

THE CAREY CONNECTION

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"Through the pages of this Carey Connection, we hope all of our community members, new, current and alumni families, feel connected to the work we are doing at Carey."

- Neely Norris, Head of School

letter from the

HEAD OF SCHOOL



The 2022-2023 school year was full of storms and rainbows. In a year where the weather kept us under umbrellas for many more days than usual, and gave us challenges with flooding and water pipes, we still found the sunshine and that Carey magic at every turn.

Most notably, a flood at our preschool space at the Transfiguration Church over winter break displaced our youngest students and their teachers for four months. From January until spring break, the K-5 community at Big Carey hosted our 38 preschoolers and their teachers. We learned together about airports and penguins, shared the playground spaces in all new ways, and connected our community in ways we did not even know we craved. The storm may have taken out our classrooms, but the sun shined brightly through the curiosity, learning and joy exhibited by all of our students, families, faculty and staff.

This Carey Connection puts a spotlight on the Carey magic, the ways in which we create rainbows, even on the gloomiest of days, through thoughtful planning during the school day, and for our whole community. Through the pages of this Carey Connection, we hope all of our community members, new, current and alumni families feel connected to the work we are doing at Carey.

Community, and the cultivation of an inclusive Carey community where we all can thrive, stays paramount. New events like Stories of Us and long standing traditions like Walkfest show our roots and our growth over time and we continue to look to improve through feedback opportunities like our DEI+B family coffees in the spring. Strengthening our amazing academic program is an evergreen focus, and this year we made strides in our STEAM work through scope and sequence and skill development, bringing STEAM to life more concretely for all of our students from preschool to fifth grade.

In my first year as Head of School, I want to extend gratitude to the people that built this magical school to be what it is today, that I now have the pleasure to lead. Thank you to our families, students, board members, faculty and staff, past and present. I hope the stories on these pages bring this wonderful school to life for you and share just some of the vibrant moments, excellence in education, and forward planning that make Carey a truly singular place.

Sincerely,

Neely Norris Head of School

letter from the

PRESIDENT OF THE **BOARD OF TRUSTEES**



Walking around at Celebration of Learning this year, I couldn't help but reflect on all the amazing work the school has completed as a community. The return of on-campus events helped bring our community together and allowed connections to

form then strenghten throughout the year. These lifelong connections run deep and are the bonds that we all will continue to hold close year after year as we think about some of our most beloved traditions: Generations Day, Holiday Sing, Celebration of Learning, Clare Carey Willard Art Week, Spaghetti Dinner, and Operetta.

This school year was also marked by transitions, namely the conclusion of our nationwide search for a new Head of School. A familiar name and face to The Carey School community, Neely Norris, was named Carey's next Head of School in October. Through her transition to Head of School, Neely did not miss a beat and the school is positioned to continue to thrive under her leadership.

A critical initiative this year was our DEI+B climate audit, which was completed with recommendations presented to the entire community at the State of the School in January. Specific action plans have emerged to help guide the school in all areas of the recommendations, and we will continue to prioritize this essential work moving forward. I would also like to recognize the work of OneCarey, which this year unveiled "The Stories of Us." The new event was a wonderful opportunity for our community to come together and learn about the cultures and countries of our families.

Additionally, our faculty worked tirelessly on a STEAM and math curricular review, resulting in the creation of a scope and sequence that will help guide the learning path of students in the years to come. The article by Melissa Carboni and Lori Frediani highlights this critical work.

As we look toward the future, the Board and administration have started working with an architecture firm to complete an entire school master plan to guide our campus's evolution for the next 10-15 years. We are excited about growing Carey's campus and re-imagining how the land can be even better used to serve future generations of Carey students. The Board is also committed to focusing on our endowment and prioritizing the growth of our endowment so that we can eventually begin to use its critical funds to help off-set the ever increasing costs that impact schools each year.

I am proud to be part of a community that embraces our traditions and pushes ourselves forward in creating curious, confident and joyful learners in a more equitable, diverse, and inclusive school environment. I am confident that under Neely's leadership and with the commitment and dedication of our faculty, staff, parents, and students, we will continue to achieve great things in the years ahead.

Thank you for your unwavering support of The Carey School.

Sincerely,

Lindsay Ramsay

President of the Board of Trustees

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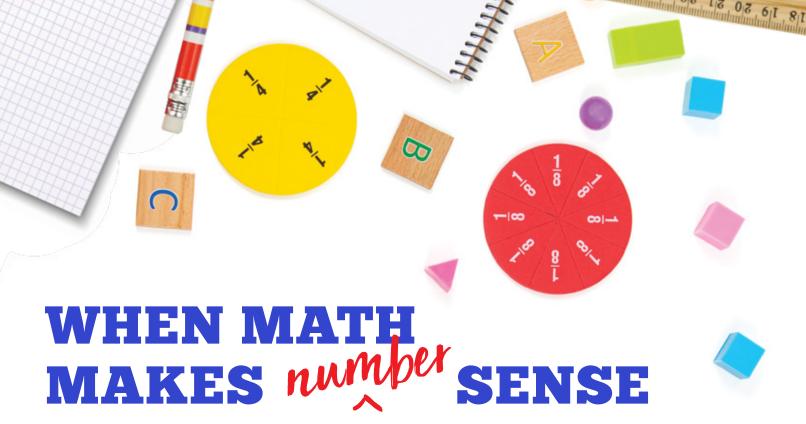
"I am proud to be part of a community that embraces traditions and pushes forward in creating curious, confident and joyful learners in a more equitable, diverse, and inclusive school environment."

- Lindsay Ramsay, President of the Board of Trustees









BY AUDRA CARLI, DIRECTOR OF STUDIES AND IESSICA LAWSON, FACULTY DEVELOPMENT COORDINATOR

> The goal of a Carey math education is numerical flexibility; the ability to shift between multiple representations of numbers and between different problem solving strategies. We want students to be open to learning about the ways others, including well-meaning caregivers, solve problems, instead of shutting them down with 'that's not the way my teacher told me!' Our goal is not to go further faster, but to go deeper and broader. Over the last two years, Carey teachers have been extending their understanding of number sense as a vehicle for nurturing flexible math problem solvers.

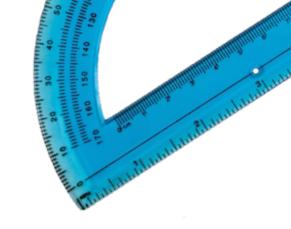
WHAT IS NUMBER SENSE?

The goal for our students is to be able to understand and apply number sense to solve problems across contexts efficiently and effectively. Make no mistake, our goal is automaticity, but by way of deep conceptual understanding, rather than rote memorization. Automaticity of math facts and procedural fluency are desired byproducts of number sense.

NUMBER SENSE IS:

- A relationship between numbers: The way in which two or more concepts, objects, or people are connected.
- The ability to flexibly think about numbers and the way they are related to each other and to use them to solve a variety of problems strategically.
- The ability to understand quantities, patterns, and concepts.
- A concept that progresses over time through routines that build understanding, manipulating, comparing, visualizing, reasoning, and estimating numbers.
- Foundational to success in math, problem solving skills, and real life applications.







