

The background is a collage of various school photos. At the top, a group of students and teachers are smiling. Below them, students are working at a table with tablets. To the right, a student is speaking into a microphone. At the bottom, a group of students in basketball uniforms are gathered. In the center of the collage is a large, stylized flower logo with multiple layers of petals.

# BOOK *of* GRATITUDE

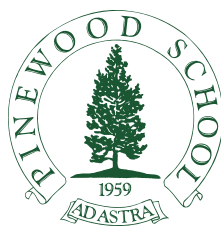
Pinewood School

2019 - 2020



“While we create new ways to keep our students intellectually challenged and engaged, our strategy is anchored in our mission and core values.”





Each year, I look forward to this opportunity to express my gratitude to our Pinewood community. The unprecedented events of this past year presented a formidable challenge to our resilience as an institution. It is with deep gratitude that I say to you: never before have I been so proud to be a part of this community.

It has been remarkable to witness the flexibility, empathy, and adaptability with which the Pinewood community—faculty, parents, and students alike—have faced this pandemic. In the process of creating new ways to keep our students intellectually challenged and engaged, our strategy has remained anchored in accomplishing our mission and in prioritizing the health and well-being of our students and teachers. While this pandemic has been an unexpected challenge, we remain firmly committed to our mission of creating an environment where our students seek knowledge, demonstrate character, build confidence, and experience joy in an uplifting community.

As you explore the events of 2019-2020 covered in this publication, you will see that Pinewood students and faculty joyfully pursued their passions, immersed themselves in professional development, gave back through service-learning opportunities, and poured their hearts out on stage and on the field while demonstrating care, compassion, and kindness to those around them. In addition to their curiosity and desire to learn, your philanthropic support of the *Annual Fund First* and other fundraising efforts at the school makes these opportunities possible. Without your support, we would not be the strong institution we are today. For that, I am grateful.

As we navigate these times, we will continue to keep the well-being of our students front and center while we make decisions with intentionality and thoughtful purpose.

I thank you for your partnership, generosity, and support.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read "Scott Riches". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Scott Riches  
*President of Pinewood School*

# COMMITTED TO OUR MISSION

How do we describe the Pinewood experience? What sets Pinewood apart from other schools? Why do our students and parents love to call Pinewood home? It all comes back to our mission.

This fall, we released Pinewood's updated mission statement derived from community input and rooted in our history. Our mission statement not only reflects who we are, but it also serves to guide our steps into the future.

## GUIDING PRINCIPLES

### We accomplish our mission by:

- 1 Inspiring joyful learning by cultivating curiosity, creativity, and character in our students.
- 2 Providing a well-rounded and engaging experience led by teachers who motivate their students through a challenging, content-rich curriculum that promotes academic stamina.
- 3 Fostering empowering relationships that enable students to flourish as dignified and confident individuals.
- 4 Helping students develop upstanding behavior by learning core values based on respect.
- 5 Graduating students who are productive, purposeful, and compassionate citizens and active members of their current and future communities.



Pinewood students  
seek **knowledge**,  
demonstrate **character**,  
build **confidence**, and  
experience **joy** in an  
uplifting **community**.



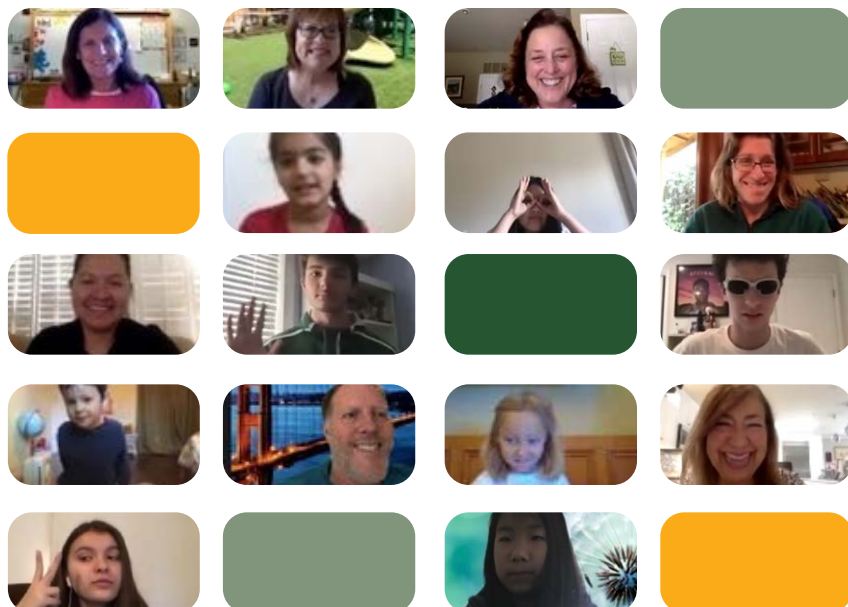
# BRIDGING THE DISTANCE

In March of 2020, shelter-in-place requirements eliminated Pinewood's opportunity to meet on campus. In a moment when many were feeling fearful and uncertain, our teachers and administrators responded with creativity and innovation. As we adapted to a new learning experience, our students rose to the challenge with the courage and determination that is characteristic of our community. Here are just some of the many ways our school came together to bridge the distance.

## Celestial Show and Zoom Kwon Do

Over Spring Break, in an effort to keep students busy and active, faculty members Larry Mendoza and Jonathan Brusco brought our students the Celestial Show and Zoom Kwon Do. Each brought a unique gift of experience to our community: Mr. Mendoza as a former NASA spacecraft engineer who knows and loves all things celestial, and Mr. Brusco as our resident Tae Kwon Do Master.

