

Head's Column



Top Ten List, 2002-2003

- #10 Seven SVS staff presentations made at CAIS/EBISA Conferences
 #9 Student Trips: Pioneer Camp, Coloma, Marin, Big

Sur, Hawaii!

- #8 New Science, Art & Drama Programs in Extended Day
 #7 SVS Sports Season Boasts a Winning Record!
 #6 CAIS Self-Study well underway
 #5 Annual Concert A Smash.
 #4 New Website Launched
 #3 New Playgrounds A Hit
 #2 ERB Scores up in Math
 #1 *Our School is Now Our School!*

#1 *Our School is Now Our School!*

After 25 years of renting, 20 years of consideration, 15 months of negotiation, and 10 months of capital campaign fundraising, we achieved the impossible on May 29th, 2003: We purchased our campus and secured our future! Thanks go to everyone who made this happen!

#2 ERB Scores up in Math

School-wide, our ERB test math score average leaped by four points, and in the middle school it was even a larger leap, while our language arts scores remained consistently high. With this progress, we are beating independent schools national averages on math by two points, and are right on pace with them in the verbal areas. This is a terrific testament to the new math

curriculum we instituted two years ago, as well as to the excellence of our math instruction!

#3 New Playgrounds A Hit.

In Summer 2002, after an exhaustive planning process by Ben Lederman, Lisa Mitchell, Larry Russo and Bill Brobeck, the new, safer, playgrounds were purchased and installed! And what a great addition they have been: children are strengthening their upper bodies, swinging with joy, and just



having a blast playing to their hearts' content in our new attractive big toys!

#4 New Website Launched

In October, www.saklan.org was completely revamped, and the new site is more colorful, more comprehensive, and more current. Now the school calendar and publications are available on line all the time, and there are even archives so as to allow backtracking and catching up with all the Saklan news. Our gratitude goes to Ms. Magnifico for her excellent work on this.

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2 The Parent's Corner

Dear Saklan Valley Families;

This is my last article for the Saklan Monthly for the 2002-2003 school year. I can not believe it is June already. It seems like yesterday that the Parent Association board was putting the summer packet together. A lot of thought and planning takes place when putting these forms together. When you receive your school packet in July, take a moment and think about how you would like to make a difference at your child's school.

As you have experienced this past year the Parent Association puts on many events and a variety of fundraisers. This only happens with parents being involved and volunteering to take on a job. Two parents have approached me this past week wanting to know how they could help next year. They have seen how rewarding being involved can be and frankly, they have stated that they do not want to miss out on the fun.

I would like to express my thanks to many people. To my wonderful board, Martha Goodbar, Jamie Snyder, Paula Jeha, Diane Faddis, Elena Toohey and Shari Brobeck. I appreciate the support that all of you gave to me. Thank you to our fabulous room parents. I depend on all of you to help plan and get the word out to all of our parents. What a year. Thank you!! To our hard working auction co-chairs, Vicki Filter and Elena Toohey and all your volunteers. Thank you for an outstanding and entertaining auction. The bar has been raised yet again. Many thanks to our board of trustees for all of their support and help. Thank you to Jonathan Martin for your insight and help. A very special thank you to our own Miss Karen. Your support and guidance is wonderful.

Last but not least, thank you to my husband Paul and my son Nicholas for letting me give all the hours I need to do the job I love. I am very excited about next year and all the plans that are in the works. We have three energetic parents who have stepped forward to chair next year's auction; Kate Dey, Caren Rice and Katie Farhner.

Have a wonderful safe and enjoyable summer. We will see you Monday August 25th at the Annual Welcome Back BBQ.

Annie Barendregt, Parent Association President

The Board Corner

What a year we have had, ending with achieving a momentous goal: the purchase of our school campus.