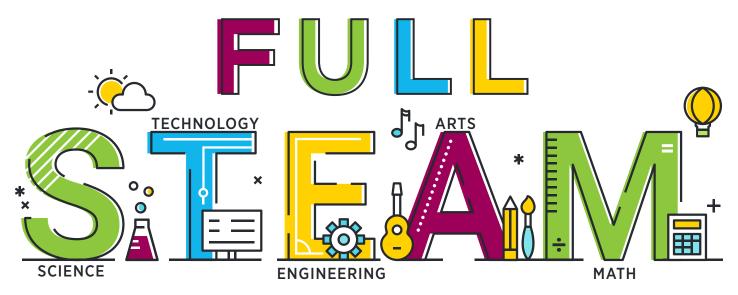
Since our goal is to go deeper and broader, our approach is to slow down, even when our students want to move faster. Rushing through concepts, rushing to the algorithm, rushing to a single answer, and rushing to the next level are short-lived successes, tending to result in fixed mathematical mindsets. We want students who are open to learning about the ways others, including well meaning caregivers, solve problems, instead of shutting them down with 'that's not the way my teacher told me!' We value our students' mathematical process, thinking about efficiency, strategy, and risk-taking, over a narrow definition of 'correctness'. You may have seen this in homework and newsletters describing numerous models for solving a problem and questioned the efficacy of this, when an algorithm seems so much more efficient. Different models for problem-solving can be frustrating and slow, but it is through the process of struggling with such concepts that our students make connections and develop a number sense foundation and growth mindset. This year, we began using Marilyn Burns' Listening to Learn assessment tool to help teachers learn how their students reason numerically. The program asks students to talk about math, and listens to their reasoning around numbers so we learn how they are building number sense. Teachers use the information to check for conceptual understanding, target specific skills in flexible groups, choose

number sense routines for the class, and decide where to focus time during a new math unit. Students love the one-on-one interviews because they get to show what they know and think flexibly and creatively in their own time with their teachers.

The power of Listening to Learn assessments is that they provide insight into student readiness that we can use to inform instruction rather than simply identifying gaps after a unit is over. Teachers have been meeting all year to look closely at the data, looking for patterns of strengths and needs, and aligning instruction vertically as well as horizontally. In partnership with Saul Gerry, Math Enrichment Specialist, they have developed routines and activities to strengthen students' number sense and bolster enthusiasm for problem-solving.

Number sense can be the through line that meets the needs of all learners in the classroom, because number sense tasks tend to have multiple access points for every mathematician in a diverse class. Teachers will continue to collaborate over the next year in order to expand the use of math talks and number sense routines to support procedural fluency and flexible problem-solving. In the 2023-2024 school year, families can look forward to more opportunities to learn about what number sense looks like in the classroom.







A DEEP DIVE INTO THE CAREY CURRICULUM

BY MELISSA CARBONI, CURRICULUM COORDINATOR AND LORI FREDIANI, 3RD-5TH GRADE SPANISH TEACHER

MISSION & GOALS

Carey's STEAM learning approach uses science, technology, engineering, the arts, and mathematics as access points to integrated education rooted in inquiry and creativity. Students collaboratively build skills through process-oriented experiences relevant to the real world. Implementing STEAM education in elementary schools gives students the tools to become lifelong learners, innovators, and problem solvers.

Over the last two years, the specialist team underwent a STEAM review to accomplish the following shared goals:

- Define Carey's STEAM mission and vision
- Develop a shared vocabulary for STEAM skills and mindsets
- Implement evidence-based practices and resources to continue to expand STEAM's impact
- Document our learning progression to align the PS-5 STEAM trajectory

The framework emphasized the significance of creating intentional connections across content areas and examining how students build upon previously acquired knowledge to progress and to develop their skills. Our enthusiastic specialist educators launched our mission with confidence and curiosity, utilizing STEAM as a vehicle for integration, flexible thinking, and deep learning.





SKILLS & MINDSETS

Skills and mindsets are fundamental as they lay the foundation for all learning. Best practices in STEAM incorporate critical thinking, communication, collaboration, and personal competencies including adaptability, resiliency, and perseverance. As STEAM-minded students grow, these abilities determine how individuals make decisions, tackle challenges, and build passion and purpose.

Our core values for STEAM learning are curiosity & imagination, a growth mindset, persistence, problem-solving, courage and risk-taking.

These proficiencies and perspectives guide students to explore and wonder, build a belief in their abilities, persevere through obstacles, develop creative solutions, and challenge themselves to take action in the face of uncertainty.

The specialist team recognized the importance of creating an environment that reflects our mission and values. They created PS-2 and 3-5 student definitions for our common language and visuals to promote understanding and application throughout learning spaces. This endeavor amplified additional grade-level integration as the specialist and homeroom teachers embarked on Integration Fridays across the school this past year.



STEAM IN ACTION

As a result of the intentional integration partnerships, educators elevated our interdisciplinary approach to a transdisciplinary experience. Students engaged in real-world situations and projects that tasked them with applying knowledge and skills from multiple disciplines that shaped learning experiences. These hands-on STEAM investigations empower students to make connections at school, within their communities, and in the broader world.

Here are a few highlights of how interactive, experiential learning unfolded during the 2022-2023 year.

THREES: Explored transportation with an authentic deep dive into airports and airplanes to learn about travel and safety while embarking on air flight simulations with their peers.

PRE-KINDERGARTEN: Created a food truck experience emphasizing service learning by engaging the broader community with the Hillsdale High Peace Pantry. Invented Rube Goldberg machines to learn about force and motion and how to communicate and compromise during engineering challenges.

KINDERGARTEN: Used the design thinking process to create a gift for someone by focusing on empathy and persistence.

IST GRADE: Designed recess clubhouses to support inclusivity and diverse interests with career connections in architecture, engineering, and interior design.

2ND GRADE: Utilized Beresford Park to investigate if humans and animals can coexist by drawing on their competencies in data and measurement, research, and problem solving.

3RD GRADE: Discovered how children around the world play games at school and used their imagination and collaboration skills to develop new games.

4TH GRADE: Cultivated flexible thinking and creativity while interpreting fables through shadow puppetry and original musical composition.

5TH GRADE: Reflected on their perseverance as they composed books for younger students about the underlying scientific concepts for their highly-anticipated Maker Faire projects.

Each project infused essential questions, student goals, STEAM skills and mindsets, key vocabulary, career connections, assessment, and reflection on the learning. Opportunities for service learning and time in nature were also common threads across the inspiring pursuits.





DIVERSITY, EQUITY, INCLUSION, & BELONGING

Incorporating DEI+B into STEAM learning is crucial to ensuring that all students feel included and valued while expanding their awareness, perspectives, and empathy. This is achieved by highlighting the contributions of historically marginalized communities to STEAM fields, providing diverse representation in the curriculum, and fostering a culture of inclusivity in classrooms. Students then see their current and future selves as scientists, technologists, engineers, artists, and mathematicians as they explore parts of their identities.

ROLE OF CAREGIVERS

Caregivers can reinforce the application of STEAM learning by naming our shared mindset language in daily experiences. Following children's interests outside of school and offering access to STEAM exploration in relevant contexts supports and extends STEAM-minded skills. Modeling curiosity and valuing questions further embraces our inquiry-based philosophy.

