One of the main roles of a school board is to set the direction for the school. Setting direction provides the vision which guides the school forward to deliver on the promise of the education students will receive.

Just as a student nearing the end of their high school career contemplates what comes next, so too does a Board at the conclusion of a strategic planning process. As our current plan begins to sunset, I reflect on our journey and eagerly look ahead to the next cycle of envisaging Kirby’s future.

Our current strategic planning process began in 2016-2017 and was a community-wide undertaking. The outcome was a renewed mission statement which identified our core values and a strategic plan around three areas for growth, that once accomplished, we agreed, would help Kirby realize great improvement:

These areas were:

- Diversity and Equity: We prioritized culturally responsive curricula and programs, updated our hiring and admissions processes to recruit diverse candidates both students and faculty, and expanded the role of diversity in school leadership.
- Physical, Emotional and Neurological Development: Recognizing the importance of physical activity for our students during the school day, we defined opportunities to increase movement everywhere on our campus.
- Responsive Education: We re-committed to preserving our small class sizes and emphasized professional development for our faculty and staff to enable them to best meet the needs of our students.

I am proud of the work that the administration, staff, parents, students and the Board of Trustees has accomplished. As I look at our plan, every growth area has been addressed! When we broke ground on the Recreation Area at the end of the year, it was a concrete sign (literally and figuratively) of our commitment to our values. Due to the leadership of our Head of School, and Trustees, the efficient management of our administrative and development staff, and the generosity of our greater Kirby community, we are seeing our dream of an outdoor movement, learning and gathering space come to fruition.

I look forward to embarking on our next strategic planning cycle when we will focus on a 5 to 7 year time frame and look forward to your partnership in planning for an exciting future for our school.

Alissa Klar
Chair, Board of Trustees
2018-2019 was a year of large-scale firsts for Kirby School.

One of the most ambitious goals of the 2017-2020 Strategic Plan was to build a Recreation Area for students to increase movement and play throughout their day. After deciding on the location of the project, we engaged in the most important part of the task -- raising the money to build it.

We raised more money to support our capital project than we have ever raised in a single year before.

We received a jumbo grant of $200,000 from a community foundation, the Monterey Peninsula Foundation, to support our project, as well as many other individual contributions from community members who believe in the vision and value of our capital investment.

And we have you to thank for this. Without your commitment and support, these firsts would not have happened. You raised our expectations of what is possible.

Everyone--students, staff, faculty, parents, alumni, grandparents--got behind a single vision of what our campus can be, and we are making it happen!

Our 25th year of education began with incredible focus. Thanks to you and all the members of our community, we will open our new space and enjoy the fruits of this effort beginning next year--although the investment in an outdoor space will provide benefit for many decades hence.

While all this was happening, we continued to deliver on the promise of empowering students to reach their fullest potential and embark on their college education with confidence in their readiness.

As a twelve-year veteran of this community, and one who has served in a variety of roles and shepherded various projects through to completion, I marvel in appreciative wonder at our sheer will and the collective largess of 2018-2019 and look forward with exquisite expectation at the year ahead!

With deep appreciation,

Christy Hutton
Head of School
Creative expression is fundamental to the human experience. It helps us shape and share our ideas and make meaning of our imagination.

The arts play an essential role in cultivating creative expression. Studying art, participating in performances, and pursuing creative activities enhances learning across all disciplinary areas and builds confidence and adaptability. Arts are an essential aspect of a Kirby education.


Students in dance classes shared their experiences in two major productions. Our winter performance was a collaboration between Kirby’s LGBTQ+ student community and our Gay Straight Alliance (GSA). Narrated personal experiences were embodied in choreography and enacted by student dancers. The spring performance, *Seen and Unseen*, was a showcase of culminating work highlighting the dedication to craft, the breadth of developed talent, and the passionate expression of our students.

Students in our music program including choral and orchestral groups also had an expansive year. After receiving two years of Gold or higher ratings in every competition, Kirby Chamber Singers were invited to the exclusive Worldstrides Festival of Gold which included performing at *Davies Symphony Hall* in San Francisco! Students also put on three major productions for our community, two hosted at Peace United Church and one at Kirby School.

70 Kirby students had artwork on display in the Santa Cruz Civic Auditorium during the Santa Cruz Symphony Family Concert while other Kirby students performed alongside the symphony in Kuumbwa Jazz Honor Band and Santa Cruz Youth Symphony. Kirby also had a strong showing in the Santa Cruz Art League high school art exhibition, an adjudicated annual event, where they received many awards for their work.
BUILDING THE FUTURE
RECREATION AREA

We broke ground in June 2019!

