



Thursday, February 23, 2023

If you're in the Classes of 1997 to 2004...

Save the date for YOUR 20 YEAR REUNION!
Saturday, April 22nd from 3:00-6:00pm at Kirby School

We're catching up on our class reunions! The graduating classes of 1997 to 2004 are invited to celebrate the last 20 years post-Kirby. Join us for food, drinks, music, and good conversation. Come chat with your favorite teachers of the past, and see what your classmates have been up to over the last two decades! Your teenage heart will feel the Kirby love when you see what the school has become 29 years later! Hope you can make it!!

If you haven't RSVP'd already, you can do so [here](#)!

Mr. Poirot Celebrated for 25 years of Service to Kirby Students



Joe Poirot joined Kirby as an English teacher in 1997 at our Union Street campus in downtown Santa Cruz. Over the years he has taught English to literally hundreds of Kirby Students (who remembers Romeo and Juliet from high school English with Joe?). He has coached basketball, cross country, and chaperoned countless class trips and school dances. Joe spent his final years at Kirby as the Assistant Head of School, and there is no doubt that Kirby is the school it is today because of Joe's influence and vision. Mr. Poirot stepped back from the field of education at the end of the 2021-22 school year. Thank you, Joe - Kirby misses you!

Alumni at Kirby!

Noah Bond, Class of 2009, joined the Kirby Board of Trustees in 2021 and was it's first alumnus Board Member. After Kirby School, Noah earned his B.A. in Human-Centered Design and Middle Eastern Studies at Dartmouth College in Hanover, NH. Noah is an applied anthropologist and lead design researcher at LinkedIn, focused on recruiting and diversity products for Talent Solutions, LinkedIn's enterprise business.

Former Kirby valedictorian, **Willa Brock, Class of 2010**, joined the Kirby School Board of Trustees as its second alumni in May 2021. Ms. Brock earned a B.A. in Art History and Archaeology from Stanford University in 2014 and an M.A. in Museum Studies from New York University in 2017. She currently serves

as Interpretation Manager of the renowned Filoli Center, a National Trust Historic site, in Woodside, California.

If you didn't know already, we also have a few alumni currently on staff here at Kirby School: **Abby Christopher - Athletic Director & Class of 2003**, **Emily Lamoureux - Admissions Director & Class of 2000**, **Tovah Keynton - Language & Music Teacher, Class of 2005**, **Sonja Fauske - Volleyball Coach & Class of 2017**, and **Kesh Gor - Mountain Biking Team Coach & Class of 2017**. Abby has been at Kirby for 15 years now, Emily for 8 years, Tovah for 11 years, Sonja and Kesh since 2021!

New Spot on Campus: The Cultural Center!

This year Kirby opened a brand new space on our campus, The Cultural Center. Located on our 3rd floor along our Roof Deck, the mission of the Cultural Center is to create a space for students and teachers to bring aspects of culture that are important in their own lives, to the entire school community. Through Yakira Landaverry's (Science Teacher) original vision, Fatima Zavala Ruiz (School Counselor), Louis Infante (Science Teacher) and Ricardo Cruz-Anzaldo (Music Teacher) working alongside Ayesha Sumbal (Assistant Head of School for DEI & Student Life) have brought this space to life.



The Cultural Center has hosted celebrations to honor the Jewish holidays, Día de los Muertos, and Lunar New Year. They have hosted Open Mic afternoons, as well as a guest lecture from a UCSC professor who gave a talk on the cultural and historical context behind our fall musical, *Fiddler on the Roof*. In addition, for Black History month the center hosted a week-long film festival showcasing the works of black filmmakers. They have also made a safe space to discuss current events as they come up.

The space was also the place to be on campus to catch the World Cup during lunch. There is always a teacher present to chat with students in the Cultural Center, which features fuzzy rainbow bean bag chairs, teas from around the world, and various artifacts that signify various cultural holidays. The Cultural Center has become an integral part of our school, and we are looking forward to seeing the ways that it will continue to help our community celebrate all the cultures that are represented at Kirby.



Kirby History Department in the News

Back in October, Kirby history teacher **Eva Schewe** sat down with a reporter from Lookout Santa Cruz to talk about her approach to teaching history and why the study of this subject is now more important than ever. To get an inside look at the fantastic things Eva, and the rest of the History Department at Kirby, are doing in their classes, [read her interview here](#).



Athletics Update

Your Griffins are stepping up this year!

This past fall, our self-proclaimed "Small but Mighty" middle school girls basketball team went undefeated in the SC County Small School Association, with huge wins against teams such as Holy Cross, Green Valley, and Mt Madonna.