Infinite possibilities await as we partner to equip students with lifelong skills for active global engagement in the world ahead.

WHAT'S NEXT?

Our team will continue to seek out resources as we stay current with evidence-based STEAM practices and prioritize DEI+B and social and emotional learning as essential components within our integrated program. Maintaining student engagement and confidence is vital as we invite student voices and choices to create meaningful connections and spark new ideas and innovation.



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BY HEATHER JOLLY, PRESCHOOL SPECIALIST

The STEAM Specialist program at the Carey Preschool models a collaborative integration with homeroom classrooms and their emergent curriculum, which is developmentally appropriate teaching and learning that emerges from the interests, skills and talents of the specific group and ages of students in each class. It has been exciting to watch this experiential learning unfold organically over time.

While at Big Carey this winter, preschoolers spent lots of time learning in the garden. Many students found particular joy in playing in the mud kitchen. From this play, discussions about restaurants naturally emerged and soon one PK classroom was excited about creating a food truck. The homeroom teachers prepared the students to paint boxes to create the truck and opened up an opportunity for design thinking and engineering. During STEAM time, MakeDo tools were introduced, and the children decided where they wanted to cut windows, screw on wheels, and connect pieces to create the design they came up with. Throughout this process of experiential learning, the development of the STEAM mindsets were integrated as well, including curiosity, persistence, problem-solving, risk-taking and a growth mindset. The cardboard work and restaurant play soon evolved into the construction of a food truck, with cardboard wheels, window cut outs, signage, and paint! Inquiries and wonderings from students about restaurant kitchens, menus and food sources, led to an interview and tour with Flik Food Service's Chef leff in the school kitchen.

Naturally, all of this skill-building and hands-on research transformed into an ongoing food truck dramatic play center in the classroom that evolved into a service learning opportunity. While this rich experiential learning happens inside the preschool classroom, the Hillsdale High Peace Pantry is working in the San Mateo community to provide food staples and fresh produce to local families struggling with food insecurity. The Carey School is a new partner with the Peace Pantry, with weekly produce donations from school families. Founders of the Peace Pantry team visited the preschool students to explain the basics of a pantry, food insecurity, and the local families in need, connecting with the classroom learning about hunger and food. Parents paid for their English muffin breakfast with fresh fruits and vegetables, instead of money, and the produce was placed in a box that the students painted, and glued drawings of fruits and vegetables for the Peace Pantry donations.

The other PK class was exploring science concepts of force and motion in their emergent curriculum, designing Rube

Goldberg machines, and using a design thinking model to understand gravity with balls and ramps. STEAM integration added an art element to this learning when students tried painting with marbles and two colors of paint. Using gravity to tilt a tray back and forth, to roll the marble, curious questions arose about colors mixing together, and why the marble slowed down when it rolled through globs of paint. Many preschoolers turned this science art activity into a sensory experience by moving marbles with their fingers when marbles got stuck in paint, adding more globs of paint and additional marbles, eventually hand painting! Another STEAM integration with this emergent curriculum was a cooperative partner engineering challenge to build a 3D lego maze for a marble. Once they built a maze, partners had to work together to tilt and turn the flat board to make the marble move through the maze, avoiding dead ends and finding the way out. Students practiced problem solving and persistence, with many failed attempts, in order to successfully work their marble through mazes together!

The youngest Carey students developed a growing interest in transportation and specifically airplanes and airport travel as their emergent curriculum. STEAM time offered opportunities for many kinds of airplane play and exploration, including decorating and flying paper airplanes, building and painting wooden glider planes, testing plane flights and distances all over the playgrounds, cloud painting and more. Cardboard and other materials were collected to build, paint, duct tape, write signage for, and create the many parts of an airport and airplane, including gate check desks, security, baggage claim, and an actual airplane. All of this engineering and construction STEAM play included the STEAM mindsets of curiosity, persistence, and problem solving. The culmination of STEAM integration was celebrated with many days of airport and airplane play, inviting other classes to take a flight to destinations all over the world!







HISTORY IN THE MAKING



A Carey Connection to the White House

BY KARENA MARTIN KINDERGARTEN TEACHER

In December, my husband Rossi, Carey's fifth grade assistant teacher, and I had the privilege to be a part of an exciting and unique experience. We received a phone call from Jennifer Dane, a former Carey kindergarten assistant teacher, who was then the CEO and Executive Director of the Modern Military Association of America, the nation's largest non-profit dedicated to advancing fairness and equality for the LGBTQ+ military and veteran community. She invited us to attend the signing of the bill called the "Respect for Marriage Act" at the White House, where President Joe Biden signed interracial and same-sex marriage into federal law.

As an interracial couple with young biracial children, it was an honor for us to be representing not only other interracial families but also sharing in the passage of marriage for same-sex families. The bill safeguards rights and protections for same-sex and interracial couples, ensuring that they are recognized as valid by the federal government and all states in the nation.



Jennifer, Rossi, Karena, Megan and Brayden

The event was emotional and a huge celebration, with over 4,500 families in attendance, including dozens of plaintiffs, thousands of advocates, and families like ours, who have loudly or quietly fought for marriage equality and justice for years. As we listened to the key speakers, including President Biden and Vice President Kamala Harris, we were reminded of the importance of teaching children that families can be constructed in many different ways and how important and



The President and Dr. Biden request the pleasure of your company at the signing of the Respect for Marriage Act to be held at The White House on Tuesday, December 13, 2022 at three-thirty o'clock

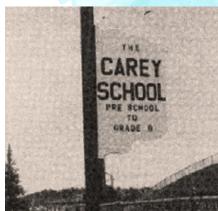
Please respond via this link Kindly direct any questions to The Social Secretary The White House (202)456-7788 Social Office R. SV Powho copyou

valid all identities are, even when others do not always agree. Allowing children to be open to understanding that not all families have a mom and a dad and that families can be much more diverse is foundational to the social-emotional learning model that we continuously strive to achieve.

I came away from this experience feeling inspired and even more excited to start our family unit in January. Learning about family structures is an important part of the Kindergarten social studies curriculum. We discuss and identify similarities and differences between families with the goal of students understanding and respecting different family structures. Kindergartners end the unit celebrating and taking pride in their own unique family structure and appreciating the family structures of others.

Jennifer is now working with the U.S Department of Justice (Immigration Reform) and U.S. Department of Veteran Affairs (Office of Health Innovation and Learning) as a government contractor, continuing her work towards advancing fairness and equality in other areas of government. She still occasionally joins our kindergarten class via Zoom from DC and shares with us her ongoing adventures. She still holds the Carey community close, and Rossi and I are grateful to her for the incredible experience.





Telling Our Story

Nearly 100 Years of Education Unfolds





Historical photos from The Carey School archive.

School set to grow

ar.

Besides a new library, the 3,240 user-feet of improvements include new computer lab with about 26 w computers, a new art classroom d a faculty room for teachers. An en-air amphitheater and new entry aza will also be added — with addenging, officials said.

