

THE CAREY C NNECTION

VOLUME FIFTEEN | SUMMER 2024

*Embracing the Power
of Community and Connection*

THE CAREY CONNECTION

VOLUME 15 - SUMMER 2024

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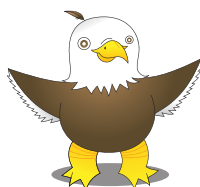


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from the *Head of School*



Another wonderful school year has come to a close at Carey, and we have so much to be thankful for. A community of joyful learners, families who care deeply and alumni near and far who will always be Carey Eagles. This installment of The Carey Connection is a beautiful embodiment of just that- connection. From our newest families to alumni of

years past, we hope this magazine will spark joy, excitement and engagement with our school.

Through these pages, we hope you will celebrate our thriving learning community.

Read on to get a glimpse of how we celebrate Generations Day, welcoming grandparents and special friends to both campuses. Hear first-hand from some of our grandparents about their experience spending a day in the life of their Carey student through a musical performance, time in classrooms, and learning from teachers and students alike.

Take a trip to the old growth redwoods our fifth graders encountered on the inaugural trip to Yosemite and hear from our Environmental Education teacher, Christyn Marshall-Ramirez, about the importance of this culminating trip for our fifth graders and all of the natural exploration, team building and social-emotional development outdoor education offers our students.

See some of our robust programming and learn from Audra Carli about our Nests structure, which groups buddy pairs across grades. These nest cohorts connect monthly and build deep relationships across all grades throughout the school year. Zita Agazzi, Jennifer De Sousa, Nate Geer and Raymond Difley also share examples of our Integration Friday work where learning comes to life for students across content areas.

As we embark on a new strategic plan to debut in 2025, and are already planning for our centennial in 2028, we are thrilled to be thinking towards the future and the next one hundred years of Carey. Board member Vivian Lovett shares insight into our Master Campus Plan process and some of the early drawings that will help us transform the Carey school to even better express our mission and goals of graduating curious, confident, and joyful learners. We will look to adapt our physical outdoor environment where kids can make meaning, explore, collaborate and play in ways that better support the work in classrooms and their learning

The future is bright for Carey and I am so grateful to lead this dynamic, connected and kind school. I hope the stories on these pages deepen your connection to Carey as they spotlight the vibrant moments, excellence in education, and forward planning that make Carey a truly singular place.

With gratitude,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "neelynorris". The signature is written in a cursive, lowercase style.

Neely Norris



“

I hope the stories on these pages deepen your connection to Carey as they spotlight the vibrant moments, excellence in education, and forward planning that make Carey a truly singular place.

— Neely Norris, Head of School



“

I am pleased to
share with you the
significant strides
we have made in
advancing Carey's
mission and
securing its future.

— Lindsay Ramsay,
President of the
Board of Trustees



from the **President of the Board of Trustees**



As I reflect on the past year, I am pleased to share with you the significant strides we have made in advancing Carey's mission and securing its future. This year, the board has been diligently focused on three key strategic initiatives that will ensure the school's security and legacy for years ahead.

This year, we began the work to craft a strategic plan that encapsulates the vision for the future of Carey. Through a thoughtful and collaborative partnership with consultant Kelsey Schroeder, we are confident that our next strategic plan, debuting in January 2025, will lay a strong foundation and guide us in fulfilling our commitment to provide an exceptional experience for our students and families.

Our second initiative, Carey's Master Plan, which began in the Spring of 2023, continues as we think of creative ways to optimize the use of space on campus. By reimagining our facilities, our goal is to create an environment that will continue to foster the growth and development of our curious, confident and joyful learners.

Finally, as we think about the future, we are reminded of Carey's upcoming centennial celebration in 2028. The board remains dedicated to ensuring Carey is a leader in early childhood education and maintaining a solid financial foundation. This commitment allows for the Carey magic that we all experience and cherish to continue for future generations.

It fills me with pride to belong to a community that cherishes our long standing traditions while propelling ourselves towards a future where curiosity, confidence and joy are the hallmarks of learning. Our steadfast commitment to fostering an atmosphere that embraces equity, diversity and inclusion serves as both our anchor and our compass, grounding and directing our path forward.

In closing, I want to extend my heartfelt gratitude to this incredible community for its unwavering support and dedication to our school.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lindsay Ramsay".

Lindsay Ramsay

**"I have an
ASA today!"**

**"They
help us
learn new
experiences."**



AFTER SCHOOL ADVENTURES

By Laura Baran, Auxilliary Programs Director

After a bustling day at school, it seems unlikely that children would eagerly anticipate more learning, yet that's precisely the case for Carey students. Excitedly, they line up to be signed into Extended Care, proclaiming, "I have an ASA today!" After School Adventures, better known as ASAs, are optional after-school activities open to all Carey students, offering a platform for students to extend their learning beyond the classroom. Whether it's delving into STEM, honing artistic skills, or engaging in physical activities, there's something for everyone in the ASA program. The program enables students to pursue their unique interests in a supportive and collaborative environment, promoting student choice, social connections, and hands-on learning.



Whether they're building a model rocket, choreographing a dance routine, or experimenting with mixed media, students are actively involved in their learning journey.

The program also grew to include Carey's youngest learners, recognizing the importance of early exposure to diverse experiences. A selection of classes for Preschool and Pre-Kindergarten students was carefully curated to include such options as Mandarin, Bug Science, and Dance. As the ASA offerings continue to expand, we remain committed to providing these important opportunities for exploration, investigation, and discovery at both of our campuses.



After School Adventures offer a wealth of benefits that enhance the overall Carey experience for our students. By creating a supportive and inclusive environment where children can connect with peers to share interests and develop new skills, ASAs foster a spirit of camaraderie and belonging. ASAs empower children to thrive both academically and socially by forging connections across grade levels, providing a collaborative environment to exchange ideas, and maximizing after-school time for learning and creativity. Consequently, ASAs become not just an extracurricular activity but a vital component of a well-rounded Carey education.

The ASA program has a rich history at The Carey School, having been enjoyed by generations of students. However, the onset of the pandemic forced a temporary pause in operations as the school adapted to new health and safety protocols. Luckily, there was a silver lining to the challenges brought about by the pandemic: with many enrichment vendors permanently closing their doors during the hiatus, we had the opportunity to innovate the ASA program before reintroducing it for the 2022-23 school year. We introduced new classes, designed to captivate and inspire students, with an emphasis on experiential learning.

Central to the revitalization of the ASA program is its diverse course offerings, spanning a wide range of student interests from robotics to soccer to sewing.