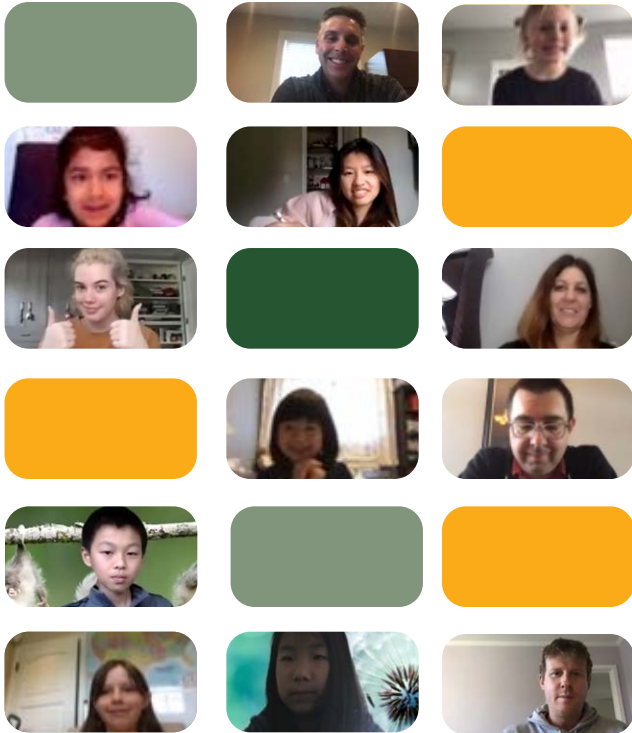
Pinewood astronomers and astrophysicists enjoyed sightings of the monster planetary conjunction in the western sky and the Spitzer Space Telescope, while our martial arts enthusiasts brushed up on their Tae Kwon Do skills over Zoom.



## WISCR Wednesdays

Our fabulous Upper Campus team introduced us to the joys of WISCR Wednesdays, a day of the week set aside for enrichment activities including virtual visits from special guest speakers. Guests included actors Rainn Wilson, Maulick Pancholy, and Julie Bowen, as well as epidemiologist Dr. Robert Kim-Farley, astrophysicist Dr. Alison Nordt, and director Jon M. Chu.

Our community embraced this opportunity to engage in meaningful conversations with our guest speakers about bullying, culture, COVID, life lessons, and more.



### Please Don't Stop the Music!

While sheltering in place, Take Note, Pinewood's high school a cappella group, continued to serenade our community with their quarantine versions of hits such as *Send Me On My Way*.

Mr. Janer's Middle Campus music students sent in individual recordings from home of themselves singing the Pinewood School song. Mr. Janer then combined all of the voices together into one chorus and paired it with fun images from music classes this year.

Mr. Eivers, our Upper Campus theatre teacher, launched Pinewood's Virtual Coffeehouse, an open mic and art space for Pinewood creatives. Joining him for the first episode were Pinewood alumni Cayden Ehrlich '16, Carson Robinette '15, and Margo Cilker '11.

### Virtual Tech Challenge Showcase

During the shutdown, Pinewood participated virtually in the Tech Museum's Tech Challenge in which students in grades 4-12 are invited to use the engineering design process to solve a real-world problem. The Tech Museum called this challenge their "most inspiring one yet" due to the way students persevered in the face of countless obstacles. Led by Jonathan Brusco, Director of Instructional Technology and Maker Education, and Paul Zmuda, Middle Campus science teacher, our student teams stepped up to the challenge and took home multiple awards!

### Technology Drive for the Elderly

COVID-19 forced many family members to end visits to parents and grandparents or to stop visiting older loved ones at nursing homes and assisted living facilities. As a response, in May, Upper Campus students collected donations of used devices during the Pinewood Scholars Program Technology Drive for the Elderly.



# GIVING BACK

At Pinewood, giving back to our community is a part of who we are. The connections and contributions our students make to the greater community enable them to develop a sense of commitment to purposes larger than themselves.

Pinewood service-learning programs are an extension of our commitment to help our students acquire knowledge and demonstrate character while making a positive change in their communities. We are proud of the ways our students have made a difference in the lives of others by participating in a wide array of opportunities.

## MIDDLE CAMPUS

### Service-Learning Projects



#### 3RD GRADE **Sunny View Retirement Community**

Students sang carols, distributed cookies, read aloud, presented handmade photo frames and poetry, drew, and chatted with residents of the retirement community.

#### 4TH GRADE

##### **Canine Companions for Independence and Silicon Valley Humane Society**

Students learned from Canine Companions for Independence about the important role that service animals play in the lives of kids and adults. The Humane Society of Silicon Valley taught our students about local animal welfare needs and best practices in pet care. Our students held a donation drive to collect needed items for the humane society.



#### 6TH GRADE

##### **Ecumenical Hunger Program and Hope's Corner**

Students volunteered at Ecumenical Hunger Program for a day, helping distribute food and clothing to clients who visited the facility.

They also sold Valentine-Grams to raise funds for Hope's Corner in support of the local homeless.

*\*Our 5th grade service-learning project did not take place due to the campus closures in response to COVID-19.*



## ALUMNI PANTHERS SUPPORTING PANTHERS

2

Two alumni and an alumni parent traveled to Salem, Oregon to support Pinewood's a cappella team, Take Note, for the quarterfinals of the International Championship of High School A Cappella.

over  
**50%**

More than half of our class of 2020 pledged to support our *Annual Fund First* with a four-year pledge, joining over 50 other Alumni Panther Club members.

39

39 college alumni offered their assistance to Pinewood's senior class as they made their decision on the college of their choice.



### LOWER CAMPUS

## Donation Drives



### Pinewood Express Toy Drive

The Pinewood Express is a toy drive that benefits Sacred Heart Community Service of San Jose, a non-profit, non-denominational organization. This organization provides over 5,500 local children with toys for a joyful holiday season.