The school is located at 2101 ameda de las Pulgas in San Mateo. The plans were originally



Litman-Cleper said. Work on the project is slated to begin this sum-



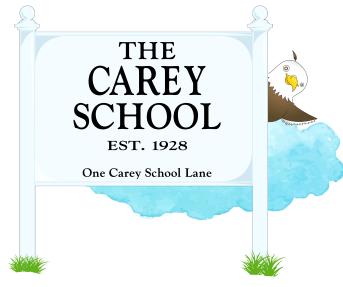




REVEALING OUR NEW HISTORY WALL

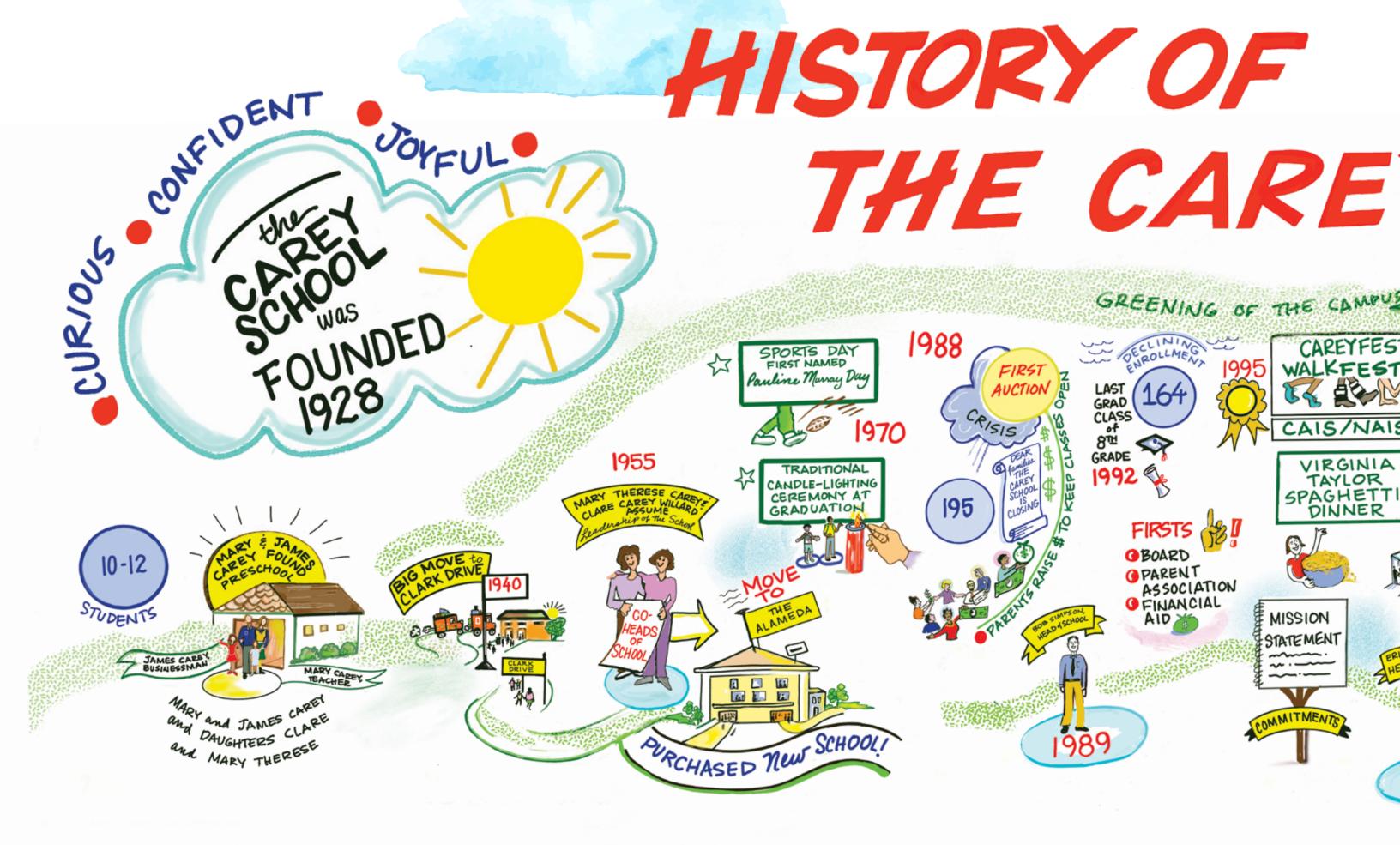
Our original history wall ended in 2014. So much has happened in the past decade. In May 2022, a group of former and current trustees engaged in dynamic conversations about the important milestones that should be highlighted. Dialogues, stories, and moments in time were shared, tracked, and recorded. We partnered with a professional graphic recorder and ten months and countless revisions later, we revealed the updated history wall at an intimate event for current and former trustees. This summer, the new history wall will be mounted in the breezeway and we invite you to visit and allow the wall to guide you through all of Carey's big moments thus far.



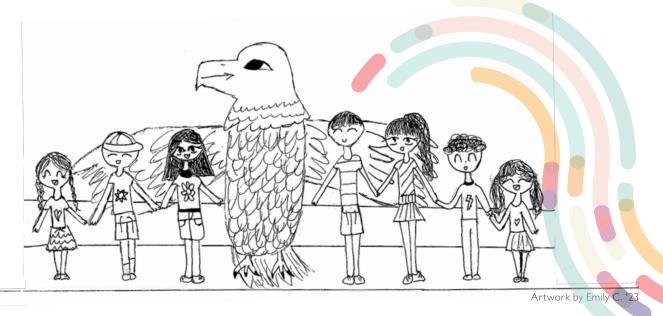












Feathered Friends Forever















The Carey School Walkfest Returns In Person!

BY RACHEL CHU AND EMILY WITKOP CAREY SCHOOL PARENTS

After anxiously checking weather reports during what turned out to be an epically wild winter season, we were elated that the sun shone down brightly at our well-loved Carey tradition, Walkfest, on November 12, 2022. For parents like us, who had only experienced Walkfest in its pandemic staggered-time, split-event form, we were thrilled to see our wonderful community gather in-person at Junipero Serra High School. We chose this year's theme of Feathered Friends Forever to honor the special relationships and celebrate the amazing community we have at Carey, as our children sought medals of gold, silver and bronze.

The old adage, "it takes a village", certainly applies to Walkfest. Our fifth graders played a crucial role in designing t-shirts, providing entertainment as Feathers, and showing all the younger kids the ropes for this special Carey tradition. The facilities team at Serra could not have been more helpful in welcoming our Carey crew, and our amazing Carey parents and staff ensured that everyone was organized, hydrated, well-fed, cheered on, and even entertained with fun games, facepaint and more. Not to mention all of the colorful posters and decorations created by each grade that helped encourage our kids as they walked lap after lap. We were amazed by how selflessly everyone served from

earlybird set-up to sunset clean-up, and we want to thank all of our 178 volunteers who made this event possible!

Additionally, we want to thank the Sustainability Committee for providing great advice and encouraging us to make Walkfest an event that limited waste, removed single-use plastic water bottles, and included thoughtful prizes. The OneCarey Committee's work on their event planning checklist also helped ensure that we were able to provide an inclusive, affordable (thank you FLIK!) event for ALL of our Carey families.