The variety of ASA classes ensures that every participant has the opportunity to explore their passions and develop new skills. Kindergarten student Emma Lehman says she likes ASAs because "they help us learn new experiences," and fellow Kindergartener Matias Lema enjoys them "because they're challenging." Whether students are practicing a familiar hobby or trying an activity for the first time, ASAs provide a fun and low-stakes environment to foster lifelong learning. Reflecting on his carpentry class, 2nd grade student Elliot Norris shares, "I get to 'free make' in Carpentry, and it's really fun how you can choose what you want to do." ASAs grant students the autonomy and flexibility to immerse themselves in a subject of their choice during after-school hours. Through hands-on projects and interactive sessions, students not only acquire new skills but also develop critical thinking, problem-solving, and teamwork abilities.



"I like them because they're challenging."

TOGETHER WE RISE

Carey Community Packs Over 10,000 Meals with Rise Against Hunger

By Jamie Hwang and Siejen Stevenson
Caring at Carey Committee Co-Chairs





For the second consecutive year, over 125 volunteers from the Carey community gathered on March 2nd in the Hall of Feathers to work with Rise Against Hunger by packing an impressive 10,152 meals in under 90 minutes to address food insecurity in Southeast Asia. Each bag of food contained a vitamin pack, rice, soybeans, and freeze-dried vegetables. A single small bag contains 1250 calories and 84 grams of protein, enough to feed up to six people and provide essential nutrients with 20 vitamins and minerals.

Founded in 1998, Rise Against Hunger is an international hunger relief organization dedicated to packing and delivering food to the world's most vulnerable populations experiencing food insecurity. In addition to hosting meal-packing events, Rise utilizes its funds, resources, and expertise to respond to global emergencies, support local economies, and empower communities in developing areas by promoting self-reliance through training and essential resource provision. Currently, Rise serves communities in 76 countries worldwide.

This remarkable opportunity was facilitated through our 2022-2023 CSPA President, Melita Jampol, who also previously served as the Chair of the Caring at Carey committee. Identifying volunteer opportunities involving young children has become notably more challenging since the pandemic. Rise Against Hunger teamed

with Carey's Environmental Education teacher, Christyn Marshall-Ramirez. Her curriculum on food insecurity serves as a wonderful means to engage our youngest learners at Carey while delivering meaningful impact. Christyn said, "Students at Carey are empathetic and open to learning about social justice. The important factor in teaching them about issues such as food insecurity is to offer a solution. Part of Environmental Ed's focus this year is solutionary thinking and opportunities such as the Rise Against Hunger event are a perfect opportunity to take action and connect the curriculum to the real world."

Racing around and working swiftly to meticulously pack, seal, and prepare these vital meals for shipment was an inspiring and incredible display of teamwork among children and adults alike. It showed the profound spirit of the Carey community. These meals will be dispatched from Oakland Harbor and distributed to families in Southeast Asia, specifically Vietnam, Cambodia, and the Philippines. Rise operates a strategic distribution model, allocating meals based on the location of the packing event. Shipments from the East Coast are directed to Africa, those from Los Angeles to Latin America, and those from the San Francisco Bay Area to Southeast Asia.

The local Bay Area Rise team operates as a three-person operation based out of Union City. During busy months, Rise will have up to 25 events scheduled

locally with faith groups, schools and corporations. Last year they packed 2.4 million meals and their goal is to increase meals by 13%.

Looking ahead, the Caring at Carey committee is exploring opportunities to collaborate with ALAS, a nonprofit organization based in Half Moon Bay. ALAS has been instrumental in supporting farmworkers and their families on the San Mateo Coastside, providing advocacy and solutions for the local Latino community. The organization's name, which translates to "helping Latinos to dream," reflects its mission. ALAS was honored as the Non-Profit of the Year by the State of California in 2023. This partnership would be an addition to Caring at Carey's existing programs with LifeMoves, the Peninsula Humane Society and the Hillsdale Peace Pantry. Stay tuned for ongoing updates from the Caring at Carey committee and join us for an upcoming event!



Generations Day



Brij Aghi

Grandparent of Pranav

Attending Generations Day at Carey is always a pleasure. The program in the Hall of Feathers is quite impressive – the teachers do a great job of preparing the students. It is also very nice to meet other grandparents and special friends who show up for their students.

I especially enjoy visiting the classroom to see how Pranav and his classmates have developed and grown over the past year. Each year we get demonstrations of projects the children have done over the year. Pranav and his friends were so excited to show me a project they had collaborated on. I truly appreciate and admire the celebration of learning at Carey.

“I admire the celebration of learning at Carey.”

Merrill Biancosino

Grandparent of Ezra, Laila '21 and Eli '19

I was excited to be in California for Generations Day with the youngest of my three Carey School grandchildren, but the day became more special when I was asked to be the special person for Ezra's friend Mac, whose relatives were unavailable that day.

I live in New Jersey and, although I have been at the school for several Walkfests, deliveries of multiple birthday cupcakes, Valentine's Day, and pickups from After Care, I was never there for Generations Day until last fall. That day, I learned more about Carey's philosophy and history, saw the whole school perform as a chorus for us special people, and spent time in a couple classes with both kids. We got to know each other at snack time and had fun making an art project, a sort of triptych, that the kids allowed me to keep. It was extra special to be asked to be an example of Carey's inclusion by having two special kids with me that morning.

Generations Day, celebrated on both of our campuses at the end of November, is a day we invite grandparents and special friends of our students to campus to experience the vibrant, engaged learning that happens each day for our preschool through fifth grade students.



Carolyn Martin

Grandparent of Gianna and Danté '20

When attending Generations Day at The Carey School, from the moment I stepped on the campus, I could feel the love and warm energy. Gathering with other grandparents and special friends was a great opportunity for us to ask questions and learn not only about Carey's history but also about its vision for the future. This event has become something I look forward to each year. I have been able to participate and see what my grandchildren are learning, and create great memories with them.

As my grandson Danté and now my granddaughter, Gianna, move on from Carey, I am honored to have had these experiences with both of them on Generations Day and will forever hold these memories in my heart. The Carey School is a special, magical place, and I am so glad both my grandchildren have had the opportunity to learn from such talented, passionate, kind, and caring teachers and administrators. Thank you for taking such great care of them especially during those important formative years.



David Lowenberg

Grandparent of Sam

I had the pleasure of spending the morning with my grandson Sam on Generations Day at Carey. I felt a true sense of community. I appreciated the love and passion for their jobs that every member of the faculty projected. I left with an appreciation of there still being institutions in the Bay Area that value a well rounded education, diversity, and where a love of teaching exists. I am thrilled that Sam was able to land at such a nurturing place.

“I felt a true sense of community.”



From the breakfast, musical performance and time in classrooms with students, our Grandparents and Special Friends are treated to a wonderful experience and a taste of our programming at Generations Day.