An outdoor area for learning, dining, relaxing and recreating is a vital part of a school campus.

In 2017, Kirby School conducted a feasibility study to convert the lower parking lot into a Recreation Area, as part of the strategic planning process.

With broad community interest in the project, Kirby School launched a capital campaign in 2018, and secured major gifts to move the project forward.

In January 2019, with major donations committed, Kirby invited our entire community to join in the goal of raising $1.275M to complete the campus.

In June 2019 Kirby received a $200,000 matching grant from Monterey Peninsula Foundation and then broke ground!

Thank you to our generous community for your vision and support!
Community Involvement Day began as an imperative from students who sought partnership with administration in serving their community.

On October 28th, we came together to support the Santa Cruz community, logging over 1,000 cumulative service-hours.

Service has been an integral part of the Kirby culture and educational experience since its founding in 1994. Community Involvement Day emphasizes the importance of serving by dedicating an entire day of school to serve the organizations that serve Santa Cruz.

In brightly colored t-shirts we cleaned up trash, removed invasive species of plants, cleared debris and rubbish from the levee, spent a day with seniors providing entertainment and company, registered voters, knitted hats and made blankets to help those experiencing temporary homelessness, and more.

Each grade at Kirby, seven in total, was paired with a project and—alongside staff and faculty—worked together to raise awareness and provide vital support to our community.

At the end of the day, as cloud cover dimmed what had been a bright sky, we had collectively dedicated over 1,000 hours of community support in Santa Cruz County.
Thirty five percent of the 2019 graduating class participated in at least one Intensive Path this year.

Intensive Paths give interested high school students the opportunity to pursue advanced coursework in one of four subject areas under the guidance and mentorship of a dedicated faculty member. This coursework exceeds our graduation requirements. Students participating in an Intensive Path enter college feeling exceedingly well prepared for their area of interest and attuned to the pacing and independence needed to be successful with an accelerated learning course load.

Tackling the rigor of an intensive path demonstrates a unique level of commitment and dedication.

Here, final projects in Science and Technology were unveiled during our May poster presentation, providing each student with the opportunity to defend their work to peers and staff and share their interests with the wider Kirby community, creating a memorable experience for all.
Connecting & Understanding

Experience, challenge and reflection. When combined, their alliance creates constructive space for dynamic growth.

Each year, every grade spends part of a week together in an immersion experience. More than outings: these excursions have purpose. They create space for personal and social growth. In these shared moments, students make valuable discoveries about themselves and their relationships. The result is a community that exudes kindness, inclusion and mutual respect—helping us embrace our differences and commonalities.

6th graders camped, hiked and did team building activities at Redwood Glen in Scotts Valley. 7th graders trekked through Pfeiffer Big Sur State Park, camping in one of the most beautiful areas of California. The America River rapids provided an exciting challenge for our adventurous 8th grade class while 9th grade tested their endurance on the Skyline to Sea trail in the Santa Cruz Mountains. 10th graders travelled the furthest of any of our grades, heading to Costa Rica for a truly immersive experience. 11th grade students travelled to Washington, DC on a journey they helped plan, while 12th graders found solitude together and gained perspective at elevation in the high Sierras.
AWARDS AND ACCOLADES

ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENTS

National Merit Scholarship Program
Semi-finalist: Margaret Melcher
Commended Scholars: Anthony Arya, Caroline Meisel, Elijah Stone, Ben Watts, Micah Wayne.
National Latin Examination
Gold Medal, Summa cum Laude: James Chen, Andrew Sylvester, Jordan Weiss-Penzias (Latin 2); Rinoa Oliver (Latin 1).
Silver Medal, Maxima cum Laude: Max Kuempel, Vanessa McKelvey, Ava Darbonne (Latin 3); Olin Ottemann-Strauss, Emerald Landry, Maeve Wolski (Latin 2); Lyra McKelvey, Ryan Kolderup, Izzy Culver, Sophie Timucin, Karen Gourlay, Alex May, Kadin Riggs (Latin 1).
Santa Cruz County Science and Engineering Fair
Michelle Nazareth, 1st place and Best of Show for Senior Division, NASA Earth Science Special Award, Plantronics Youth Pathfinder Special Award, Nominated to compete at ISEF, Selected to compete at the CA State Science Fair; Andrew Nazareth, 3rd Place Senior Division, Plantronics Youth Pathfinder Special Award, Selected to compete at the CA State Science Fair.
Santa Cruz County Spelling Bee
Hunter Reid, 4th place.
Santa Cruz County Math Contest
Kirby School, 1st place for grade 8; Rinoa Oliver, 1st place individual for Grade 7; Andrew Sylvester, 1st place individual for Grade 8.