> Overall, our kids walked a total of 1,204 laps, and we are so proud of them for hitting their goals by getting some steps and sunshine with their family and friends.

Please stay tuned for some exciting changes for Walkfest 2023. We can't wait to see you all out on the track this fall!

OneCarey The Stories of Us

BY CLAUDIA DIERKES-BANKS AND NATE GEER ONECAREY CO-CHAIRS

The Carey School, located in the heart of a diverse community, is committed to fostering an inclusive and welcoming environment for all its students and their families. To celebrate the rich cultural heritage of its community, OneCarey, Carey's diversity, equity and inclusion committee, made up of parents, teachers, and staff, organized an event called "The Stories of Us." This event provided an opportunity for families to share their culture with others through food, dance, displays, and games.

In addition to the dance performances, savory and sweet culinary samples, and games, families also set up display booths that showcased their cultural heritage. Booths were decorated with colorful posters, traditional artifacts, and informative displays that highlighted the history and traditions of their culture. Students and parents were excited to learn about the different customs and traditions that they might not have been aware of before. The displays helped to promote a greater understanding and appreciation of cultural diversity, and fostered a sense of unity and belonging within the school community.





Families that participated in hosting tables reported that their children "were so proud and excited to share with their classmates and friends" and that planning the table was a meaningful family activity. An attendee shared that it was "their favorite Carey event" and that they "loved learning more about their friends and trying out the dances and food." The event provided an opportunity for families to come together and share their culture with others in a fun and engaging way.

OneCarey is so proud to have been an organizer of the event and looks forward to doing a similar event next year. We know that an event like this is just a small part of creating an inclusive environment for students, faculty and parents. The event provided an opportunity for families to share their unique perspectives and experiences, and helped to build bridges between different cultural groups. It is events like these that help to create a more compassionate and empathetic society, one that values and respects the diversity of its members.





Through food, dance, displays, and games, the event promoted cultural awareness and appreciation, and helped to create a sense of unity and belonging within the school community.









CAREY'S **CLIMATE AUDIT**

Bringing the Work to Life



BY NEELY NORRIS, HEAD OF SCHOOL

The 2022-2023 school year saw the completion of the climate audit undertaken by The Carey School Board of Trustees in collaboration with Dr. Valaida Wise. After a comprehensive process, Dr. Wise's team shared recommendations which were shared at the State of the School in January 2023. Now, the work begins to bring these recommendations to life.

DEI+B work has long been an integral part of who Carey is, but we now have the opportunity to create and share a roadmap to both continue this work and bring our community together around it. It is not enough to be a place that celebrates inclusion; we must work each day to recommit to our community and to create a sense of belonging for all that are a part of it.

Some of our accomplishments this school year include:

- Continued work on the DEI+B scope and sequence
- Classroom library audits for windows and mirrors for our students
- Fifth grade affinity groups for discussing and debriefing classroom content
- Faculty and staff Growth Group work focused on gender equity
- Presentation of the Climate Audit at State of the School
- Family Inclusion Coffees offered for each grade level

Looking ahead, DEI+B work needs to be evergreen and continuously improved upon, which is why actions and outcomes to further the work will need to be part of the school's larger strategic plan which will guide our work for the next five years.

Climate Audit Recommendations

- Define diversity at Carey
- Collect and maintain longitudinal demographic and experiential data
- Financial support for socioeconomic diversity
- Expand faculty and staff recruitment and retention
- Support marginalized families
- DEIB curriculum and learning pathways for parents
- Outward facing action to the rest of the world

A Carey Tribute

Honoring Ms. Kathy Angell and her 33 Years at Carey



by Audra Carli, Erika Silk and Michele Zirelli

Kathleen Ann Angell was born March 7, 1967 in Denver, Colorado. She was raised by her parents, Betty and Edward Angell and her two older brothers Mark and Matt in Foster City. Kathy had a special connection to The Carey School since her mom, Betty, was Carey's receptionist and the amazing voice on Carey's phone for 36 years. Kathy sadly passed away from a short, but difficult battle with cancer on November 20, 2022.

Kathy oozed with warmth and happiness and her infectious laugh would light up a room in seconds. She was the greeter at the front gate most mornings welcoming students as they started their day. The kids couldn't help but skip onto campus after a warm morning greeting from Kathy. Kathy was a loyal friend, devoted colleague and the ultimate "child whisperer". Not everyone has the gift of being able to understand every child but Kathy was able to make any child feel safe, loved, and special and for 33 years she shared that gift with Carey.

Our Carey community has been forever touched by her presence and the many gifts that she brought to us throughout the years. For those of us who knew her or spent time with her she has left us with wonderful memories, a lasting impression and a big hole in our hearts. We will miss her dearly!





Our Carey community has been forever touched by Kathy's presence and the many gifts that she brought to us throughout the years.



First Impressions from their First Year at Carey

The Nieuwoudt Family

As our child, Adelaide, entered her second year of preschool, we dove deep into the rabbit hole of independent education as well as our local public options. Neither of us was prepared for how daunting the admissions process for kindergarten could be in the Bay Area! Over countless Zoom admissions sponsored events, we fell in love with Carey for its passionate teachers, approachable parents and thoughtful administration. Carey was also Adelaide's top choice driven by the red slide and the lack of a required uniform.

Prior to starting our first day in kindergarten, we were warmly welcomed by our mentor family and had met four other incoming kindergarteners for park play dates. So much has been written about the amazing magic of the Carey community but as we reflect back on our first year, we are so grateful it exceeded the hype! The administration and CSPA work so hard to be very inclusive of new families and we were blown away by how easy they made the transition. Events like the new parents' night, Count-Me-In events which convinced our family to go on its first ever camping adventure and the school wide Walkfest helped our family quickly feel like part of the community. Adelaide runs into school every morning and complains in the afternoons if we pick her up "too early" from extended care. Seeing a sixyear-old so joyous about her daily adventures at school is a dream for every parent.



Over the course of the year, Adelaide's teachers were supportive and caring while also pushing her to develop key SEL skills and explore new academic concepts.

From Thinkering to singing silly songs in Spanish to watching chicks hatch in her classroom to taking a game design class in after school adventures, it has been very rewarding to watch her personal growth, both academically and socially, over the year. Perhaps, even luckier, we have also developed close friendships with fellow parents as we cheer from the sidelines. It's hard to imagine a more ideal environment for Adelaide.

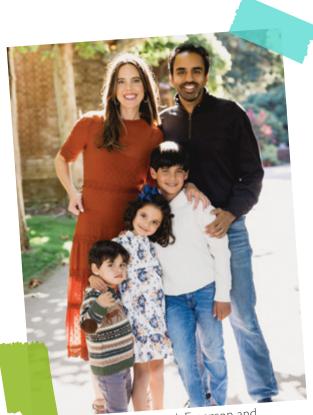
The Kadakia Family

"Bonjour oiseau bleu..." we heard Desi singing from the bathtub. We smiled, hearing his little voice singing in a language we didn't know and that he had just learned in his first year at Carey.