NATURE'S CLASSROOM

Carey 5th Graders Embrace the Wonders of Yosemite

Carey has many traditions that have spanned its history, and one of the most popular has been the long-standing tradition for 5th graders to participate in "Outdoor Ed." Call it a rite of passage, a time to bond with classmates, or a stepping stone toward independence, this tradition has taken many different forms over the years. In the past, 5th graders have spent time in the redwood forests of Pescadero and the coastal region of the Marin Headlands. This year for the first time, the 5th graders ventured into the Yosemite Valley and surrounding areas. Each outing has offered a variety of opportunities for the students to stretch their intellectual curiosity and embrace challenges with grace and enthusiasm. The four day excursion is a significant part of the fifth grade year,

where students connect through shared experiences building tighter bonds for a closer class community.

The choice of going to Yosemite with the Naturebridge program was to build a more robust outdoor education program at Carey. We decided it was important to extend the radius of our travels to a different and iconic ecosystem of California: the Sierra Nevada. Given our proximity to the natural treasures all around us here in the Bay Area that can easily be accessed with a short drive, it felt like an obvious choice to expose the students to the glorious mountain range of the Sierra Nevada, and the unique and majestic landscape of Yosemite Valley. Our Yosemite visit gives 5th graders the opportunity to

step outside their own environment and learn about the different cycles in nature, unique geological formations specific to the area, and understand the perspectives of the indigenous communities that settled in the region long ago. The students spend each day hiking the trails, participating in fun lessons and activities, and forging positive connections with their peers and the Naturalists leading the program.

Perhaps the most important payoff from experiencing outdoor ed is the time spent with classmates away from home. In addition to the structured activities, the students have plenty of down time, where they are allowed to play in the forest, relax under a tree



by Christyn Marshall-Ramirez,
Environmental Education Teacher
and Liz Considine, Fifth Grade Teacher

reading their favorite book, or just socialize with friends. This unscheduled time is essential in building greater resilience, teamwork and confidence, while fostering a sense of adventure outside their comfort zone. Many students shared that their favorite part of outdoor ed was the fort building during free time, when students came together to build a series of structurally sound forts, labeled “presidential suite, general bunker and the rock.” One student reported that this activity brought him closer to his classmates as they worked together as a team to create something and it gave him a “sense of pride and collaboration.”

The timing of our trip has changed this year as well, as outdoor ed took place in November instead of spring. This earlier time in the fifth grade experience benefited students with social bonding that is only possible in these kinds of “out of your comfort zone” experiences. Many students reported that their friendships grew, and they found new connections with students they wouldn’t have likely interacted with at school. **Trust was built between students as they trekked on hikes together, accomplished challenges, created skits, engaged in silly songs and competitions around the campfire, appreciated each other before bedtime and had mindful moments.**

As we plan for next year, we are thrilled to be able to go back to Yosemite, and benefit from Nature Bridge’s seasoned program and expert naturalists. We look forward to spending four days surrounded by the snow capped peaks of the Sierras and the abundant show of Fall color. Although this is an opportunity for the students to experience many “first times...” such as the first time away from family for so long, or the first time hiking long distances, or the first time sleeping in the same room as 20 other students, their accomplishments on this trip will remain with each of them for a long time, and rise to the top of cherished memories from their days at Carey.



Integration Fridays

Unique to Carey is our bi-weekly Friday Integration block where we blend the content knowledge of Specialist classes with the skills learned in homeroom. It's a comprehensive learning experience and a time when learning truly fosters creativity, collaboration, and exploration.

Fourth Graders Blend Art, Poetry, and Technology

by Nate Geer, Technology Integration Coordinator
and Raymond Difley, Art Teacher

Our fourth graders explored the theme of "perspective" through the integration of technology, art, and poetry. The overall goal was to demonstrate how perspective can vary depending on the lenses through which we view the world. While fourth grade teachers explored the power of poetry to change lenses and perspectives, Mr. Geer and Mr. D. teamed up to look at how we can fuse traditional art techniques with modern digital tools using our Chromebooks. Students were introduced to various photo-editing tools, learning how they could manipulate images to alter perspectives. From adjusting colors to applying filters, and even blending two images together, they explored the vast possibilities these professional-editing tools offer.

The culmination of the project involved each student taking their pencil-drawn self-portrait and bringing it into the digital realm. With newfound knowledge and creative freedom and choice, the students were tasked with manipulating their portraits using the photo editing tools they had learned about in our Integration Fridays. What ensued was a whirlwind of creativity as students eagerly experimented with different effects and enhancements. Some added vibrant colors to their portraits, while others played with filters to evoke different moods and atmospheres. Despite the digital transformations, one thing remained constant—the distinctiveness of each student's face, ensuring their identity remained intact amidst the creative exploration.

Students not only showed off their artistic skills but also developed a deeper understanding of perspective and its role in shaping perceptions. They discovered that a slight alteration in color or composition could completely change the mood and meaning of an artwork, highlighting the power of perspective in art and beyond.



Kindergarteners Explore the Journey of Chocolate

by Zita Agazzi, K-2 Spanish Teacher and
Jennifer de Sousa, Librarian

During our most recent integration project homeroom teachers worked with Señorita Zita and Ms. de Sousa to focus on the overarching theme of fruits from around the world. The students rotated between different lessons, activities, and hands-on experiences. Students explored the concept that chocolate comes from the cacao fruit (yes, chocolate grows on trees!). Our teaching was guided by the students' questions, particularly how and where the cacao fruit grows and the process of extracting the parts needed to make the delicious chocolate we enjoy in different forms.

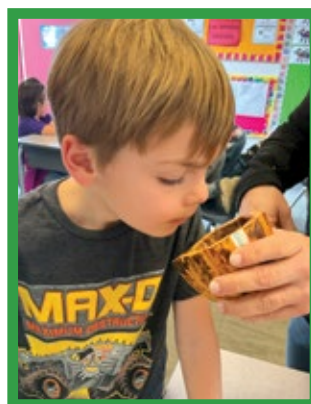
Ms. de Sousa introduced the concept of research, focusing on obtaining information from sources we can trust. She kicked off the unit by showing AI-generated images of chocolate bars growing on trees and segued into examining, comparing, and contrasting fiction and non-fiction books. She then focused on using non-fiction books to gather information about a topic, specifically the cacao fruit.

Señorita Zita obtained cacao pods from Puerto Rico, enabling the students to use their five senses to explore the various parts of the pod! The cacao investigation culminated in students making traditional Mexican hot



chocolate using an authentic tool called Molinillo to froth Mexican chocolate in clay pots. This activity was met with excitement as everyone tasted and enjoyed the hot chocolate they had made. The unit also included engaging movement and music in Spanish, as well as reading an ancient Aztec legend on the origins of chocolate.

Working as a team, we found this integration session particularly rewarding, as we were truly able to collaborate to bring our expertise in our subjects together to introduce students to a topic we knew would engage them and tap into their natural curiosity!