Students came together to donate toys, school supplies, and clothing. They placed donations in "The Pinewood Express," a beautiful hand-crafted wood train designed by Lower Campus art teacher, Penny Nolan.



### Shoe Drive

Lower Campus students donated and collected new and used shoes for Souls 4 Soles, an organization that turns unwanted shoes and clothing into opportunity.

Souls 4 Soles keeps shoes and clothing from going to waste by putting them to good use – providing relief, creating jobs, and empowering people to break the cycle of poverty.

# GIVING BACK

## JUNIOR HIGH

### Service-Learning Trip to Tanzania

In February, a group of our junior high students had quite the adventure rhino-spotting, sapling-planting, Maasai-dancing, vegetation-studying, and much more in-between while in Tanzania with Rustic Pathways.

We encourage our students to become active members of their global community. Through educational travel and service-learning, students grow in their ability to engage with clarity and sensitivity and to demonstrate cross-cultural awareness, understanding, and compassion.





## UPPER CAMPUS Service Clubs



### PAWS

*Pinewood Animal  
Wellness Squad*

- Hosted a supply drive for **Bandits Buddies Rescue**.
- Raised money at Jamboree for **Amazon conservation organizations** during the fires.
- Volunteered at the **Wildlife Conservation Expo**.



### PSL

*Pinewood  
Service Learning*

- Purchased a playhouse from **Habitat for Humanity** for a military family.
- Ran a holiday gift drive through **Giving Tree**, providing for about 40 families.
- Volunteered at the **Midnight Run** at the Palo Alto Baylands.
- Participated in International **Coastal Cleanup Day**.



### Green Coalition

*Sustainability  
Club*

- Gift-bombed the Upper Campus community with **metal straws and reusable utensils**.
- Advocated for and successfully **halted the sale of plastic water bottles** at the Snack Shack.

## PARENT

## Volunteerism

When it comes to giving, the adults in our community lead by example. Parents build community and connections at the school by volunteering for a wide variety of on- and off-campus events. Volunteering is not only a great opportunity to contribute towards the education of our students, but also enables a home-school partnership that is a critical part of our community.

Annual Fund First  
Committee

Athletics

Class Photographers

Chinese New Year

Common Ground Speaker  
Series Representatives

DEAR Day: Book Fair

Diwali Festival of Lights

End-of-Year Party

Faculty and Staff Appreciation  
and Holiday Parties

Field Trip Drivers and  
Chaperones

Golf Tournament

Halloween

Holi Festival of Color

Jamboree

Lost and Found

Los Altos Pet Parade

Play Coordinators and  
Volunteers

Pi Day

Pinewood Performing  
Arts Events

Service-Learning Projects

Teacher Treats

Thanksgiving Feast

Uniform Collection, Sort,  
and Swap

Valentine's Day

Walk/Bike to School Day

... and more!

Total Volunteer  
Hours in 2019-20

3,318



Pinewood School

# LIVING OUR MISSION

At Pinewood, we are committed to creating an uplifting community environment in which our students can seek knowledge, demonstrate character, build confidence, and experience joy.

On all three campuses and across grade levels, our program offerings affirm this commitment. Whether it's on stage, on the field, or in the classroom, our students are immersed in opportunities designed with their growth in mind.



## K-12

### Performing Arts

Since Pinewood's inception, our students have been building confidence through involvement in the performing arts. Last year, proud parents, teachers, and friends enjoyed watching our students shine brightly up on stage in the following performances.

#### LOWER CAMPUS

Kindergarten - Holiday Concert  
1G - The Town Without a Name  
1W - The Emperor's New Clothes  
2G - Magic in the Toy Shop  
2W - Reach for the Magic  
2Y - Snow White and the Six Dwarves

#### MIDDLE CAMPUS

4G - The Lion King  
5G - Through the Looking Glass  
5W - The Taming of Katy Lou  
6G - Charlie and the Chocolate Factory  
6W - Jingle Jury  
6Y - Krazy Kamp

#### UPPER CAMPUS

PPA Fundraiser - Broadway unBound 2  
Jamboree Performances  
Fall High School Play - As You Like It  
Winter Arts Festival and Concert - HS Choirs, JH Choir, Panther Dancers, Take Note, plus Art Students  
8th Grade Musical - School of Rock  
ICHSA Quarterfinals in Salem - Take Note  
7th Grade Showcase #1

*\*Due to our campus closures at the end of the year, our usual K-2 Spanish plays; our 1Y, 3W, 3G, and 4W plays; two 7th Grade Showcases; and our High School Spring Musical did not take place as planned.*



# College Counseling

In addition to getting our students academically and socially ready for college, Pinewood provides individual support to all high school students as they embark on their journey to search for a college where they can thrive. Pinewood's College Counseling program embodies a culture of aspiration and a student-centric approach to guidance. Our students are accepted to a stellar selection of colleges across the country and abroad.

Last summer, the College Counseling Office introduced *College Counseling Boot Camp*, a new program that brings experienced college counselors and admissions representatives from colleges to campus for one week. Counselors work with seniors in open, honest ways that help students reflect on their goals for the college experience and strategies to tackle college essays. By demystifying the application process,

conducting mock interviews, and reducing stress, the boot camp helps rising seniors get a head start on the responsibilities of senior year.

Additionally, our Pinewood alumni, Sara '18 of Belmont University, Haley '17 of Cornell University, Laura '19 of Case Western Reserve University, and Eli '19 of Rochester Institute of Technology,

returned to campus in January for our annual Alumni College Discussion Panel, a special event for current seniors put on by Pinewood's College Counseling and Alumni Relations departments. The student-only format allowed the class of 2020 the opportunity to ask questions about college life in a friendly, open environment.



3-12

## Athletics

Pinewood's athletic program continued to thrive last year with 75% of our high school students playing at least one sport and 60% playing two sports.