We spent this last Sunday (six hours no less!) in our year end trustee meeting, reflecting on the past year and looking forward to the next. We worked to improve Board function, and got a jump on establishing new Board goals and committee organization. Next year, the Saklan Board will be focused on strengthening our marketing and enrollment efforts, preparing a campus facility improvement's plan, running a successful annual giving campaign, and reviewing our current strategic plan. We also look forward to collaborating with school community members in the intensive process of writing our Self-Study and achieving re-accreditation from the California Association of Independent Schools (CAIS).

We sadly say goodbye to three outstanding but retiring Board Trustees. Leslie Banez has been a parent and Saklan

trustee for many years, and most recently has been Secretary for our Board. She not only gave us wonderful organization and historical perspective, she also had a strong impact on the Buildings and Grounds committee over the years. Her daughter Holly will graduate from Saklan this year! Thank you, Leslie, for your diligence, compassion and commitment to Saklan Valley School.

Richard Whitmore had the enormous responsibility of chairing the Site Committee for us this year and has been an instrumental part of our finance committee. Richard blessed us with his expertise in finance and education, and proved to be a wonderful resource. As a non-parent, his perspective was invaluable, and his participation commendable. Thank you, Richard, for your great commitment to Saklan Valley School.

We also recognize Stu Ross, a long time Board Trustee who is now concluding his role as Board Advisor. Stu's participation in Board meetings and school events has been wonderful. He carries much institutional memory and we are grateful to his long term participation. Stu's love and long term commitment to the school were truly phenomenal, given that he was never a Saklan parent. Thank you very much, Stu!

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Student Scoop

Congratulations Graduates: *Class of 2003*



Cameron Swiggett
 Student Since 2002
High School: Bentley
Most treasured moment at Saklan: "Doing the *Democracy in Action* songs."
Advice for incoming 8th grade: "Stay out of trouble."



Tom Kirkpatrick
 Student Since 2000
High School: Bentley
Most treasured moment at Saklan: "Making the *Democracy in Action* songs."
Advice for incoming 8th grade: "Study more for the finals than I did!"



Lauren Bailey
 Student Since 1998
High School: Bentley
Most treasured moment at Saklan: "6th grade Fall Advance to Gualala."
Advice for incoming 8th grade: "Put in all your effort, do the best you can, and have fun."



Claire McMahon
 Student Since 1993
High School: Campolindo
Most treasured moment at Saklan: "Doing the *Democracy in Action* songs."
Advice for incoming 8th grade: "Study for at least 3 weeks for the finals."

Holly Banez
 Student Since 1994
High School: Athenian
Most treasured moment at Saklan: "Making the *Democracy in Action* songs and friendships I've made."
Advice for incoming 8th grade: "Do your best and be yourself."



Meagan Gibeson
 Student Since 1993
High School: Carondelet
Most treasured moment at Saklan: "Ropes course at Coloma in 5th grade."
Advice for incoming 8th grade: "Try not to get behind cause it's real hard to catch up and make the best of your year."



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#5 Annual Concert A Smash!

Our music program underwent this year a dramatic evolution of form and style, embracing rhythm, movement, and percussion. The concert, held at Walnut Creek's DelValle Theatre, displayed the program's development by rocking the house in a jamboree that energized the kids and enthralled the audience. Beautiful and moving French songs from around the world were also featured. Bravo!

#6 CAIS Self-Study well underway

We all know the importance of self-knowledge, self-reflection, and critical self-examination, but how often are we able to really dedicate ourselves to this important work? This year, beginning in February and running through next November, our school community has been deeply dedicated to preparing our six year Self-Study for re-accreditation. Committee chairs are offering outstanding leadership, and the work is proceeding along at a good pace. As the Greeks say: "Know thyself."

#7 SVS Sports Season Boasts a Winning Record!

The cumulative season record for our middle school sports teams (Soccer, Flag Football, Basketball and Volleyball) ended up at exactly .500, or even. But when you add in the second place finish (points per participant) our students won at Moraga Rotary Field Day, placing us in the winning half (!), it pops the overall school year to just a scoot over .500!