Later that night, we reflected on the past year with the gratitude and peacefulness that comes with seeing your kids happy and thriving; Desi's eagerness when he gets dropped off at school in the morning (wearing Carey-red head to toe), Emmy's excitement about her upcoming job in the PreK food truck, the big siblings' enthusiasm about our little one, Jackson, joining the 3s program next year. It's been just a few months but already something has clicked for our kids: they feel a sense of belonging here.

When we joined Carey earlier this year as a new family, we were nervous about how our little ones would adapt, with Desi changing schools as a second grader and Emmy transitioning to a new preschool. Within the first few weeks our highest expectations were surpassed. Desi would rush home to get his homework done, eager to teach us about native communities and various species of fish. Emmy introduced us to "Little Feathers" and wore her imaginary "kindness cape" around the house. As months have passed, we've seen them both thrive emotionally and academically. Desi has discovered a love for creative writing and French, despite always being a math & science kid and Emmy has found a love of bug science with her pockets full of rocks and little treasures when she gets home.

One of the most distinct parts of our Carey experience has been seeing our kids learn what it means to be part of a community.



Meaghan, Prital, Desmond, Emerson and Jackson Kadakia

When the rains displaced the Pre-K class, Emmy was welcomed to Big Carey with a stack of welcome cards from older Carey students. When Emmy and the other Pre-K Owls held their food truck, her big brother was first in line, beaming with pride and praise for his little sister and her friends. These details foster a sense of safety, empathy, and connection that has underpinned social, emotional, and academic growth in our kids this year.

Although we may never get to make our own hanging "dodecahedrons" in Mr. H's class or hammer out a leather keyring in the Thinkering Lab, our own Carey experience has also been wonderful. We were welcomed with open arms by our Carey mentor family who we adore. We've bonded over campfires, ski boots, Diwali celebrations and much more, building memories as meaningful to us as to our kids. As our littlest enters the 3s program next year, we look forward to being part of this wonderful, warm community for many years to come.

FACULTY MILESTONES

5 YEARS

MEAGAN VINCENT Preschool Director

Written by Amy Vinther

When asked about PK at Carey, there is one word I use to describe Meagan Vincent: GENIUS. Meagan is truly a genius at what she does, not only in the classroom, but now serving as the Director of the Preschool. When Meagan was a PK teacher, her incredibly warm personality lit up PK like wildfire.



Upon meeting Ms. Vincent, children and parents alike are immediately put to ease and comforted in her presence. Her warmth and genuineness permeate her classroom such that every human feels welcome. Her classroom is set up in such a way that all feel inspired to learn and ready to play. Children don't even realize how much they are learning from Ms. Vincent because they are having

so much fun. Meagan's creativity, research based teaching, and ability to dive deep into content at such a young age is a magnificent gift to our children.

Meagan cares about every individual student and sees the good in everyone around her. She truly knows each child socially, emotionally and academically. She is able to pick up on subtle cues which could signify underlying issues and act accordingly, while always keeping things in perspective. She is able to easily navigate conflict among children and help foster friendships among them as well. The skills and language that she teaches the children at very young ages are invaluable. Meagan has helped build and transition PK at Carey into a preschool, now serving as the Director. Meagan is able to use her highly evolved interpersonal skills to lead teachers, interact with all parents and know every student.

Thank you, Meagan Vincent, for making a difference in so many lives- children and parents alike. Congratulations on your five year anniversary!

DAYNA SHON Music Teacher

Written by Natasha Salins

Five years ago, the Carey community gained a star when Dayna Shon joined as its music teacher. Ms. Shon hit the ground running by revolutionizing the school's music program. Operetta,



Holiday Sing and Generations Day were all transformed into grand musical events with vocalists, soloists as well as instrumentalists. Dayna's love of music is contagious, and her ability to inspire and encourage the students is truly remarkable. She has helped to foster a deep appreciation for music in our school, and her contributions to our students' musical education are invaluable.

Nathan Salins remembers his time with Ms. Shon fondly, he said, "Her mentorship helped me shine in the Hamilton Operetta and encouraged me to take up the saxophone in middle school." Chloe Salins loves Ms. Shon's class so much that she was inspired to join The Peninsula Girls Chorus.

Ms. Shon is loved by the entire Carey community. A recent graduate indicated, "Ms. Shon is always so kind and positive." A parent said, "Ms. Shon is pure joy! She did a brilliant job pivoting to remote learning, she kept the class fun and interactive. I watched her virtual classes, and she is incredible." A current fifth grader commented, "Ms. Shon's question of the day is really fun, she makes singing and learning new music exciting."

Ms. Shon is truly an asset to The Carey School and the entire parent community. We are lucky to have her as part of the community as well as her two little girls, Daniella and Amina, who are also beloved members of the Carey family.

CHRISTYN MARSHALL-RAMIREZ **Environmental Education Teacher**

Written by Iill Melvin

For five years Christyn has taught, nurtured and loved - and that's just for us parents. To the kids, Christyn is always there with a warm hug and a big smile. Christyn has a natural gift to be where her students are and brings out the best in each of them using her creativity and by really seeing them for who they are. She pushes them the right amount so that they feel successful when they do more than they thought possible. Everything she teaches is in a way that is learning without

realizing it. It's conversational, interesting and fun. She cares about each student and makes it her business to get to know them.

Christyn started at Carey as a homeroom teacher and last year, her innovative thinking led to the creation of her current

role as Environmental Education Teacher. This role adds to the Carey Specialist classes in so many ways including more unique field trips and overnights as well as opportunities to bring SEL to life. Some students shared that integration days are best when Mrs. Ramirez is involved and that spending time in the garden or on a trip away from



The Carey School are some of their best days. Her hard work and dedication to promoting sustainability and environmental awareness have made a huge impact on our school community.

Her leadership and guidance have been invaluable. She has educated the school about the importance of being environmentally conscious, and has provided us with practical tips and tools to help us reduce waste and make our school a greener place.

I know that Christyn has many dear friends on the faculty and she brings a lot to the camaraderie on campus. We are all so grateful for her leadership, kindness and approach and congratulate you on five years of service!

SHAY WHEELER Second Grade Assistant Teacher

Written by Uma Mahadevan



small group discussions, or providing additional support and encouragement to those who need it, she always goes above and beyond to ensure that our students are receiving the best education possible. It takes a superhero to do what she does, and a super teacher to always do it with a smile on her face.

The guotes from the children have a common theme – kindness and fun.

"Ms. Shay is a kind and loving teacher."

"She has the best attitude and is always helpful, happy and funny.''

"Ms. Shay is a cool cat. She is a great teacher. She is smart, fun and easy to talk to."

Lessons learned in school are not always about math and reading. Alexander the Great said "I am indebted to my father for living, but to my teacher for living well." We are grateful for your compassion and love for our children and the example you set every day. As Shay marks this important milestone of five years of teaching at Carey, her hard work and dedication have not gone unnoticed. She has made a difference in the lives of so many students, and her contributions to education are invaluable. Thank you and congratulations on 5 years at Carey!

