting the athletes and teammates who honor the game and represent Marin Academy with encouragement, compassion, and competitive spirit.

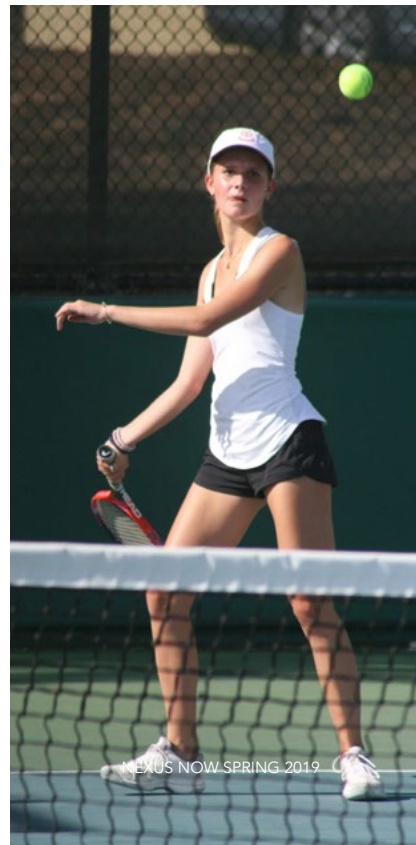
Look for the inaugural edition of **"From the Athletics Desk,"** on ma.org in August where we will feature a preview of our fall sports teams, their coaches, and the outlook for the upcoming 2019-20 Marin Academy Year in Athletics.

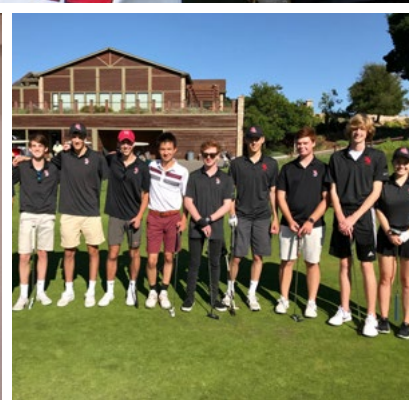


NEXUS NOW SPRING 2019



ATHLETICS AT MA





MA COMMUNITY COMES TOGETHER

“

**MA Celebrates is
always a
wonderful
community
celebration and
Tom and I
especially liked
the gorgeous new
venue. The views
were unbeatable!**

”

MARIE LYONS

Parent

(Henry '14, William '17, Samuel '18, George '21)

Thank you once again to our community for joining us on Saturday, March 23, 2019 for MA Celebrates – what a great time it was!

Your generosity helped us successfully raise critical funds for tuition assistance and faculty/staff professional development. We loved seeing so many members of the MA community come together to celebrate all the things that make MA special.

We're so grateful to all of our parent volunteers, without whom MA Celebrates could not happen. Thank you!

We would also like to give a special acknowledgment to our incredible parent volunteer leadership who really helped to make this event a success: MA Celebrates Parent Chair - Erica Hunt; Wine - Michael Beckwith, Jon Cohen, Terry Dewane, and Committee Chair Lee Notowich; Parties & Gatherings - Cristina Gutterman, Debbie Kay, and Kirsten Shilakes; MA Exclusives - Lisa Hauswirth; Data Entry/Online Auction - Supriya Menon and Wendy Reichardt; Volunteer Management - Angie Cohen.