Our year-round athletic program, with eight sports at Middle Campus and over 20 at Upper Campus, offers our students the opportunity to explore interests, grow their skill level, and build community as they support one another in shared challenges.



Signing day at Pinewood! Pinewood's class of 2020 boasts six stellar athletes who will be bringing the Panther spirit to their respective colleges and universities next year. Congratulations, Panthers!

# LIVING OUR MISSION

## Pinewood Scholars Program

The Pinewood Scholars Program (PSP) at Upper Campus is an innovative curriculum focused on real-world problem-solving. The pandemic did not keep our scholars from furthering their understanding of the world and sharing their ideas. During remote learning, our scholars engaged with world issues through listening to and creating podcasts.

Students led the process of inquiry, research, composition, editing, and

launch. In the process, they brushed up on their public speaking and communication skills while imparting critical information and perspectives to their peers.

The student podcasts included This One's In by Annika D., Burgers or Bust by Allyson L., and Where are the Girls by Nikhila N. Through this creative way of learning, students developed lifelong skills of critical thinking, content creation, and empathizing with an audience.



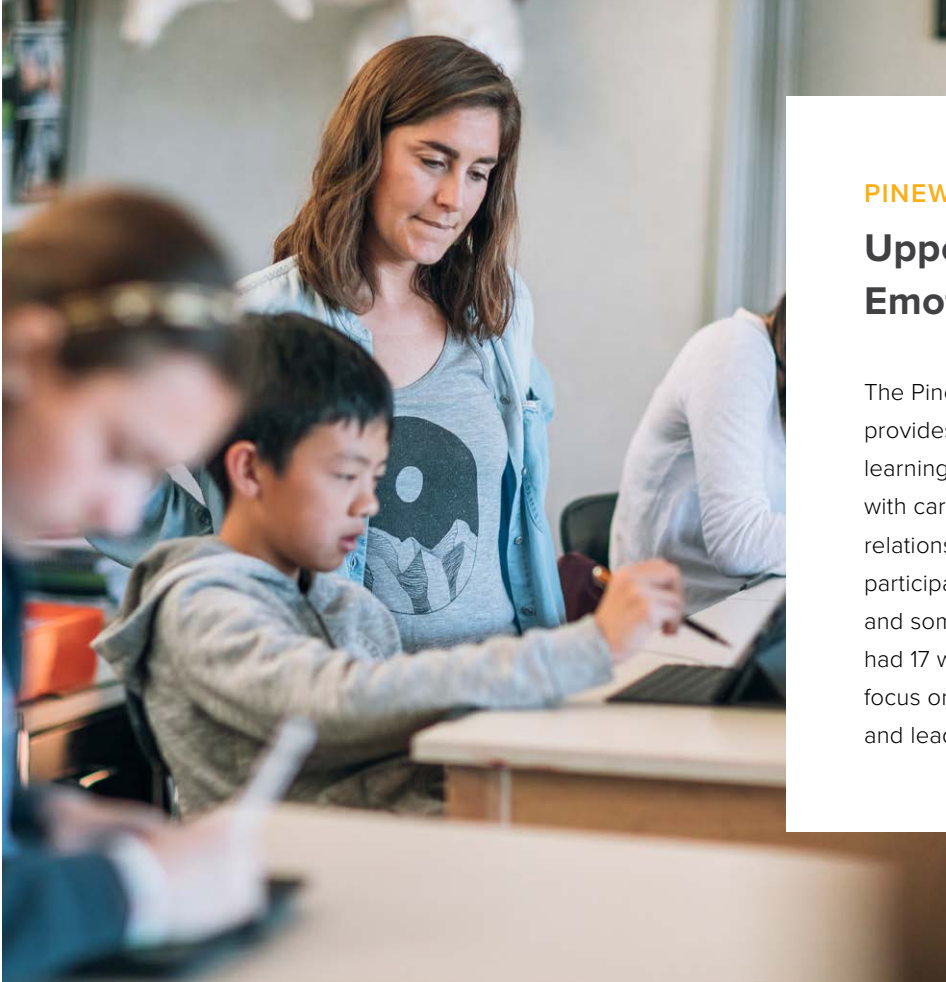
## K-6 Social and Emotional Learning

Social and emotional learning (SEL) is thoughtfully woven into all aspects of a Pinewood education. Our K-2 students engage in SEL through Kimochis, a program that facilitates a better understanding of emotions for both families and students. During Pinewood's campus closure, the Kimochis have continued to be a central part of the Lower Campus curriculum.

The SEL curriculum at Middle Campus is based on the CASEL competencies: Self-Awareness, Self-Management, Social-Awareness, Relationship Skills, and Responsible Decision Making. The faculty uses intentional class meetings, assemblies, and discussions to heighten awareness of and develop these skills. The overarching goal is to build a community across campuses that is encouraging, inclusive, problem solving, and conducive to the risk-taking necessary to maximize student learning.







## PINEWOOD ADVISORY PROGRAM

### Upper Campus Social and Emotional Learning

The Pinewood Advisory Program at Upper Campus provides space each week to address the school's learning goals (WISCRs) in a small-group setting with caring advisors. Advisory groups build trusting relationships, discuss important and relevant issues, participate in team-building exercises, learn life skills, and sometimes just have fun together. In 2019-20, we had 17 weeks of the Pinewood Advisory Program to focus on the themes of community, diversity, advocacy, and leadership.

## Technology

Panthers in grades K-2 get a jump-start in coding and engineering through KIBO, a play-based, screen-free program developed at Pinewood.

KIBO lays a strong foundation in tech and gives our students the confidence and competence they will need to build on their skills successfully for the duration of their education and beyond.





Last fiscal year, more than

**950 people**

gave to Pinewood.