SUSAN LOVEALL Chief Financial Officer

Written by Eric Kim

Susan brings a level of energy and excellence that reflects her commitment to The Carey School and her love for education. Having chaired many finance committees with her, I have

witnessed how she prepares for them with an open mind and always helps us get to the right answer. The Carey School is deeply indebted to all of her contributions — the capital campaign, creating affordable loan and capital structures, balancing the budget and making sure Carey has had a very robust and strong financial position. There are also all the



things that she does that deserve great praise and attention the audits, taxes, payroll, accounting -- all of the operational aspects that require the precision of a finance executive are done expertly by her, and we're so appreciative that she makes sure the lights literally stay on.

Susan's financial leadership and strategic planning have helped to guide our organization through many challenges and opportunities. Her management has enabled us to make important investments in our future while maintaining financial stability. Her commitment to accuracy and attention to detail have helped to ensure the financial health of our organization

I've also been fortunate to experience her kindness and generosity on a personal level. For example, she was incredibly sweet and caring to our picky eater Colin, when she repeatedly sat with him during lunch in second grade to encourage him to eat more.

Thank you Susan, and congratulations on your 5 years of amazing service at The Carey School.

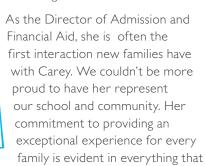
IDA GRUBER

Director of Admission and Financial Aid

Written by Suzanne Liu

When asked what we value most about Carey, we consistently share that our incredible Carey community makes this a very special place. We support and trust one another, encourage and celebrate each other, and bond over the challenges and joys of raising and educating young children. For each family who joins, we are grateful to Ida! We've received hundreds of

> gifts of friendship and support due to her thoughtfulness and dedication.



she does. From leading joyful, memorable events to providing individualized support, she has tremendously enriched the admissions & financial aid experience. The energy and enthusiasm she brings everyday are unparalleled. Her patience and understanding are endless. Her thoughtful responses to thousands of guestions make what could feel like a scary process a smooth and accessible one for families. Ida shares the magic of Carey so powerfully, even seasoned Carey parents can't resist tearing up at her vivid descriptions and stories of how quickly time flies!

Perhaps the greatest gift Ida gives families is the simplest: grace. She sees the best in each family – the talents they hope to share and the diverse perspectives they bring. Her generosity embodies Carey's values. Ida makes Carey's distinctive experience look effortless, miraculously absorbing extra work as the number of prospective families increases exponentially

each year!

Thank you for all you do to make The Carey School such a special place. You are truly appreciated!

10 YEARS

SAUL GERRY Math Enrichment Teacher

Written by Amy Lin

Carey is a magical community in which our children thrive, really to the credit of the amazing faculty and staff, such as Mr. Gerry. As a parent, I cannot thank him enough for how he challenged our daughter's mental capacity, but more importantly, how he helped her at a critical juncture in her



life. Sammy transferred to Carey in 2nd grade and initially had difficulty making friends. I'd hear about how she would sit by herself at recess and just worry about her socially. Then something changed – her mood changed, and she was excited to discuss her recess adventures and eventually other facets of the day. I know that Saul, personally, had a hand in this and am truly grateful for the friendship, guidance, and mentorship he has offered Sammy and other students.

Saul's ability to teach math in a way that is engaging, accessible, and relevant has made a real difference in the lives of the students. He has a gift for breaking down complex concepts and making them understandable to students at all levels. His leadership in the development and implementation of our math curriculum has been instrumental in our students' success. His willingness to share his expertise and collaborate with other teachers has helped to improve math instruction across our school.

- From Sammy (Carey Class of 2022):

"Congratulations on your 10-year anniversary at Carey. You are one of the best teachers at Carey – so fun, cool and just awesome in general. I have missed you so much in the past few months since I graduated. I especially miss our recess talks and solving math problems together. Thank you for playing a giant part in our community and my life. I am so grateful for you."

Congratulations, Saul, Carey is so lucky to have you.

15 YEARS

ZITA AGAZZI K-2 Spanish Teacher

Written by Suzanne Liu

Hearing Everett's daily praise for her and resulting love of the Spanish language, it's truly astounding to me that one person can embody all of the traits Everett continually praised. Each and



every day, her "fairy dust" spreads throughout

The Carey School, infusing our students with joyful spirits, a deep appreciation for the fun of learning, a model for making hard challenges playful, and the confidence that they will succeed.

In crafting our appreciation for 15 years of making miracles for young Spanish learners at Carey, I asked Everett a few questions so we could share a small slice of the impact she has made firsthand:

What is Senorita Zita's superpower? "Senorita Zita is VERY FUN! Her class is so upbeat."

How does Senorita Zita make you feel? "Very happy. Senorita Zita is always smiling! She always has a cheerful voice, and that makes a big difference."

What's the most important thing you learned from Senorita Zita? "You can decide how you want to see something new. Something new can be fun if you see it in a fun way! Doing something hard can be fun!"

Although she technically teaches the Spanish language, Carey students take away so much more. They carry forward that, at its best, learning is fun! Her commitment to joyful learning creates the foundation for their approach to all future challenges.

Perhaps the most meaningful and magical gift of all, she builds students' self-confidence. Students are deeply engaged and feel so safe and supported, they don't realize they're making mistakes as they learn. They don't feel the frustration or shame that often accompany mistakes. They feel empowered, invincible and loved. Her unwavering trust in and dedication to them instills belief in themselves. They see themselves as accomplished Spanish speakers who seek out challenges and can consistently do hard things. Thank you, Zita, for giving so generously of your joy, your unwavering support and confidence in our children, and your enviable ability to make everything fun for 15 cherished, magical years at Carey.

20 YEARS

RAYMOND DIFLEY

Art Teacher

Written by Frans Op den Kamp

Raymond is so much more than an art teacher. This is not an accolade that comes easily and yet it is the most deserved of all. The imagination, creativity, skills, compassion and understanding he uses every day has ensured that an entire generation of Carey students has, unwittingly, gained an appreciation for art they never understood they had.

On a simple artistic level, he explains every kind of art technique in great detail at an age appropriate level for Carey's young artists. He has introduced Carey students to artists from all over the world stretching their exposure to a wide variety of mediums - watercolors, pastels, ceramics, painting; drawing their attention to indigenous artists, artists of color and to iconic artists like Mondriaan and Giacometti.

Beyond that, Mr. D has created some great traditions with

the Carey children - which every parent will know by heart: "ish" and "dot" pictures, ceramic pinch pots and the self-portraits that allow them to see their own art development over the course of their school career. At Celebration of Learning, he creates a great exhibition in the Hall of Feathers each year and it is full of all the



artwork that the students have made. Every year, families crowd around and are amazed at the output from the small art room so carefully curated, such diversity of thought and creativity. It's always a sense of awe of what Mr. D can coax out of the students which is a true reflection of how great a teacher he is.

To sum up, in the words of some students and ex-students Mr. D is "a little strict", "funny", "wants us to try our best", "expects us to pay attention", "creative", "friendly and caring he knows everyone's names!" and "he's so much more than an art teacher". Congratulations on 20 years!



A Day at Carey













RILEY GABRIEL

Carey Class of 2016

For me, The Carey School is where it all began. Even though I joined the school in third grade, I was immediately embraced by my classmates and teachers in ways I had never experienced before. I remember touring all of my new classes on the first day of school when Mme. Considine pulled me aside. She told me that, while new beginnings were hard, she would always be there for me. Over the next three years, she and countless other teachers would make up an empowering and caring support system that would allow me to confidently take on every new beginning in the years to come.