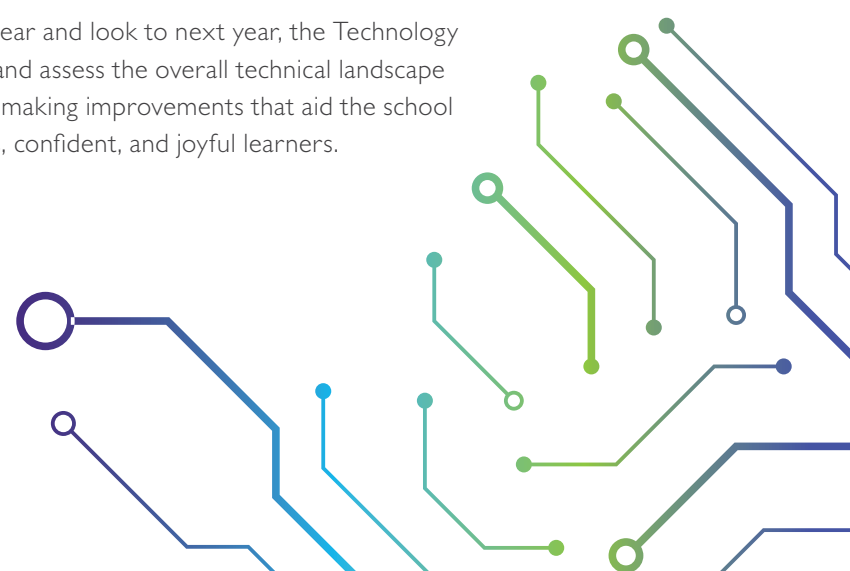
Tech Evolution

Enhancing Carey
Connectivity,
Security,
and Efficiency

by Robert Miles, Director of Technology & Facilities

This has been a busy school year for The Carey School's Technology Department. After performing an assessment of our network infrastructure, security cameras, and student information system, and getting feedback from faculty and staff, we acknowledged a need to improve each of these areas.

As we close out the 2023-2024 school year and look to next year, the Technology Department will continue to evaluate and assess the overall technical landscape of The Carey School and proceed with making improvements that aid the school community to inspire curious, confident, and joyful learners.



2023-24 Technology Updates

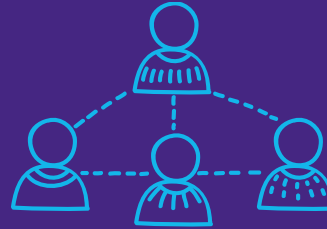


Installed **new wireless access points** in every classroom and office, and both Halls of Feathers.



Replaced aging network equipment with new cloud-based Cisco Meraki devices to **improve network and wireless connectivity** across the school.

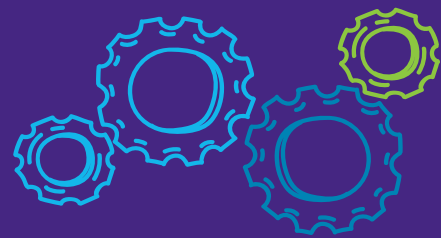
This upgrade also provides **remote access** to our device for administration and maintenance.



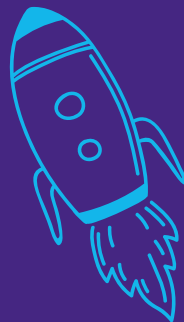
Removed an **unnecessary service** with an offsite co-location facility, resulting in cost savings.



Upgraded our on-premise phone system to a **cloud-based phone system**



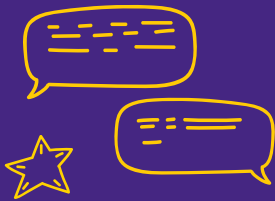
Upgraded our **internet connection** with our ISP, AT&T.



Migrated from an outdated, on-premise student information system to Veracross, a **fully integrated, 100% web-based Student Information System**. This includes:

- Migrating all student and family data
- Launching the Parent Portal
- Establishing a more efficient way to distribute report cards
- Providing families a way to update their household information online

Replaced five aging security cameras with 15 **cloud-based Digital Watchdog security cameras**, strategically mounted around campus to provide better visibility around the school and provide off-hours remote access.



Building Bonds Beyond Grades

The Return of Nests!



by Audra Carli, Director of Studies

Nests, which are groups of 11-14 students from pre-school to 5th grade, have made a comeback this year under the guidance of our faculty and staff. Meeting once a month throughout the school year, Nests serve as cross-grade level cohorts aimed at creating bonds and fostering friendships within our school community.

Within Nest groups, students participate in a variety of activities designed to cultivate collaboration and community. Each session begins with a fun greeting, setting the tone for a series of engaging activities. Some activities that Nest groups worked on this year were collaborative projects aimed at enhancing inclusivity and crafting messages of gratitude on snowflakes for display at Holiday Sing.

There's something special about seeing students from different grade levels working together. Older students often step into mentor roles, guiding their younger peers and buddies. It's a mutually beneficial relationship where knowledge is shared, friendships are formed, and learning goes beyond the usual classroom boundaries.



“I love seeing fifth graders step into the role of leadership and witnessing the kindergarteners finding their place in our Carey community.”

—Naomi Wang



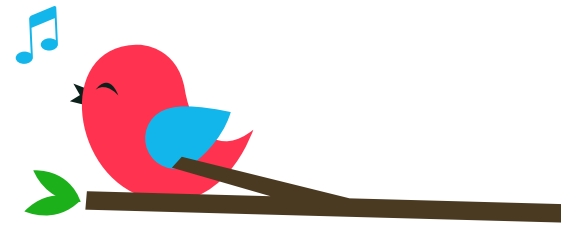


In Nests, students mix with peers they might not usually interact with, creating a diverse blend of personalities, backgrounds and perspectives. These interactions help develop vital social skills that are important for success beyond the classroom.

During Nests, there's a sense of excitement as students come together to work on projects and discuss ideas. This enthusiastic engagement highlights the positive impact of cross-grade collaboration on student motivation and learning.

Ultimately, Nests teach valuable skills such as interpersonal communication and resilience. By fostering teamwork across different grade levels, we're equipping each student with the tools they need to thrive not only academically but also in their future endeavors beyond the classroom.

“I enjoy seeing the younger students discover ways to contribute and older students encouraging and validating them.” —Danitra Nash



“We had a blast during our first meeting making a poster. Each student drew their own turtle and gave such lovely compliments to one another. Like the turtles we drew, each member is unique and very much loved.” —Lyly Pham

“One of my favorite Nest activities was the Venn diagram connections. Students paired up with their buddy, filling out circles with their own traits and finding common ground in the center. It was heartwarming to see the students' excitement about their many shared connections.”