\*\*\*\*\*

Of those supporters,

**880**

gave to the annual fund,  
helping raise a record

**\$1.35 million.**

\*\*\*\*\*

**307 new donors**

gave to Pinewood.

\*\*\*\*\*

**363 donors**

gave at the

President's Circle level of

**\$2,500 and above.**

\*\*\*\*\*

**46 alumni donors**

gave to Pinewood.

2019 – 2020

## ***ANNUAL FUND FIRST*** **CAMPAIGN**

*Annual Fund First (AFF)* is at the heart of the philanthropic efforts at Pinewood and provides critical funds that directly support our programs, faculty, and extracurriculars that are all the hallmarks of a Pinewood education.

Thank you to our 880 donors who contributed to raise over \$1.35 million to the 2019-20 Annual Fund First. To respect their privacy, the donor listings have been removed from the subsequent pages on this online publication. To see the full Book of Gratitude with donor listings, check the Parent Portal.





# PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT



## Christine Thomas

Lower Campus Math Teacher  
*IXL Live Conference  
(in-classroom math software)*



“This conference was about how to maneuver your way through IXL. We learned what it looks like through a student’s and teacher’s perspective when logging into the app. We were able to dive deeper through the two different perspectives and use the features to better implement IXL in the classroom. I learned so many amazing ways to better utilize IXL in my classroom.

I now feel more comfortable with how to maneuver my way through the several tabs, I now know how to give students a “short cut” to access the specific skill I want them to work on during my enrichment period, and I also now know how to access and analyze the data to help drive my small-group instruction when students come to me during one of my math workshop rotations.”

## Monica Ventrice

Upper Campus Science Teacher  
*Half-Earth Day Conference at UC Berkeley*



“The Half-Earth Day Conference was a gathering of researchers, educators, humanists, philanthropists, naturalists, conservationists, and more to discuss reaching the goal of preserving 50% of the earth in an effort to save 85% of biodiversity.

This conference introduced me to new software that can be used during my ecology unit and allowed me to make connections for some additional classroom resources, such as live interviews with researchers in the field.”



## Jonathan Brusco

Director of Instructional Technology  
and Maker Education  
*Discover Design Thinking – Stanford D.school*

“This was an application-only, three-day workshop that focused on using the design-thinking process in K-12 educational applications. This was one of the best professional development experiences I’ve had in my 15+ years in this field. We already use the design-thinking process at Pinewood and it is incorporated into our Design/Engineering instruction from grades two through six.

I think the biggest takeaway from this workshop, for me, was that the process is bigger than I had imagined and, while very meaningful for designing products, can also address much larger problems that don’t actually produce a physical outcome. I also realized that we could be doing more with our students in the area of empathy, and that even when we do the culminating design projects in grades five and six, we should be selecting projects that help us to build empathy in our students.”



## Jyoti Sicina

Upper Campus Learning Specialist  
*Strong Space for Relationships:  
Building a Flourishing Advisory Program*

“This workshop featured a series of sessions that were meant to empower advisors and bring SEL to diverse communities as well as provide a personal and professional renewal experience.”

## Improved Teacher Benefits:



### Medical Benefits

Benefits play a huge role in attracting and retaining the finest teachers. Our growing annual fund proceeds now enhance Pinewood's ability to subsidize a significantly higher percentage of our employee health care benefits which provides teachers with more disposable income each month.



### Retirement Matching

Annual fund proceeds helped Pinewood to elevate retirement matching up to 6% of our faculty and staff members' annual salaries.



### Housing Down-Payment Assistance Program

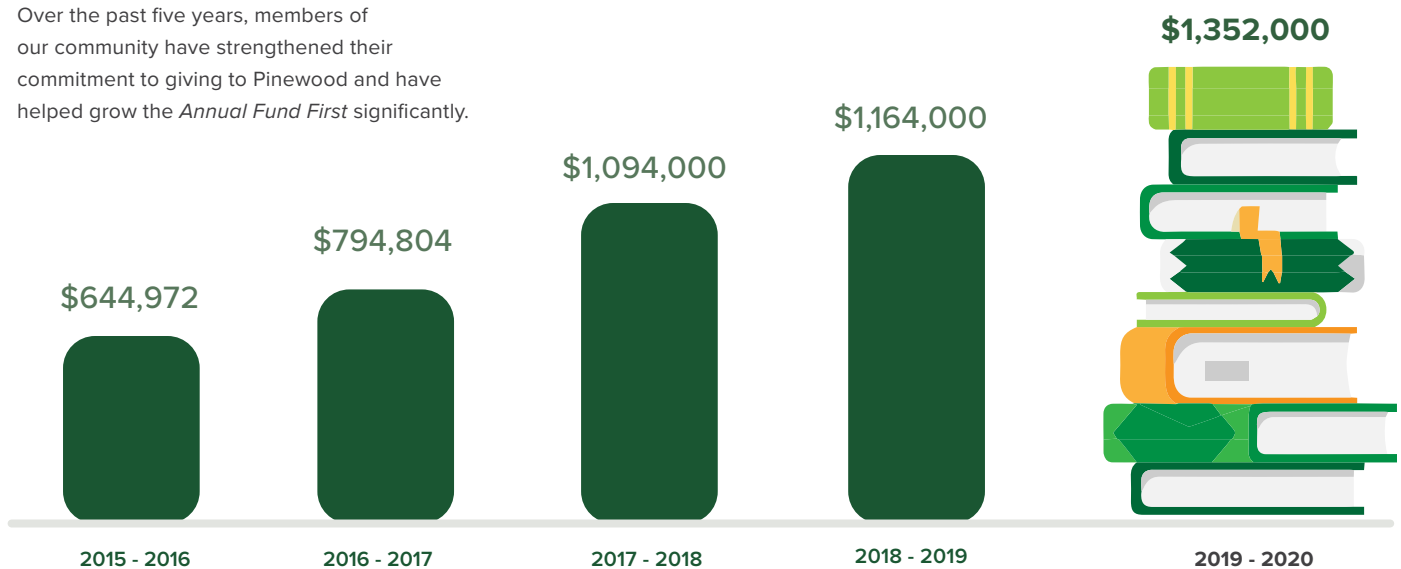
Pinewood provides a down-payment assistance program to help teachers become homeowners in this expensive and competitive market. Three of our faculty and staff members have already benefited from this program that is supported by the *Annual Fund First*.