#8 New Science, Art & Drama Programs in Extended Day

Afterschool opportunities continue to grow and delight. In addition to the ongoing activities in Spanish, Gymnastic, Study Hall, Carpentry, Cooking, Arts & Crafts, and Basketball, this year saw new and exciting programs in Science (Science Adventures), Fine Arts, and most excitingly the Kids Take the Stage Drama Program.

#9 Student Trips: Pioneer Camp, Caloma, Marin, Big Sur, Hawaii!

Classrooms and books are important, but we at Saklan are strongly committed to providing hands-on, experiential learning experiences to engage, inspire and enrich; these are the lessons learned that truly last a lifetime. For the first time, 3rd Graders did an overnight trip, going back in time and up into the mountains to

experience life exactly as the pioneers did. 4th graders panned for gold for three days in the foothills, fifth graders explored natural environments for three days in the Marin Headlands; 6th graders spent several days camping and experiencing Monterey and Big Sur. The ultimate, of course, was the 8 days spent in Hawaii by the seventh and eighth graders. While enjoying the surf and sun, they searched for answers to twenty questions they themselves had decided upon as the critical issues to investigate about Hawaii.

#10 7 SVS staff presentations made at 3 CAIS/EBISA Conferences

Every year the number of workshops offered by our faculty and administration at regional educational conferences grows, and with it grows Saklan's reputation. The two top rated workshops at EBISA's Annual Symposium were presented by Saklan teachers, and we also received kudos for four sessions at the CAIS teacher conference in Palo Alto and one at the CAIS Trustee Conference in Los Angeles!

Honorable Mention:

- The New Library Shelving built by Dan Fahrner
- The Six Terrific Parent Association Education Lectures and Discussions
- The Annual Auction, Dinner & Magic Show
- The Student Council (and Parent Association!) Carnival
- The Family Groups and their Terrifically Fun Field Day
- The Student Art and Writing on Classroom Bulletin Boards
- The Amazing Success of the Capital and Annual Giving Campaigns
- Saklan Students Win Many French Awards at the Stanford Ceremony
- New Activity Period elective classes in the Middle School
- The MS Fall Advance is a Great Trip
- The Canned Food Drive Sets New Record
- PE students Set new Saklan Distance Running Records
- And much, much more!



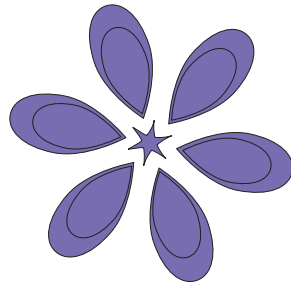
Board Corner

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We would like you to join us in welcoming Bett Tokar as an incoming Board trustee. Bett jumped right in this Sunday and got to work. We very much look forward to utilizing her great business skills and value her prior board experience. Bett, along with her husband John, have a current Saklan 6th grader.

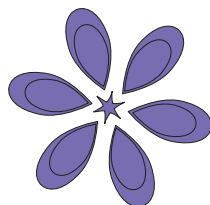
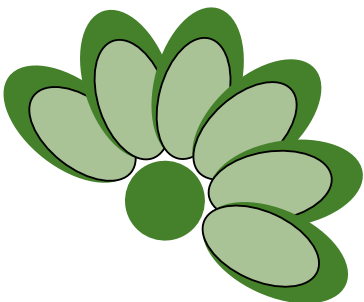
We would like to thank all our Board members and the Saklan community for a successful year at Saklan. We wish you all a wonderful summer!

Regards, Ruth Bailey
Paul Nathan
Paul Felton



A special thanks to our Saklan Community Volunteers, especially parents and board members for all of the hard work and dedication they give to our Saklan Valley School Community.

We Appreciate You!



Mark Your Calendar

June 11	Graduation and Last Day of School
June 16	Camp Saklan Begins
July 10	New Parent Orientation
July 11	Summer Reg. Packets Mailed
August 11	Reg. Packets Due Back
August 15	Camp Saklan Finishes
August 24	Campus Beautification Day
August 25	Back To School BBQ
August 27	First Day of School, 2003-04

Saklan
Our School
is now
Our School.