—Frances Isola



Empowering Excellence

Our faculty and staff are committed to ongoing training to grow and develop their profession.



Plain Talk

Naomi Wang, Veronica Riedel and Karena Martin

In late January, we had the privilege of attending the Plain Talk About Literacy and Learning conference in New Orleans. Plain Talk provides a wide range of topics all within the scope of literacy including foundational reading skills, equity within education, and higher-level thinking and metacognition. We each attended 12 workshops led by experts and professionals who gave insight on research-backed, evidence-based best practices. Some of our favorite workshops included how to implement a sound wall, the importance of daily conversation in preschool, and how to support reading accuracy and fluency in small group work. Plain Talk was a wonderful opportunity to deepen our knowledge on current research regarding literacy and to enhance the tools we already are implementing in the classroom.

Inclusion in the Early Years

Shelley Gullo

I recently attended a professional development class titled "Inclusion in the Early Years," led by the well-respected Rosetta Lee. This class explored strategies for creating inclusive classroom environments, fostering empathy, and celebrating diversity. I gained valuable insights and tools to promote a more inclusive learning experience for all students through class discussions, picture books, activities, and partnering with families. The class concluded with a fantastic resource share among all of the participants.



SXSWedu

Glenn Heuser and Mary Mahoney

Our recent professional development journey at SXSWedu left us invigorated and inspired. Amidst the vibrant atmosphere, we explored compelling themes like diversity, equity, inclusion and belonging (DEIB), and also delved into thought-provoking discussions on AI and ed tech. Engaging panels and workshops fueled our commitment to driving positive change in education. Now, armed with newfound knowledge and connections, we eagerly anticipate implementing these experiences in our classrooms, fostering collaboration and innovation at the Carey School.



West Coast Collaborative Outdoor Atelier

Heather Jolly

I was inspired and energized listening to educators from Reggio Emilia, Italy, share about the 100 languages of children and their unique perspectives: how this informs us as educators about their learning paths and processes, shows us how their minds move, and how they change learning strategies along the way. Being immersed in the process at a local park for experiential learning, I hammered and grinded a variety of plants for their fragrance, reminding me about the connection of mindfulness and the senses, which was an authentic integration of science, art and SEL exploration. I came back to Carey and my STEAM Specialist role with a new lens of creativity and appreciation for children and nature, eager to invite children to the process of discovery and their unique learning journey! One practical way I am already doing this is offering more choice and time with materials during STEAM classes.

Neurodivergence in Early Childhood Education

Brenda Campos and Taylor Dorstewitz

This workshop explored three key areas to best support neurodivergence in early childhood education: sensory regulation, classroom design and motor skills development. To calm the body, there are many movement and sensory-based strategies that teachers can easily incorporate into their daily classroom routines. In KM and PKR, we tried deep pressure exercises, where children use their hands to give firm squeezes up and down their arms, legs and head, giving them a grounding feeling and awareness of their position in space. PKR has rearranged some furniture to enable more organic movement throughout the room. Introducing new tools and seating positions allows children to find what works best for them on the rug and during exploration time in the classroom.



Creating a *Joyful* and *Connected* Learning Community

Unveiling our Master Plan

by Vivian Lovett, Current Parent and Trustee



The Board of Trustees and its Building & Grounds Committee has spent the last year working on a master plan that will foster a greater sense of belonging and connection within our community. This plan contemplates the incorporation of Little Carey onto the main Carey campus and reimagines how to better utilize our existing space for more joyful learning opportunities both inside and outdoors. We are thrilled to reveal some of the ideas that have been developed and the process it took to get there.





Reimagined campus with spaces that *inspire, innovate* and *elevate* the learning experience.

We started the master planning process in the spring of 2023 by soliciting request for proposals from well-known and recommended architecture studios. After reviewing the RFPs and meeting with the studios, we decided to work with Studio Bondy as the primary architects and Plural Studio as the landscape architects. Both studios bring years of experience and similar focuses on early childhood learning spaces. They are also locally based and offer expertise in city and county building code compliance and regulations.

We met with Studio Bondy and Plural multiple times over the course of 2023, discussing our priorities and hopes for our school and iterating on the plans that Studio Bondy and Plural brought to the table. The studios also met with constituents of the school, including parents, faculty

and administration to assess their needs and wants. The common themes that were mentioned over and over again included providing spaces that meet the needs of students of all kinds and personalities and that foster a joy of learning and curiosity in the environment around our children, and creating a sense of security for our entire community.

We are so excited to share a couple concepts from the master plan. The next steps will be to determine the phasing of the master plan, to work with the architects to create schematic designs, and to develop a fundraising strategy to finance construction. We look forward to sharing more as we continue towards our goal of a reimagined campus with spaces that inspire, innovate and elevate the learning experience.



Welcome

First Impressions from their First Year at Carey

The Dubick Family

Last August, with one week of Camp Carey under her belt, our daughter Samantha seamlessly transitioned into her new Pre-K class, paving the way for our entire family. As she settled into her new routine at Little Carey, we settled into the parent community. From quick chats at morning drop off and weekend birthday parties, to events on campus and parent get-togethers, we were overwhelmed by how the group was warm, welcoming and inclusive.

Samantha has absolutely thrived at Little Carey. She jumps out of the car every morning, excited to join her friends on the playground.

She's eager to tell us about her classroom job each week (Line Leader and Gardener are her favorites), and the new people and ideas she learns about (everything from social justice and Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. to Yayoi Kusama and dot art). Most importantly, her teachers report that she loves school, which was our hope for these early and formative years. We are so grateful to Carey for giving her this incredible start to her elementary education.

As we look to the next year, we're excited to watch Samantha transition to Big Carey. We can't wait to see what she makes in the Thinkering lab, watch how her friendships grow, and of course hear about how many times a day she goes down the Big Red Slide.



Callie, David, Samantha & Benjamin Dubick

In one short year, we have come to feel that Carey is our second home. We love seeing friendly faces every time we're on campus, the total ease and familiarity Samantha has in her classroom and with her friends, and the excitement her little brother Benjamin has when he gets to play on the Little Carey playground for a few minutes at extended care pickup. We feel so fortunate that all of the incredible things that we heard during the admissions process have become our reality and are so excited to continue to be a part of this special community for years to come.

The Liu Family

When we first started exploring schools, a parent described Carey as a “big, warm hug.” Now, as we look back on our first year, those words couldn’t ring more true. From day one, as we watched Ian stride into his Kindergarten classroom and hang his dinosaur backpack in his cubby with such ease, we knew that Carey was the right place for our family.