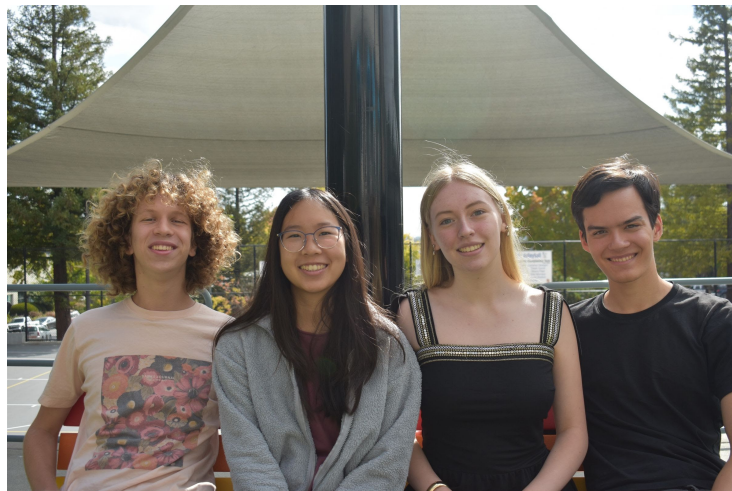
Kirby's high school Cross Country team finished their fall season with a first place win at the PCAL Santa Lucia Division Championships, narrowing out St. Francis, the second place team, by a mere point!



Congratulations to senior **Anna Shelton** (pictured) for being awarded Most Valuable Player for PCAL Santa Lucia Division Girls Volleyball this fall! This is Anna's second MVP award, giving **her back-to-back titles her Jr and Sr years**. Only 4 Kirby student-athletes before her have received this prestigious award (**Laura Moritz** - Girls Volleyball 2009, **Eleanor Brock** - Girls Soccer 2013, **Shani Levy-Richards** - 2017, **Ryan Kolderup** - Boys Volleyball 2022). Way to go, Anna!

Kirby's basketball teams are in the middle of their impressive winter seasons, and the start of spring is right around the corner! Keep up with your favorite Griffins on the Kirby Athletics [Instagram](#) page or by checking out the [Athletics Calendar](#) for upcoming events. **Would love to have you come support your old teams when you're in town!**

Kirby Kudos



Congratulations to our National Merit Scholarship Semifinalists:

We are so proud of our [National Merit Scholarship Semifinalists](#) and Commended Students! Our Semifinalists **James Chen '23**, **Averie Huang '23**, **Penelope Strong '23**, and **Andrew Sylvester '23** (pictured above) are 4 of only 5 qualifying students in Santa Cruz County. Additionally, **Jordan Weiss-Penzias** and **Bryony Crawford** were Commended for their scores. Head of School Christy Hutton summed it up best; **"We couldn't be more proud of our wonderful students, and grateful to them for giving us cause to celebrate."** Congratulations! *UPDATE: As of this week, all of our Semifinalists are officially Finalists!*

Kirby Senior Selected for U.S. Presidential Scholars Program:

James Chen, Kirby senior, was the [only student from Santa Cruz County selected for the U.S. Presidential Scholars Program](#), one of the country's highest honors for graduating high school seniors. Congratulations, James!

Kirby wins 1st place at the 2023 Northern California Ethics Bowl Tournament:

Congratulations to the Kirby Ethics Bowl Team! Team members **James Chen, Konish Bhattacharya, Grace Jones**, and **Ella Nielsen** won the 2023 Northern California Ethics Bowl Tournament. They advanced through six tournament rounds and finished in 1st place out of 30 teams competing from schools across Northern California. Congratulations also to our novice team members **Annabel Mahnke, Carlo Delezene**, and **Charlotte Nielsen** for their strong performance!

If you have any questions on how YOU can get involved or what's happening on campus, please don't hesitate to reach out to [Brooke Gadasj](#), Advancement Director.

Follow us on Social Media!

If you aren't following us already, be sure to do so! Check out Kirby's [Instagram](#) and [Facebook](#) pages for pictures of what's happening at Kirby every week AND some fun Throwback Thursdays that might feature an old yearbook photo of YOU!

Kirby Gear!

Want to represent your alma mater? Get yourself some swag from the [Kirby Sideline Store!](#)

Upcoming Events:

Cafe Concert

2/26/2023

4:00 PM to 6:00 PM

Board of Trustees Meeting

3/8/2023

7:00 PM to 9:00 PM

Spring Play

3/16/2023

to 3/19/2023

Kirby Alumni 20 Year Reunions

4/22/2023

3:00 PM to 6:00 PM

Dance Performance

4/27/2023

7:00 PM to 8:30 PM

Dance Performance

4/28/2023

7:00 PM to 8:30 PM

Spring Music Concert

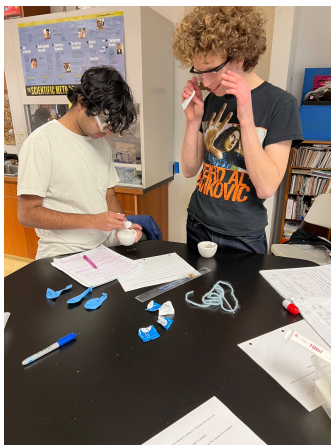
5/12/2023

7:00 PM to 9:00 PM

Check out the [Kirby Athletics Calendar](#) for all of our upcoming athletics events! *GO GRIFFINS!*









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