## HISTORY OF GIVING

Over the past five years, members of our community have strengthened their commitment to giving to Pinewood and have helped grow the *Annual Fund First* significantly.

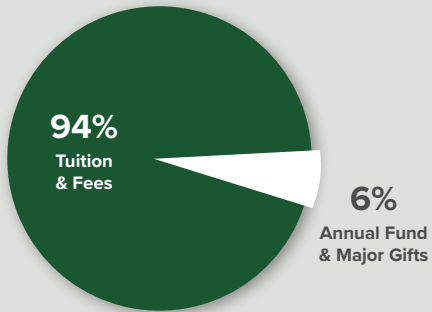




# FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

## OPERATING INCOME

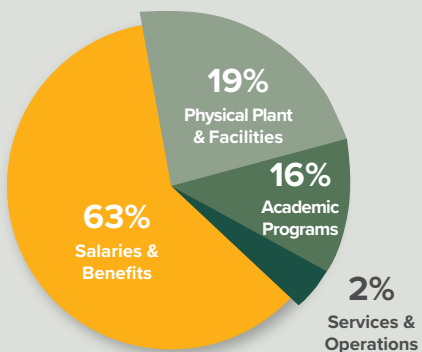
\$22,950,000



● Tuition & Fees	\$21,473,000
● Annual Fund & Major Gifts	\$1,477,000

## OPERATING EXPENSES

\$22,827,000



● Salaries & Benefits	\$14,329,000
● Physical Plant & Facilities	\$4,484,000
● Academic Programs	\$3,612,000
● Services & Operations	\$402,000

*Unaudited numbers as of June 30, 2020.*

## GIFTS SUMMARY

Annual Fund First	\$1,352,000
Golf Classic	\$12,000
Major Gifts	\$125,000
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$1,489,000</b>