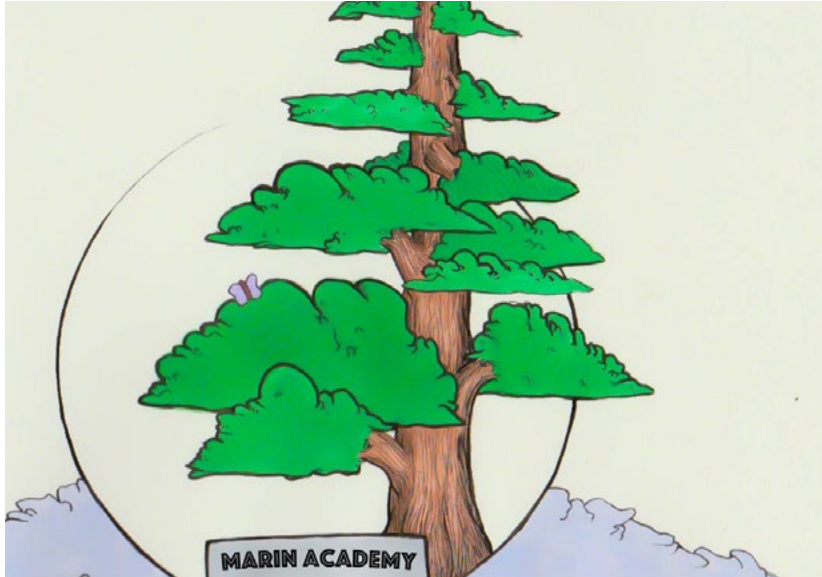




MA CELEBRATES

March 23, 2019





MARIN ACADEMY ALUMNI REUNION 2019

Saturday, October 12, 2019

Mark your calendars! The MA all-class reunion will take place on Saturday, October 12 on the MA campus. Bring your family and friends for an afternoon of reconnecting filled with MA music, food, drinks, campus tours, and tons of activities for all ages. Classes celebrating a milestone anniversary will hold their own events following the all-class reunion.

We can't wait to see everyone back on campus in the Fall!

Alumni In the News



'I wasn't sure I'd ever be ok again': KGO anchor returns to the air after debilitating concussion

Natasha Zouves '08 returns to the anchor chair after recovering from a head injury and tearfully opens up about the injuries she suffered on set.

[Read more>](#)



No. 8 Mustangs beat Hawaii, win their first Big West Championship in school history

Livy Lee '17 is part of the history-making Cal Poly Mustangs Beach Volleyball Team. We wish them luck as they head to the NCAA Tournament!

[Read more>](#)

COMING UP AT MA

16

May 16 | Marin Academy Chamber Gladiators Spring Concert.

Spring is finally here! And that means Chamber Gladiators are getting set for their annual spring concert. Please come out and support the amazing Chamber Music students performing some very cool music by Bartok, Grieg, Fuchs, Juon, Lachner, Brahms and more. There will be a reception beginning at 6:00 p.m. Tickets are on sale now at ma.org/arts or at the MA Theater box office every school day at lunchtime.



20

May 20 | Marin Academy Research Collaborative Wildcat Colloquium.

Please join the Marin Academy Science Department for the second annual Marin Academy Research Collaborative Wildcat Colloquium! The second cohort of senior MARCers will present the results of their two-year research projects. The Colloquium takes place Monday, May 20 from 12:15 p.m. to 1:00 p.m. and 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. in the BBLC Lecture Hall. A reception will follow the evening presentation session. You can learn more about the MARC program and student projects by visiting the MARC [website](#). If you have questions, please email [Stori Oates](#).

19

May 19 | MA Athletic Banquet.

Please join us in celebrating our student-athletes and coaches at our annual MA Athletic Banquet! Join our athletes, coaches, and fellow parents for a delicious Marinitas dinner and the chance to reflect on another great year of Wildcat Athletics. Outstanding Sportspersons, senior speakers, and ten-season athletes will be honored and the celebrated "Year in Sports" video will be shown. The cost is \$20 per person. Click [here](#) to purchase tickets. If you would like to volunteer to help, please sign up [here](#). Contact [Toki Strong](#) and [Debbie Kay](#) with any questions. We hope to see you there!



Marin Academy Athletic Banquet



Marin Academy Research Collaborative Wildcat Colloquium

01 June 1 | Marin Academy's Forty-Sixth Commencement Exercises will

take place on Saturday, June 1 on Championship Field at 10 a.m. Featuring the Marin Academy Music Program Ensemble, presentations of the Headmaster's Cup and the Danielle Plumb Zumbrun '79 Endowment for Outdoor Leadership, and the distinguished graduates of the Class of 2019. Reception immediately following on the Redwood Deck. Join us!

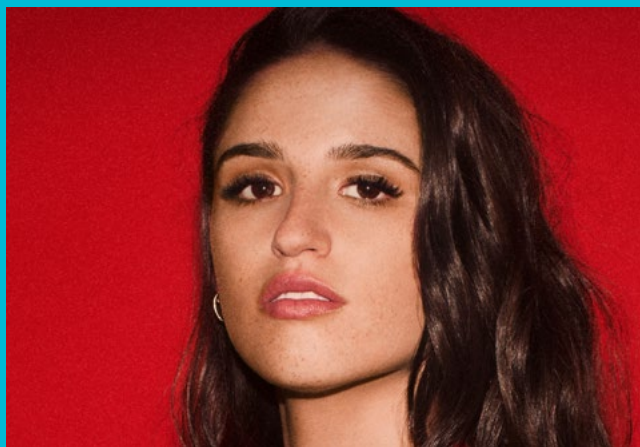


Forty-Sixth Commencement Exercises

01 June 1-August 27 | Summer Reading Contest 2019! It's that time of year

again – time for the Marin Academy Library Summer Reading Contest! Sign up [here](#) to participate and win awesome prizes. The contest is open to all students who will be enrolled for the 2019-2020 school year (including incoming freshmen and transfers) and staff/faculty/administration. You'll keep track of your books over the summer, and during the first week of school we'll