The school year has flown by, yet the growth we have seen in Ian seems to stretch far beyond just a few months. He comes home brimming with stories about his friends, his teachers, and his many, many projects. He raves about the “most delicious pepperoni pizza ever” on Fridays and always asks us to pick him up as late as possible so he can spend more time in extended care. When we walk around the Carey campus, we’re greeted with cheerful “Hi, Ian!” and “Bye, Ian!” from students of all grades, a testament to the sense of belonging he’s found here.

We are thrilled to see that “love of learning” shining through. Getting a six-year-old excited about learning isn’t easy, but Carey somehow instills a love of knowledge in its students. Every Friday night, Ian eagerly showcases the contents of his weekly red folder to us, explaining

the concepts of “digraphs” and “number lines.” His pinch pot from art class is prominently displayed on our bookshelf under a spotlight. His golden feather is hung high up on his bedroom wall (‘Because birds fly high, mommy’). And his pot of calendula oil, made in environmental ed, is ready for any bug bites we get.

As parents, we have enjoyed getting to know the Carey community. From playdates and volunteer efforts to attending events, we have found the environment incredibly welcoming.

We feel integrated within the Carey fabric and look forward to growing these relationships in the coming years.

We love how Carey is shaping the person Ian is becoming and that he is having a blast along the way. He often comments about how he loves being at school more than anything else.

“More than Disneyland,” we ask?

“Are you kidding? Carey is so much better than Disneyland!” And he means it.



Teresa, Chris, Ian and Kira Liu



A Day at Carey





Follow along
@thecareyschool



FACULTY MILESTONES

5 YEARS

LORI FREDIANI 3rd-5th Spanish Teacher

Written by Uma Mahadevan

I would like to start with a poem by Mexican Poet and Nobel Laureate, Octavio Paz:

The Bridge

*Between now and now,
between I am and you are,
the word bridge.*

*Entering it
you enter yourself:
the world connects
and closes like a ring.
From one bank to another,
there is always
a body stretched:
a rainbow.*

I'll sleep beneath its arches.

What is a teacher, a Maestra, but a bridge - a connection between a student's life today and an adult's life tomorrow, between what you know and what you will know. Maestra Lori is a true professional. She is dedicated to her craft and helps guide the children with joy and intellect towards an understanding and use of the Spanish language and heritage. The exercises they do, the communication with the parents and the setting of the classroom itself is a testament to how seriously she takes her role.

Children learn to speak, to read, to write in a second language – thereby connecting themselves to other parts of the world and its people. Fernando and I have been so impressed with Maestra Lori's depth and commitment. Our daughter deeply enjoys her class and feels connected. We, and all the parents at Carey, are so grateful for the bridge she provides our children.

Muchissimas gracias Maestra Lori. Your work will live on in the lives of our children.



DANITRA NASH 3rd-5th Science Teacher

Written by Maiko Ezawa

Danitra is not only an inspirational science teacher, but also a great example of an engineer/thinker. She inspires students to model themselves after her. Her classes keep on evolving. She continues to build on her previous teaching experience and her curriculum only gets better and stronger. During the pandemic, she showed her commitment to being an example of being earth conscious despite so much of our lives being turned into a single-use world. She knows that the topics she teaches are better absorbed and retained when the students find the concept at play around them.

So rather than learning about the magnetic properties summarized on a handout and trying to stick various materials to a magnet in the classroom, (that was my experience) she sends her students outside the classroom with a magnet and have them go on a fact finding mission for items that are magnetic and those that are not.

For fifth graders, Maker Faire is a rite of passage as they approach their final months at Carey. Mentors are always met with Danitra's big enthusiasm and warm hugs. She carefully helps students design projects that are achievable but with enough challenges built in to push the students to experience productive struggles. Maker Faire is a family affair in the Nash household. She is problem solving at home when projects encounter bumps (and there are many every year) and gets Marty, her husband, to volunteer as a mentor year after year. But it is not just Marty who is willing to come back to Maker Faire for multiple rounds. Over the years, Danitra has been building an army of repeat Maker Faire Mentors who come back for more even after these mentors experience the stressful mad dash to the finish line.

And she doesn't stop there. Danitra opens up to all the mentors for feedback so that the knowledge and wisdom gained through this collective journey is used to better future Maker Faires. She never shies away from trying something new and/or different, and demonstrates to us all that you never know what will work until we give it a try, always accompanied by her vibrant positive energy!

Thank you, Danitra, on behalf of all the students you have already inspired and many more yet to come. The Carey community is so privileged to have you. Congratulations on a very happy 5th anniversary!



HANIN BENCHOHRA

Fourth Grade Teacher

Written by Kaye Slavet

Throughout our family's seven years at Carey, we've been grateful to have our hearts, souls and minds touched by many special humans and one of these people has certainly been Hanin Benchohra. Hanin embodies some of the most special qualities of this school community. We had the pleasure of getting to know Hanin when our youngest daughter was in her 4th grade class last year.

Hanin has a warm smile and a serene, loving spirit that is immediately felt by anyone who meets her. In a world that's much too fast paced, Hanin provides a sense of steadiness and calm that reassures parents and students alike, as they navigate elementary school. Her presence and non-judgmental personality creates a classroom environment that makes students feel safe to explore, to question and to learn.

Another quality that sets Hanin apart is the level of insight she brings to her work. Hanin is incredibly thoughtful and detailed in her review of each child's work. Hanin truly cares that the kids are growing as students. And when you have a parent/teacher conference with Hanin, you are going to walk out having learned something new about your own child. She really makes the effort to know each kid and



has invaluable insight to help you to help your child. Hanin's attentiveness, thoughtfulness and perception lead her to truly see each child: recognizing strengths, struggles and potential which enables each child to thrive.

I know I speak for the parents and kids who have had the opportunity to learn from you when I say thank

you, Hanin. We are grateful for you. You have our admiration and respect and we appreciate your steadfast dedication that touches the lives of so many children and families.

Congratulations on your five-year anniversary!

NADIA NATAFGI

First Grade Assistant Teacher

Written by Jillian Boice

Ms. Nadia brings so much joy to her role of assistant teacher in the first grade classroom and she is a beacon of positivity and warmth. Ms. Nadia is creative and goes above and beyond for her students. In first grade, Nadia encouraged students to organize a "Recess café" where students can gather to read and bond over a love of books during morning recess. Students love this special space where they can have a change from their normal routine. Nadia cleverly thinks outside the box and helps students feel safe and supported to take risks and try new things while being their authentic selves.



Nadia is also a gifted teacher with an engaging personality. I was on campus one day and had the opportunity to watch Ms. Nadia giving a math lesson. She had 22 pairs of eyes glued to the front of the room, captivated with her lesson. I was amazed at how deeply the students were concentrating and hanging on to her every word. Her passion for teaching radiates every day and ignites a love for learning in all her students.