*Total includes gifts from July 1, 2019 through June 30, 2020.*



**2019 – 2020**

## ***ANNUAL FUND FIRST AMBASSADORS***

### **CHAIR**

Gilbert Wong, parent '28, '30

### **VICE CHAIR**

Koryne Smith, parent '20, '22

### **AMBASSADORS**

Ana Aspinall, parent '23

Arini Balakrishnan, parent '29, '32

Shimrit Ben Yair, parent '30, '32

Faina Birman, parent '27

Andrea Boren, parent '21, '23

Carrie Chatterjee, parent '22, '24

Maryanne Christoforou, parent '21, '22

Suzanne Corkins, parent '24

Mark Decker, parent '21

Kanchan Dilip, parent '20

Christy Doyle, parent '26, '30

Lisa Gani, parent '24, '29

Katherine Gipsh, parent '29

Bill Gray, parent '25

Laura Gross, parent '26

Matt Haberkorn, parent '20

Melanie Hunt, parent '20, '23

Emi Ishida, parent '20

Annie Kaskade, parent '22, '23

Elena Kim, parent '28

Priya Kolappa, parent '23, '26

Julia Liu, parent '26, '30

Xiaonan Ma, parent '29

Wendy McDowell, parent '22

Megan Myers, parent '20

Jessica Negrette, parent '25, '29

Samantha Ness, parent '21

Reina Rampell, parent '27, '30

Jenny Redo Brown, parent '20

Jeff Richardson, parent '27, '28

Paula Russell-Gilford, parent '29, '32

Melissa Saberi, parent '26, '29

Leslie Sanders, parent '26

Amy Shaw, parent '20

Connie Steube, parent '21, '24

Gaby Stern, parent '24, '27, '30

Lawrence Tom, parent '28

Meredith Walsey, parent '20, '22

Lee Wang, parent '26, '29, '31

Jennifer Wong, parent '28, '30

Yuan Xie, parent '30

Juhong Zhu, parent '29

### **FACULTY LIAISONS**

Jeanne Bates

John Swift

José Luis Orduña



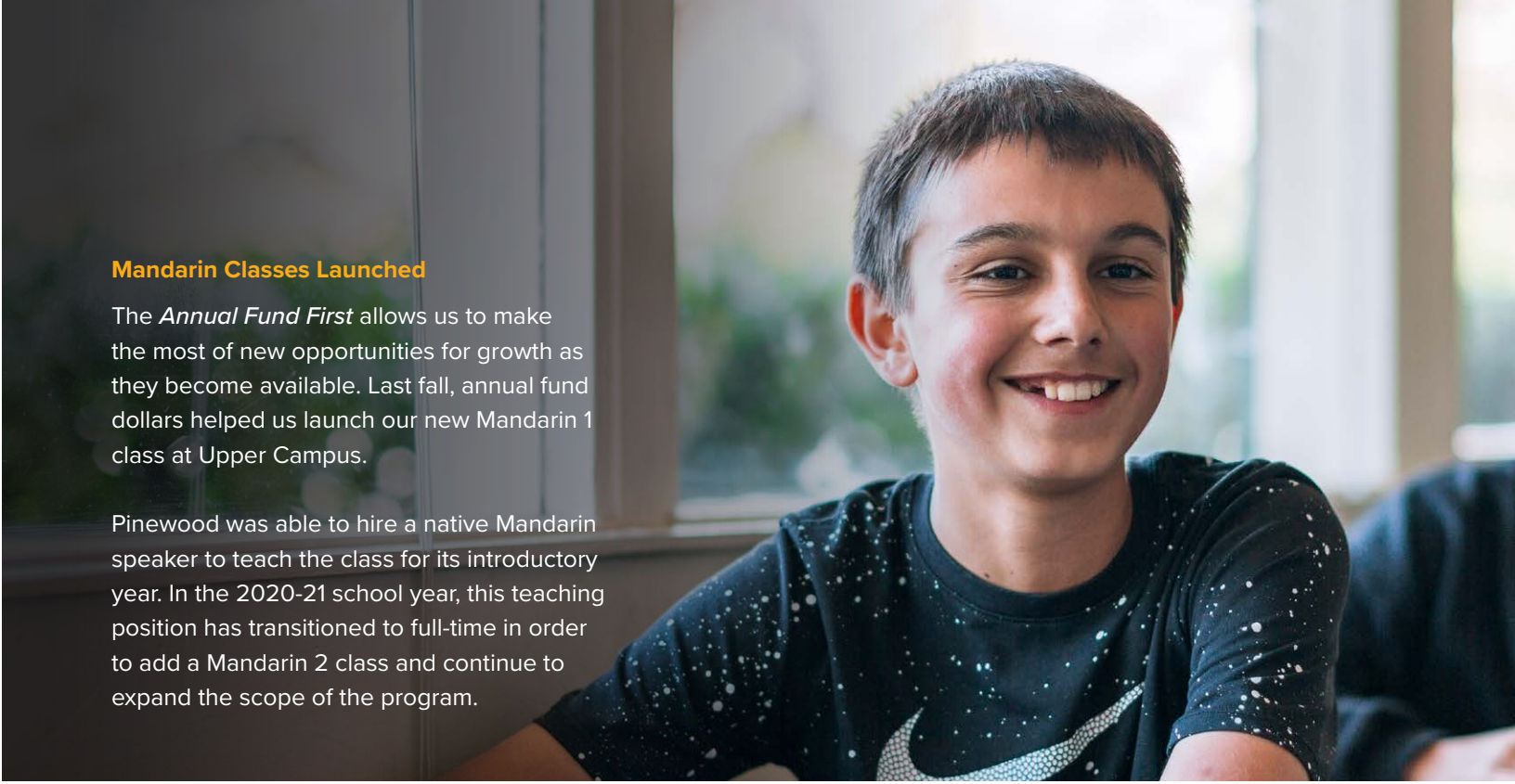
### Upper Campus Classroom Updated

The *Annual Fund First* allows Pinewood to create programs and spaces that align with our mission and student-learning outcomes. When Upper Campus Spanish teacher Oliva Bradley requested that her classroom be updated in order to enhance language learning, annual fund dollars allowed us to respond quickly. The update included new modular furniture which helped create a learning environment with spaces for better conversation and collaboration.



### New STEM Teacher Hired

The *Annual Fund First* allows us to recruit, develop, and retain the most talented faculty. Last year, annual fund dollars made it possible for us to quickly hire Larry Mendoza, a dynamic instructor, when the growth of our STEM programs led to the need for additional staffing. Mr. Mendoza consistently engages our students and will continue to strengthen the STEM program.



### Mandarin Classes Launched

The *Annual Fund First* allows us to make the most of new opportunities for growth as they become available. Last fall, annual fund dollars helped us launch our new Mandarin 1 class at Upper Campus.

Pinewood was able to hire a native Mandarin speaker to teach the class for its introductory year. In the 2020-21 school year, this teaching position has transitioned to full-time in order to add a Mandarin 2 class and continue to expand the scope of the program.







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*Pinewood School makes every effort to recognize donors and volunteers accurately and according to their wishes. We apologize for any omissions or typographical errors made in this publication. If you feel that your name has been omitted or not listed accurately, please contact us at **[development@pinewood.edu](mailto:development@pinewood.edu)**.*



# COMING TOGETHER

At Pinewood, we pride ourselves on being a close community where students and families create strong lifelong friendships. Each year, we offer several opportunities to gather on and off campus to celebrate learning and community.

## BACK-TO-SCHOOL NIGHT

All three campuses hold Back-to-School Nights to give parents the opportunity to meet their students' teachers and get a better understanding of what their students will experience on campus.



## PRESIDENT'S CIRCLE RECEPTION

The President's Circle Reception is an annual Pinewood gratitude event honoring the school's President's Circle members who have given a leadership gift to the school of \$2,500 and above. The 2019 President's Circle Reception, honoring 2018-19 leadership donors, was hosted by Dave Payne and Vicki Chiu in their lovely Los Altos Hills home. It was a wonderful venue and a gorgeous evening to gather with so many friends and supporters of Pinewood.



## PANTHER NIGHT FOR NEW PARENTS

Each year, new families are invited to an informative evening in the fall where they can meet key members of the administration, socialize, and learn how to get involved at Pinewood.



## GOLF CLASSIC

The 2019 Golf Classic was held on September 16th at the Palo Alto Hills Golf & Country Club. The proceeds went toward the K-12 Physical Education and Athletics Departments. Guests enjoyed a fun-filled day of contests, raffles, and of course, a four-person scramble tournament! At the event, we also introduced two new activities: the Marshmallow Drive and the Vegas Hole. Thank you to all our sponsors, donors, volunteers, and players who made this day possible.



## SIGNUP PARTIES

SignUp Parties are fun and a great opportunity to meet others in our Pinewood community. These are events that Pinewood parents and/or faculty host or co-host. In the 2019-20 school year, parents generously hosted the Margarita Moms Party, the Cornhole Tournament, and a Back-to-School Wine Tasting Party!