Alumni In the News



Catch Rozzi on tour this summer opening for American Authors and O.A.R. across the country

Rozzi Crane '09, was discovered by Maroon 5's Adam Levine at the age of 19. Now at 27, she just released a new album of deeply personal and honest songs and will be touring this summer around the country.

[See tour dates>](#)



Catch 'Buck Run' as it makes its way through the film festival circuit this year

Nancy Degnan '11, is the producer of *Buck Run* which is currently making the rounds in the film festival circuit. The film premiered at the Palm Springs Intl. Film Festival in January, and screened at the Tiburon Intl. Film Festival in April.

[Watch the trailer>](#)

host a meet-up where you can turn in your final tally and talk about some of the great stuff you've read.

10

June 10-14 & 17-21 | SummerMADE
SummerMADE is a two-week summer

program offering Marin Academy current and incoming high school students a hands-on opportunity in Design and Engineering. The program will be taught by MA physics faculty Jon Bretan and MA's Design + Technology Lead, Sachi DeCou. Students will complete a project while gaining experience with robotics and electronics, digital and physical design/build techniques, and project management. Lunch sessions will include guest speakers from diverse fields of design and engineering. Students with all levels of background and experience are encouraged to apply! To apply, fill out an application [here](#). For more information, email summermade@ma.org or visit the [website](#).



30

July 30-August 9 | MA Water Polo Camp. The MA water polo camp is led by Zvi Gvishi, Marin Academy Boys Water Polo Head Coach and former Israeli National Team player and junior national coach. The camp is designed to prepare students for the upcoming fall high school water polo season. Participants will learn aspects of the game from passing and shooting, to strategy in a supportive and fun environment. The camp is open to boys and girls in seventh grade and up. Click [here](#) for more information and to sign up.



16

August 16-23 | Marin Academy College Application Workshops. This

is the third workshop that the MA College Counseling Team will be leading in the summer and all rising seniors are expected to attend one application workshop where important information about college application requirements and deadlines will be covered, as well as expectations for the fall. The workshop is free and students or parents of seniors can sign up for a workshop [here](#).



27

August 27 | First Day of School. After what we hope will be a very relaxing and enjoyable summer break, we'll look forward to welcoming everyone back for the 2019-2020 academic school year. For a look at some important dates coming up for the new school year, please download the 2019-2020 Calendar [here](#).



From
**Opening
Day to
Graduation
Day**



**CONGRATULATIONS
TO THE CLASS OF
2019!**



**Forty-Sixth
Commencement
Exercises**

**June 1,
2019**

10:00 a.m.
Marin Academy
Championship Field



EDWARD E. FORD FOUNDATION FELLOWSHIP GRANTS

Each year, the Edward E. Ford Foundation awards a group of teachers grants to support professional development opportunities that can enhance curriculum and student learning in their classrooms. The Foundation encourages the submission of joint proposals, interdisciplinary projects, transdisciplinary experimentation, multicultural explorations, and novel professional development. Winning proposals are those that create truly unique opportunities, incorporate programs and experiences that align with the strategic work of the school, and provide teachers with opportunities to grow their skill sets through professional development and travel. Marin Academy is happy to announce the recipients of this year's E.E. Ford Fellowship Grant:

2019 RECIPIENTS



Katharine Boyd

Katharine is traveling to England and France to attend a temporary exhibit at the Victoria and Albert Museum of British fashion designer Mary Quant. In addition, she will be attending the IFA school in Paris and taking a course in sustainable fashion design. Katharine noted in her application that she believes her work this summer will enrich her current Fashion Design class and inspire creative expression in students in how they can reimagine their external image. She also mentions that she believes by encouraging our students' personal expression in the creation of repurposed clothing as art, it can be both a form of creative identity and a form of ecological activism.