Ms. Nadia also brings so much fun to the classroom. She is the primary caregiver of Sarabi, the classroom snake, and is always lightening the mood with her infectious smile and personality. She can be loud and silly but is also someone the students look up to and respect. She has endless patience and kindness and can relate to her students and empathize with their thoughts and feelings.

Ms. Nadia is tirelessly dedicated to her role as a first-grade teacher. She sends weekly email updates to the IZ parents complete with detailed information about the week, a description of the classroom units and lesson plans, and so many fun photos! For a lot of families, it is important to feel knowledgeable about what goes on in the classroom and we look forward to these wonderful emails each week.

Finally, I cannot end without acknowledging the most infamous quality about Ms. Nadia, her motorcycle! She is a legend at Carey and the students are star struck seeing her whiz by on her bike with her black helmet. Nadia is a positive role model for the Carey community and inspires us all. Thank you, Nadia for five amazing years at Carey and we wish you all the best for many many more years of continued success.

RESHAM BHARWANI

Director of Development & Communications

Written by Suzie Tomlinson

Resham, diligent and humble, deserves to be recognized for her invaluable contributions to Carey. Though quiet, Resham brings big ideas. Over her five years at Carey, her creativity has left an indelible mark on our materials. From our vibrant new website to the Eagle's Eye newsletter and every communication reaching the Carey community and beyond, Resham meticulously curates every detail, from colors and font sizes to slogans and the perfect placement of Feathers in pictures. Her artistic touch ensures that everything we produce reflects the spirit and joy of Carey.



Resham began her journey with Carey as a parent. This perspective allows her to infuse a genuine, deep love for the school into all she does. She has played a crucial role in bringing alumni, former parents, and board members back to campus, fostering a sense of community that highlights the special bond formed during these elementary years—not just for the children, but for the parents as well.

Behind the scenes, Resham has worked tirelessly to professionalize the development department. She has focused on educating families about what to expect when they join Carey, ensuring transparency and preparedness. Her efforts have led to record-breaking Annual Fund achievements, and she has been instrumental in organizing flawless events such as auctions, Feathers Fêtes, Spaghetti Dinners and more. These events are executed with precision and always embody the essence of the Carey community.

Despite the significant workload, Resham remains uncomplaining and steadfast. Resham's dedication, creativity, and humility inspire us all. As we celebrate her five-year anniversary at Carey, we express our heartfelt gratitude for all she does. Congratulations, Resham, on this well-deserved recognition!



HAPPY RETIREMENT

SAUL GERRY

Math Enrichment Specialist
12 Years of Service

10 YEARS

NATE GEER

Technology Integration Coordinator

Written by Andrea Drago



Congratulations on 10 years at Carey! I first met you three years ago in the morning drop off line. Every morning I would show you our covid green screen and you would give a double thumbs up.

When I saw your Friday sequined rainbow mask, I had an inkling you were going to be an amazing influence on my kids. You confirmed my hunch when you wore a pumpkin on your head for Halloween.

While I may not know too much about your life, there ARE a few things I do know:

1. As the OneCarey and affinity group co-head you advocate for other's voices and inclusion in the Carey community
2. You play softball and love Reeses and pretzels
3. You wear many hats but in your primary role as technology specialist, you taught my kids how to be good digital citizens and got them excited about coding and TinkerCad
4. When you walk on the beach at Fort Funston, you respectfully leave the sand dollars alone, unlike Emmett, Thomas and I who gather them by the pocketful
5. You're a 5th grade outdoor ed chaperone. This means you willingly sleep in a bunk bed and share a cabin with 20 smelly, whiny, noisy and restless 10- and 11-year old boys.
6. Everytime I see you, you have a smile on your face
7. You sacrificed your vanity for the closing scene of this year's Pi day video
8. It's clear to everyone who interacts with you that you love your job
9. You have the "privilege" of assisting with 5th grade's puberty education. But seriously, thank you for being a role model to our sons and daughters.
10. Carey students adore you.

Thank you for being such a kind, fun and thoughtful teacher and human. Our children are so lucky to have you in their lives.

20 YEARS

SHERRY ANOUSH

French Teacher

Written by Sara Boroumand-Barizon

We celebrate Madame Sherry, an extraordinary French teacher whose impact goes far beyond the confines of the classroom. When my son Jake talks about Madame Sherry,



his eyes light up and a wide smile spreads across his face. He describes her as kind, fun, positive, energetic, and supportive. Madame Sherry has captured not only Jake's heart but the hearts of all her students. Madame Sherry's passion for teaching French is evident. In her classroom, she creates an atmosphere filled with laughter, joy, and

positivity. Her infectious energy and enthusiasm for teaching French make each lesson an exciting adventure. Her students eagerly anticipate her classes, knowing that they will be met with a warm smile and a teacher who genuinely cares about their success. Through her upbeat and lively teaching methods, she ensures that her students remain engaged and motivated, fostering a love for the French language that extends beyond the classroom. Madame Sherry truly embodies the meaning of support and encouragement. She understands that each child is unique and learns in their own way. She is dedicated to building her students' self-confidence. She takes the time to get to know her students personally. She goes above and beyond to ensure that each student feels seen, heard, and valued in her classroom. Her patience, kindness and genuine concern for their well-being create a safe space where students can take risks, make mistakes, and grow both academically and personally.

Madame Sherry is not only an exceptional teacher but also a positive and inspiring role model. Her dedication to building confidence and creating a supportive learning environment ensures that each child feels valued, comfortable, and excited to grow linguistically and personally. She makes learning French an enjoyable and rewarding experience for her students. We are truly fortunate to have such an amazing teacher. Thank you, Madame Sherry, for making a difference.

35 YEARS

MICHELE ZIRELLI

First Grade Teacher

Written by Anne Claiborne

Michele Zirelli is a Carey institution. Over the course of Mrs. Z's 35 years and counting, The Carey School has become synonymous with joyful learning and a connected community, and Michele embodies and infuses these qualities in her classroom and across all corners of our campus.

This all started for us in 2019 when our 6 year old son ventured tentatively onto campus for his first day of 1st grade as a transfer student, anxious about the change. That is, until the moment he laid eyes on Mrs. Z, who kneeled down to his level, gave him her huge smile and a big hug, and asked him what he was waiting for, to come into her classroom! And what a magical place 1Z is!



There are so many fun traditions in 1Z that it would be impossible to name them all in this brief tribute. Captivating characters like Pete the Cat, Tacky the Penguin, Pudge the Emperor Penguin. Catchy tunes for pretty much every occasion such as good morning, new haircut, new duds, new shoes, lost a tooth, and, memorably, the goodbye song complete with the serial sign-off: muah, big hug, peace out, stay groovy! Jockeying for the meteorologist job, tracking Carey Crystals, checking in on Toyonaka Japan. All of these and many more are touchpoints that infuse joy into the learning process. But what's become clear to me is that underlying all of this 1Z partying is Michele's intentional creation of community. Michele and her co-teachers have forged a safe place for our children to build their capacity to collaborate and self-advocate, to engage deeply and intentionally with each other and the faculty.