ATHLETICS ACHIEVEMENTS

Girls Volleyball
PCAL Santa Lucia Division Girls Volleyball All-League First Team: Ella Connor, Sr., PCAL Santa Lucia Division Girls Volleyball Richard Chamberlain Sportsmanship Team Member: Lea Kriesa, Jr.
Boys Basketball
PCAL Arroyo Division Boys Basketball Richard Chamberlain Sportsmanship Team Member: Anton Orme, So.
Boys Volleyball
PCAL Mission Division Boys Volleyball All-League First Team: Eli Brandt, Jr; PCAL Mission Division Boys Volleyball All-League Second Team: Jackson Burkhalter, Sr; PCAL Mission Division Boys Volleyball Richard Chamberlain Sportsmanship Team Member: Dylan McVoy, Jr.
Track & Field
Sarah Culver, Fr, 1st Place, Long Jump, PCAL Cypress Division Track & Field Championships; Ultimate Frisbee
First Place, Bay Area Disc Association Division II Championships.
Swimming
Maggie Malloy, Sr, Santa Cruz Sentinel Scholar Athlete of the Year Finalist; 1st Place, 200 Meter Freestyle, PCAL Mission Division Championships; 1st Place, 500 Meter Freestyle, PCAL Mission Division Championships; 1st Place, 100 Meter Butterfly, PCAL Mission Division Championships; Cole Barbour, Fr, 2nd Place 100 Meter Butterfly, PCAL Mission Division Championships; 2nd Place 100 Meter Backstroke, PCAL Mission Division Championships;
HEAD OF SCHOOL
Christy Hutton

ASSISTANT HEAD OF SCHOOL, DEAN OF FACULTY
Joe Poirot

ACADEMIC DEAN
Faith Reid

STUDENT SERVICES
Jaynell Aggrey, Sous Chef
Geoff Ashmun, Counselor
Lis Bensley, College Counselor
Jasper Billings, Retreat Coordinator
Abby Christopher, Athletics Director
Cathy Conley, Assistant College Counselor
Mariel Desrosier, Dean of Students
Sally Donnelly, Learning Services Director
Amy Hemmert, Admissions & International Programs Director
Emily Lamoureux, Admissions Assistant
Tracy Landry, Executive Chef
Carolina Martinez, Dean of Diversity and Inclusion
Eva Schewe, Study Hall Proctor
Lawrence Shin, Academic Counselor

ADMINISTRATION
Paige Berardo, Communications Director
Evelyn Brown, Executive Assistant to the Head
Stephanie Dekking, Registrar
Mikey Harrison, Facilities Assistant
Lisa Lee, Controller
Laura Lucas, Facilities and Activities Director
Gloria Muruato, Receptionist
Erik Perkins, Information Technology Director
Gordon Ringer, Director of Finance and Operations
Cindy Sauve, Administrative Assistant
Sandie Shoemaker, Development Director

FACULTY
Arts
Whiteny Aguiniga
Ricardo Anzaldo
Damara Ganley
Molly Katzman
Alex Koppel
Melody Overstreet
Tuesday Soetaert
MarNae Taylor
Susana Terrell
Gary Young
Languages
Tovah Keynton
Carolina Martinez
Mo Moscovitz
Elvia Sepulveda
Katie Trigg
Humanities
Caroline Arden
Jason Brooks
Maria Elena Caballero-Robb
Mariel Desrosier
Science, Technology and Math
Ethan Baldinger
Petter Bauer
Jasper Billings
Jenny Billings
Travis Coleman
Amy Culver
Monica Hernandez
Chris Jackson
Jordan Johnson
Matt Kazee
Cristie Kirlin
Yakira Landaverry
Meghan Lee
Erik Perkins
John Seales
Josh Tropp
Sandie Shoemaker
From the Development Office

Once again the Kirby Community has shown its faith in our institution by stepping up to improve the student experience at school. A workable, accessible outdoor space will add to this enormously. We are well on our way to seeing this project spring to life and fulfill the vision of a completed campus.

Beginning in the fall of 2018, and reaching well into 2019, we raised enough funds to break ground on the Outdoor Recreation area, and to feel optimistic that we could raise all the money needed for this project through donations. Thank you to all those loyal Kirby families, Alumni families and Community Partners who are making this dream a reality!

With appreciation,
Sandie Shoemaker
18 year Trustee and Director of Development

FISCAL YEAR 2018-2019
Income and Expense Statement (Audited Statement)
We invite you to join our online communities:

Facebook: @KirbySchool and @KirbyAlumni
Instagram: kirbyschool and humansofkirbyschool
Twitter: @KirbySchool and @KirbySchoolHOS

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