## BROADWAY UNBOUND 2: A MISCAST CABARET (PPA FUNDRAISER)

In October, the Pinewood Performing Arts (PPA) department hosted another “miscalc cabaret” at the beautiful home of William and Jennifer Young. Proceeds from the event went towards the PPA Scholarship Fund. The evening featured students, parents, and teachers performing in roles from Broadway musicals that they would unlikely be cast in and/or performing numbers with new and fun interpretations. In addition to these entertaining performances, guests also enjoyed delicious treats and mocktails provided by PPA parents. Thank you to our amazing community for your support!



## JAMBOREE

The 2019 Jamboree, an annual Pinewood community event, was held on October 19th and was a spirited afternoon of carnival games, crafts, food, class fundraisers, performances, and a haunted house for our community of students, parents, alumni, family, and friends.



## FACULTY AFF CELEBRATION

In October, all faculty and staff were invited to celebrate reaching 100% participation in support of the *Annual Fund First* campaign. The gathering was held at Steins Beer Garden in Mountain View.

## AFF APPRECIATION PARTY

As a show of gratitude to our families who generously supported the 100-Day Campaign for the *Annual Fund First*, the Littlefield Family graciously offered to underwrite the 2020 Appreciation Party. It would have been an evening of connection and conversation at the Devil's Canyon Brewing Company. However, due to the shelter-in-place order, we were unable to host the event.

# PANTHERS BEYOND OUR GROUNDS

Our alumni community is an integral part of Pinewood. As they share the values and knowledge they acquired during their time as Panthers, these individuals are now making an impact in the world. Through frequent events and intentional programs for our alumni, we strive to establish and maintain supportive connections among our students that last a lifetime.

## INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

Jason Greenberg '96, a cardiac anesthesiologist at California Pacific Medical Center in San Francisco, offered an opportunity to shadow him over the summer. Alumna Alexis Tanase '19 watched many of the procedures including open-heart bypass surgery in the cardiac operating room and interacted with the surgeons and nurses during the procedure.



## ALUMNI LUNCHEON

On August 15th, we welcomed our college-aged alumni back to campus for our annual Alumni Luncheon. Our teachers and administrators were filled with Panther pride as these cubs headed off to college!

## ALUMNI DAY

Sixteen members of our alumni participated in our first Alumni Day on November 30th to vie for the inaugural 3-on-3 basketball championship belt.



## CARE PACKAGES

On September 9th, the class of 2020 put together care packages which were shipped out to our college freshmen. It just goes to show that the Panther love stretches beyond our halls.

## 20 YEARS FOR THE CLASS OF 1999

The class of 1999 held its 20th reunion in San Diego over the summer. They enjoyed a happy hour together before catching a baseball game between the Giants and Padres at Petco Park.



## 10 YEAR REUNION

On November 29th, Pinewood hosted the classes of 2008, 2009, and 2010 for their 10-year reunion. Everyone who attended had a wonderful time reconnecting. It was our pleasure to provide an opportunity for connection for our valued alumni!

## GRADUATION TILES

11 families from the Class of 2020 honored their graduates by permanently placing a graduation tile in the Cue Quad at Upper Campus in the growing alumni recognition area.



## ALUMNI GIVING TUESDAY

On December 3rd, we showcased five of our alumni for Alumni Giving Tuesday. Each featured individual shared how Pinewood has made a difference in his or her life.



## COVID-19 Coverage



**Larry Chu '91** (above) is celebrating the 50th anniversary of Chef Chu's business in Los Altos by serving the community. Many anonymous donors have been buying lunches for local doctors, nurses, police, and people in need. Most recently, Chef Chu's served weekly meals for Mountain View and Los Altos police officers, the Santa Clara County Sheriff's Office, the VA hospital in Palo Alto, and the staff at Kaiser Medical Center in San Jose. They recently surpassed 1,000 meals served through this program.

**Raffie Colet '92** operates a small non-profit, LVLUP Learning, that provides Maker Workshops based on STEM/STEAM concepts (below left). They have been working with three to four thousand students a week mostly in the Fremont Unified School District. Raffie became aware of the personal protective equipment (PPE) shortage and immediately decided to set up a maker space in his home. He has been printing, assembling, and donating PPE face shields and ear savers ever since. To date, he has provided over 600 PPE units and is getting more requests every day from many clinics and other front line roles that are in need. Many of his donations have gone to Gardner Health Services in San Jose which serves some of the highest-risk people in the low-income and homeless communities.



**Dr. Jeffrey Bien '06** (above right) is a Clinical Fellow in Hematology/Oncology at Stanford University. Using Zoom, he joined Mrs. Hudson's AP Biology and Anatomy classes to share his experiences and expertise. For almost two hours, Jeffrey spoke to our students and answered their thoughtful questions.

## ALUMNI Profiles



**Vedica Puri '89** is the first Indian-American to be appointed to the San Francisco County Superior Court. Vedica has been a partner

at Pillsbury & Coleman LLP since 2005. After obtaining her undergraduate degree from St. Xavier's College, she received her law degree from Santa Clara University School of Law in 1994. She was admitted to the California Bar in 1995.

Over her career in civil litigation, Puri represented companies, educational institutions, and individuals, concentrating in complex insurance coverage and bad-faith litigation. She has been involved in numerous complicated and high-profile cases including insurance coverage disputes relating to the San Bruno pipeline explosion (2010) and the North Bay wildfires (2017).



**Amanda Legge '07** started a magazine called The San Franciscan. The inaugural Summer 2019 publication

includes art and writing from many talented people, including a few Pinewood alumni, Maddy Fraioli '08, and Veronica Mapes '07.

The San Franciscan's mission statement is "a fiercely independent magazine that celebrates the diverse subcultures of San Francisco and the Bay Area through humor and criticism, but always with utmost sincerity and pride."