No tribute to Michele would be complete without marveling at her endless energy. Our fifth grader had Mrs. Z for the 2019–20 year, which transitioned to virtual learning in March. Parents quickly realized the immense amount of learning and fun Michele packs into her curriculum. I have no idea how Michele does this, year over year for 35 years, but clearly Michele is driven by a depth of passion and synchronicity with the job and the kids that takes one's breath away.

Michele, doing the math, over 35 years at Carey you have impacted hundreds and hundreds of students and their families, including mine, and we will forever be grateful that we dragged our child into your classroom almost five years ago.

Henry Irvin

Carey Class of 2021

My time at The Carey School was filled with memorable moments that have shaped who I am today. Early Carey experiences, from Preschool naptime to breakfasts in the Pre-K classroom, introduced me to the warm community that I grew to love over the next several years. Each year brought new adventures, like the exciting field trips to Coloma and Saratoga Springs. Any anxiety I felt at the start of a school year soon disappeared when I met my new teachers and reconnected with my friends, who I am still close with today. Overall, being a student at Carey was one of the coolest experiences I will ever have.

I'll never forget my first introduction to Mr. Geer's snake and the awe it inspired in all of us. I now appreciate how fortunate I was to have been taught by teachers who understood that many students like me need to learn by using all the senses. I was able to build in a lab, handle living creatures, taste kale that



grew in the garden and walk through history to experience the lives of the people we were learning about in the classroom. So many of my teachers appreciated the contributions I made to my community, not just the answers I gave on a quiz.

One of the saddest times at Carey was in 4th grade when Covid first started. However, this period was not all bad to

4th grade me. I remember having an awesome time hopping the House Party app and playing Fortnite with my friends. We were lucky to return to campus when other kids were still at home, and I am forever grateful to everyone at Carey who was brave enough to make that happen. We were still able to be leaders of the school in 5th grade and experience many of the fun graduation rituals that make Carey special. Our final football game on the turf was one for the ages!

“My time at The Carey School was filled with memorable moments that have shaped who I am today.”

Middle School at Sacred Heart was a time of growth and transition. I joined a 6th Grade class with many Carey friends, as well as other new students who welcomed us. I experienced more freedom by taking the train to school and getting my first phone, as well as going to Disneyland as a part of the Arts program. The larger school environment meant new opportunities, like joining school sports teams and having different teachers for every class. As an 8th grader, our recent Washington, D.C., trip stands out as a highlight. This incredible experience offered a firsthand glimpse into the U.S. history we had been learning in our classes and provided memories that I will never forget with my friends.

As I think about transitioning to high school at SHP, I feel a mix of emotions. I'm scared of the unknown, but also excited for big campus energy. While I expect more challenging classes and a complicated schedule, I'm also eager to explore this new environment. I look forward to making new friends, having a laptop and playing high school football. I hope to travel to another country as an exchange student and take a more active role in service learning on immersion trips.

My journey from elementary to middle school and high school has been filled with anticipation and uncertainty, but the lessons I learned at Carey provided the confidence and tools that I know I will need to embrace the new challenges and opportunities that lie ahead of me.

Audrey Forrester

Carey Class of 2017

I would not be who I am without Carey. On my first day of Kindergarten, I was shy and nervous but by my last day of 5th grade, I was so sad to leave. I learned so many things at Carey but what most stood out was confidence. When I started at Carey, I did not want to talk in front of my class. But Carey pushed me out of my comfort zone in a way that didn't scare me but helped me slowly gain my confidence. My family and I frequently reflect on all of the moments where Carey encouraged me to speak in front of a crowd or my classmates. Initially, I refused to do anything like this, but the more I did, the more I found that I actually really enjoyed it. My teachers and peers gave me a safe environment which taught me a passion and joy for leadership and public speaking. I have brought that to high school at Crystal, where I am often the first to step up and present, and in my jobs through leadership as a lifeguard and getting to know so many new faces and stories of Basecamp Fitness members.

My teachers at Carey are people that I will always look up to. They were all an integral part of my Carey experience and bring back so many great memories. One of my fondest memories is of my first grade teacher, Mrs. Miller. On Halloween, I wanted to dress up as Peter Pan but my classmates thought I shouldn't. I came to her upset, and she not only made me feel better but dressed up with me. I will never forget us walking through the Halloween parade together - both dressed up as Peter Pan - without any fear. For the rest of my time at Carey, she had a Peter Pan ornament up in her homeroom. I still put mine on my Christmas tree every year. It's memories like this that remind

“I learned so many things at Carey but what stood out most was confidence.”



me of how special Carey was to me and as I transition to college at SMU in Dallas this fall, I know I will continue to treasure these memories and lessons.

My class at Carey was very tight-knit. The 40 of us continue to talk and connect. I was grateful to have fourteen Carey kids come to high school with me at Crystal, where they are still some of my best friends. Carey built an environment through events, classes, and a community that encouraged us to explore all of our interests that has continued to bring us together to this day. I will forever consider my Carey classmates friends and will even be graduating college with two of them. These close relationships helped grow my confidence to speak up with my classmates and to my teachers. Carey taught me that asking questions is important and normal. I have taken advantage of the time I have to speak to my teachers outside the classroom in high school and will continue to in college. Learning to self advocate was a core part of my Carey experience and has reaped benefits in many aspects of my life.

As I look to the future and my upcoming four years in college and beyond I am excited to use all that Carey taught me inside and outside the classroom. I am grateful for what Carey has given me and continues to bring me even after I have graduated.

Congratulations

Carey Class of 2024



Anya Bauer



Jack Baum



Ethan Chan



Emily Chang



Ian Chow



Drew Choy



Charlie Colaco



Kian Desh



Caroline Dyner



Aris Evdaimon



Axel Grotto



Allie Herndon



Reya Kedia



Laurel Kinney



Elin Kuo



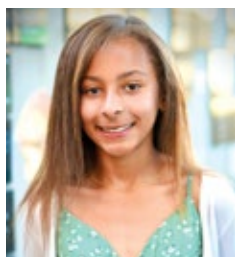
AJ Kwok



Adriana Lema



Miriam Maltz



Gia Martin



Sydney Melvin



Rhys Morgenroth



Zara Motiwala



Keshav Mudumbai



Georgia O'Brien



Emmett O'Hare



Laurent Pang



Tyler Ramsay



Keshavan Rao



Lena Savage



Audrey Schroeder



Eleanor Seem



Cassidy Shek



Sydney Slavet



Samaira Talwalker



Akiyo Taylor



Tiffany Wu



George Xanthopoulos





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