Along with support from mentors at Carey, the student body created such a special, tight-knit community that I have always cherished. I remember spending recesses in the garden with my friends harvesting fava beans and watering plants. We even created a Green Team, rolling a wheelbarrow around





the campus to pick up litter and reminding others that their actions have the power to create positive change. I credit Carey for encouraging my passion for environmental advocacy and my love for nature.

After graduating from Carey, my next new beginning was middle school. In addition to aiding me with the tools to succeed academically at a school like Castilleja, The Carey School helped me develop personal values that remain integral to my life today. For example, the organization Caring at Carey taught me the importance of compassion and the power of community engagement. I remember compiling school supplies for lowincome children at My New Red Shoes, and sorting donated produce to combat food insecurity in San Francisco at Second Harvest Food Bank. The Carey School taught me to advocate for marginalized voices in my local community and continually

"The Carey School truly laid the foundation for me to be a compassionate and hardworking leader who is dedicated to making an impact in the world around me. "

find ways to connect with students who are motivated and passionate to do the same. In fifth grade, I received the G. Lawrence Atkinson Award for community service and, after graduating from Carey, I was overwhelmed with an empowerment that would lead me to seek out opportunities for community engagement at Castilleja. Over the course of my seven years at Castilleja, I have become part of a Peer First Responder organization to provide mental health support to students on campus, a certified Body Positive Facilitator to teach young students about the importance of self-love and intuitive living, and a member of Castilleja's own Green Team to partner with local changemakers in the realm of climate action.

Next year, I will be attending Barnard College of Columbia University. I am majoring in Environmental Studies, continuing to explore my passion for environmental advocacy, sustainability, and social justice that The Carey School instilled in me ten years ago. I have so much gratitude for the mentors and students of the Carey community that shaped me into the person I am today, and I cannot wait for every new beginning I have the opportunity to take on in the near future.

EVAN LEHMAN

Carey Class of 2020

As I reflect back on my experience at Carey, I cannot help but feel grateful for the education, friendships and experience I had there.

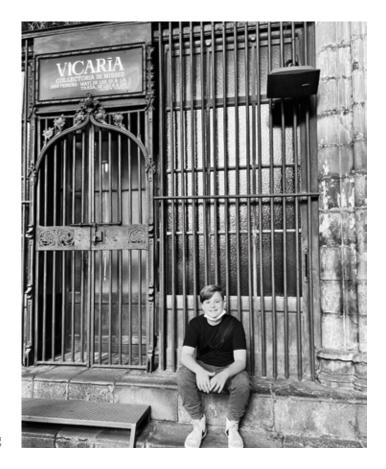


At Carey, I was given some valuable life skills that I still carry with me today. I learned about treating people with kindness and respect. I learned that it is important to be open-minded and to listen to others, even if you don't agree with them. I learned that it is important to be forgiving and to give people the

benefit of the doubt. I learned about responsibility and how to be accountable for our actions as well as what it means to be part of a community.

I have so many fond memories of my time at Carey. I'll never forget the Walkfests, Saratoga Springs and Coloma trips, Spaghetti Dinners, and end-of-year Operetta performances. Yet, what I remember most about Carey was the sense of community. I felt like I belonged, and I knew that I could always count on my friends and teachers.

"At Carey, I was given valuable life skills that I still carry with me today."



One of the most valuable things I learned at Carey was the Spanish language. I have continued to study the language at Woodside Priory and was even able to put my skills to use on a trip to Spain with my mom in 2022. It was an amazing experience to be able to navigate my way through the country, communicate with the locals and fully immerse myself in the culture.

More than anything, I am grateful for the friendships I made at Carey. Even though we all went our separate ways in middle school, we still stay in touch and support each other. My time at Carey will always hold a special place in my heart and I am proud to be an alumni of the The Carey School.

Suzanne Gibbs

Alumni Parent



"One day children who benefit from your generosity will be giving a graduation speech and heading out to change the world!"

"Having a learning difference is hard, but it's not a problem. People with learning differences may struggle in one area but excel in others, and can use their strengths to their advantage. If you have a learning difference, don't be ashamed, be grateful." ~ Eli Gibbs, Class of '22

I heard my son end his graduation speech with these words, after thanking his teachers and his peers for their support of him during his years at Carey. He is my second Carey graduate, both of whom have the same learning differences, and both of whom were championed along the way. Many of us can find pivotal moments in our lives when our trajectory changed; for our family choosing Carey was one of those key times for which I am grateful. Without keen faculty who noticed subtle cues about the way my kids learned, a support team who found ways



to help them succeed, and a network of other parents to share their experiences, IP and Eli would have had very different elementary school experiences.

I, too, found a special home at Carey, meeting so many wonderful families who became our extended family. My late husband never had the opportunity to become part of this community, as he passed away in June before IP, our oldest, started Kindergarten. Choosing Carey for JP was one of the last major decisions Brian and I made together; we both fell in love with the mission, philosophy, and teaching style at Carey. I know he would have been crying right along with me at Eli's graduation speech!

One thing that kept coming to mind over the last decade was "How can we give this to more kids?" While I'm so grateful JP and Eli benefited from a Carey education, I didn't want it to stop with them. Brian and I always talked about paying forward the generosity of the community that supported our family and I have been continuously looking for ways to build his legacy. I was happy to learn about a way I could achieve both by becoming a Flying Eagle.

At first I thought becoming a Flying Eagle was out of my reach or too complicated to set up, but after a conversation with Carey's Development Director, Resham Bharwani, I realized I had been overthinking the process and it was so much simpler than I had imagined. There are a variety of ways to include Carey in future giving and signing up is straightforward. I encourage anyone looking to leave a mark on future Carey families to consider the Flying Eagles program. One day, children who benefit from your generosity will be giving a graduation speech and heading out to change the world!

Building a Legacy



"We are grateful for this community and hopeful our planned gift will have a lasting impact on future generations of Carey families."



We have been a part of the Carey community for twelve years. It was our home when we first moved back to California, welcoming us back from the east coast. We celebrated with Carey families and colleagues when we got married in 2014 and the whole Carey community celebrated with us when we welcomed first Elliot in 2016 and then Evan in 2018. Since then, our boys have benefited from the amazing Carey teachers, enjoyed every Carey tradition, and slid down that big red slide more times than we can count. After all that Carey has supported us through and given us, we are eager to support Carey by becoming a Flying Eagle family. We are grateful for this community and hopeful our planned gift will have a lasting impact on future generations of Carey families.









Thomas Jewett



Joshua Kaminaris



Giuliana Kavanaugh



Keenan Lam



Noah Lochbaum



Matty Markson



Camille Martichoux



Mira Menashe



Noga Nelken-Regev



Milo Punzalan



Misha Sekhar



Aanya Sheth



Noemie Sims



Autumn Song



Nokomis Taylor



Sophie Toy



Aya Tripp



Lindsay Tsao



Anthony Tung



Natalie Whitesell



Michael Winters



Chloe Wu



Emma Grace Yahya





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