Jon Bretan

Jon will use the grant to travel to La Serena, Chile this summer where he will, among other things, observe and photograph a total solar eclipse. In Jon's grant proposal, he wrote about the way in which the Fall 2018 semester final project for Astro involved image-processing and analysis and he is now including more creative, yet still science-based, photo projects for his students. Jon also noted that he is almost at a point where he can teach a whole astronomy class through DSLR-based astrophotography.



Stori Oates

Stori will be traveling this summer to the Galapagos. In her proposal, Stori noted that this opportunity will allow her to develop new and relevant curriculum based on real-world issues (e.g., loss of biodiversity, climate change, environmental justice) that will engage our students and help them develop their analytical faculties and a sense of responsibility to a world beyond themselves. Stori also believes her travel and study will help her create curriculum that will empower students to make connections across and between disciplines to solve challenging dilemmas with no easy answers.



GRATITUDE FOR THE COMMUNITY AT MA

A culture of generosity

“
Our family gives
to the Annual
Fund with a
profound sense
of gratitude to
be part of this
community and
for all that MA is!

”
ANGIE COHEN

What is your connection to MA?

Our two children, Max and Zack, currently attend MA as a junior and a sophomore. We’ve known many families whose children have attended and loved MA over the years, and now ours have joined that group too.

What is a profound memory you have of your children’s experience at MA?

I can honestly say that attending MA has transitioned our children into young adulthood. My husband, Jon, and I have watched them become fully responsible for themselves, their schedule, their decisions, and their lives. Of course, I’m biased, but I am so proud of the people they are, the enthusiasm they feel for everything they do, the classes and teachers they’ve appreciated, and the friends they’ve made at MA—they are truly thriving!

As we look forward to college for each of them, we see the preparation they will have received at MA, the challenges they will have faced and overcome, and the very important critical thinking and writing skills they will take with them; ultimately, we feel so confident about

their ability to handle all aspects of college and adulthood.

What have you learned or gained through your involvement as a volunteer at MA?

I have really enjoyed my experience as an MA volunteer, both with the Annual Fund and with MA Celebrates! Next year, I’ll continue as an Annual Fund Co-Chair alongside Carl Reichardt and join the MAPA Executive Board as Secretary. I want to thank Kyndra Kennedy, Director of Annual Giving, and this year’s Annual Fund Co-Chair Linda Cronin for so graciously showing me the ropes. And working with Megan Wheeler, Special Events Manager, and Chair Extraordinaire, Erica Hunt, on MA Celebrates for the past two years was so much fun! I’ve met such wonderful people—fellow parents and faculty/staff, all united by a sincere desire to make MA its best.

When our children enter high school, our volunteer roles as parents may change as they become more independent; however, MA still needs our support, and the energy we devote

is important (perhaps indirectly) to the overall experience our children have. As a volunteer, I feel connected to the school community in a special way and know that I'm contributing to the overall success of the school.

Why do you support MA? I remember attending an Admissions Open House (one of several offered that year) with my oldest child when he was considering MA. The gym was packed with several hundred families, each hoping their child would have the opportunity to attend MA—the feeling of desire was palpable, and the presentation from Trent, Travis, and students was very impressive. It was obvious that there were many, many qualified applicants, but only 100+ spots. I've never forgotten the sense of gratitude I felt when my children were admitted and given the chance to experience MA. To this day, I still want to say "thank you," for the opportunity for them to attend and for the way that MA has enriched their lives.

When visiting MA, we also noticed that everyone—students, faculty, staff—were so happy to be a part of this community! We observed a certain joy and lightheartedness that infiltrated every part of the school, something we did not necessarily observe at all other schools, and which was important to us.

Now that we have experienced MA firsthand for several years, all of these features have come to life for our kids. We've seen the many options students have to explore who they are and who they want to be. They've absorbed the attitudes of inclusiveness, ethics and morality that we consider so important. We credit Travis and the entire faculty/administration with creating and protecting this ethos, a job that is challenging but done extremely well

with a large dose of compassion for everyone involved.

In addition to having an outstanding academic experience which meets them at their level, our children are also made safe by faculty and administration to consider new choices, spread their wings, and fly. We've seen both rise to new heights, and now they are set on that growth mindset for the future. High school is a critical life transition for our children in so many ways, and we think MA creates a delicate balance of safety and rigor. For all of these reasons, as parents and community members, we are dedicated to supporting the school however we can.

Understanding that everyone's inspiration, motivations, even capacity to give can be very different, why should one give to the Annual Fund? It's critical that every family contribute to the Annual Fund each year; that said, giving should be in an amount that is comfortable and meaningful to each family, and that is a very personal and individual decision. We highly respect that families have wide-ranging situations and means in our community, and we deeply value diversity of all kinds. Each and every family at MA is contributing with presence in our community in a very important way.

The bottom line is that tuition does not cover the full cost of educating MA students. The amount not covered is a current-year deficit and must be raised every year. Giving to the Annual Fund means doing our part to raise the funds needed to provide every single MA student with an amazing experience! Our family gives to the Annual Fund with a profound sense of gratitude to be part of this community and for all that MA is!

MARIN ACADEMY ANNUAL FUND



At MA, we ask students to participate in their own transformation. You see it when you witness students having the time of their lives at a performing arts production. You feel it when you hear students connect what they discussed in today's history class with something they learned in science recently. And you know it when you read about an alum who is applying the critical-thinking skills developed at MA to make an impact on today's world. Throughout, MA's capacity to provide a one-of-a-kind, experiential education is clear. Help provide MA students with an education that inspires them to think, question, and create in their lives now and in the future.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY!

IF YOU HAVEN'T SUPPORTED THE ANNUAL FUND, IT'S NOT TOO LATE!

[CLICK HERE TO DONATE NOW](#)

[CLICK HERE TO MAKE A PLEDGE](#)

Marin Academy offers a dynamic path along the journey of learning.

Both in and out of the classroom, we encourage students to ask tough questions and initiate difficult conversations.

By pushing the boundaries of not only what, but also how to learn, an MA education empowers students to move beyond information mastery to become inspiring and compassionate contributors to a better world.

Students at MA develop the intellectual and creative tool-kit to live life to its fullest.



Download the viewbook ▲

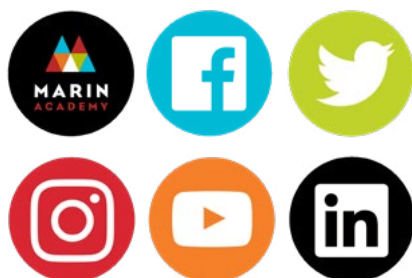


Watch the video ▲

For more information about the benefits of an MA education, or to schedule a visit, please contact the Admissions Office [here](#).

SOCIAL

Connect with us online:



ALUMNUS APPRECIATION

"Forty years ago, in Hood River, OR, I began my career as a middle school teacher. This year I am enjoying my 36th year at Breck School in Minneapolis, MN, a school that is very similar to MA. I trace my interest in education back to the great teachers I had at MA—Charles Little, John Morrison, Betsy McCluskey, Daryl Ravanni, and Barney Stout—just to name a few. As I enjoy this milestone - a huge hat tip to the men and women who started MA and forever changed the path of my life..."

With great appreciation, Byron Rice '74.

2019–2020 Course Catalog



2019-2020 School Calendar At-A-Glance

Marin Academy's Science + Innovation Center is Certified Platinum LEED

LEED is a national certification system developed by the U.S. Green Building Council to encourage the construction of energy and resource-efficient buildings that are healthy places in which to work and live. Marin Academy is proud of our commitment to reduce our environmental impact and to receive this distinction.





Giving Day^{5.15.19}

#OneDayOneMA

Something is coming. Something BIG.

On May 15, our community will celebrate our third annual MA Giving Day by raising support for the people and programs of MA. YOU - alumni, parents, faculty, staff, grandparents, and friends – are encouraged to make your gift on Giving Day *and* share your reason why on social media, email, and even text. Help us spread the word on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [Instagram](#), and beyond!

In year one, we surpassed our goal of 100 gifts; year two saw us topple our goal of 200 gifts. This year, we need your help to smash through our goal of 300 gifts in 24 hours. **Together, we can do this!!!**

All gifts made on Giving Day go directly and immediately to the Annual Fund and the students, faculty, and programs it supports.

Join in on May 15 and show your support for #OneDayOneMA!

CLICK HERE


to learn more!



1600 Mission Avenue
San Rafael, CA 94901

Any feedback, thoughts or concerns
you may have about NEXUS Now:
[Please click here to email us at
communications@ma.org](mailto:communications@ma.org)



At Marin Academy, we believe that educational excellence should push the boundaries of what is known today in order to prepare students for a world we can't even imagine tomorrow.

Every day, MA teachers and students work side-by-side immersing themselves deeply in their subjects while honing the ability to think critically *and* creatively.

And because many voices are welcomed and encouraged at MA, our students cultivate the tools they need to live their lives fully, and the inspiration to contribute as compassionate citizens to our world.

