

# THE GAVEN STREET GAZETTE

SUMMER 2016

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## SOJOURN TO THE PAST TO BETTER UNDERSTAND OUR FUTURE

by Steve Morris, Head of School



**THIS SPRING**, The San Francisco School community participated in two journeys to the past. One trip took our Eighth Graders, five staff chaperones and me on a trip to the American South (Atlanta, Montgomery and Birmingham). Another brought together more than 700 SFS community members as we reunited for our 50th Anniversary Celebration. Both journeys provided powerful lessons about the past and inspired us about the work we want to do in the future.

Led by a group called Sojourn to the Past, our Eighth Graders visited some of our country's most historically significant civil rights sites, monuments and museums. Some of the locations included Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s boyhood home, the church where he preached and The King Center. We also visited 16th Street Baptist Church, the home of the infamous 1963 bombing, and Stone Mountain, the "Confederate Mount Rushmore" and Ku Klux Klan revival site. Along the route, we had the honor of interacting with many foot soldiers from the Civil Rights Movement. Some of the speakers included Minniejean Brown-Trickey, a member of the Little Rock Nine, Simeon Wright, cousin of Emmett Till, and several other historic figures. This trip embodied our school's commitment to model and promote equity, justice, multiculturalism and peace. The lessons learned by all of us will never be forgotten and will undoubtedly be turned into action.

We also took a journey to the past when we celebrated The School's 50th birthday in April. 300 Gaven Street was at its best that spring day—the sun was shining and the enthusiasm for our school was at an all-time high. We honored many of those who helped make The San Francisco School what it is today in speeches, photos, videos and song. I was truly inspired and honored to have the Bauer family, one of our founding families, in attendance. Their hard work decades ago is still seen around campus, as evidenced by our preschool cubbies that were built in the Bauer's garage. Please look in the pages ahead for some photos from that day and head to the 50th section of our website for videos of the event.

With an amazing fifty years behind us, it is time to strategically look ahead. In response to the recommendations from the California Association of Independent Schools (CAIS) Accreditation Team who visited in February, we are now starting our next strategic planning process. Throughout the next year, a 15-person committee comprised of staff, parents, alumni and community members will come together to guide this process. We hope to have many opportunities for involvement from our broader community. Please stay on the lookout for invitations to contribute.

After being fully immersed in our past, we look ahead with enthusiasm to the future. These are exciting times to be at The San Francisco School!







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Accreditation and Membership

The San Francisco School is accredited by the California Association of Independent Schools (CAIS) and is a member of the National Association of Independent Schools (NAIS).

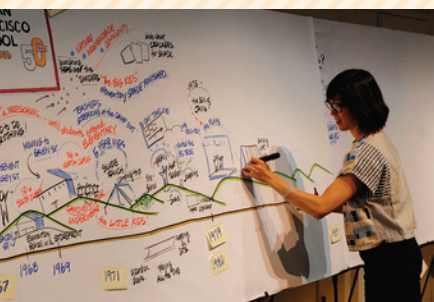
THE SAN FRANCISCO SCHOOL  
1966-2016 50 YEARS

50TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

On Saturday, April 30, 2016 we welcomed more than 700 people to our 50th Anniversary Celebration. It was a beautiful gathering for our community, with guests including founding members of the school to current and former families, faculty and staff, and more! We had beautiful weather, fun activities for kids, a tasty barbecue prepared by Patty and Jane, an alumni sing-along, and a heartwarming and inspiring ceremony with guest speakers.







**FOR MORE PHOTOS AND VIDEOS FROM  
THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY, PLEASE VISIT:  
[www.sfschool.org/50thevents](http://www.sfschool.org/50thevents)**

**STAY IN TOUCH!**

- 1) Update your contact information on the website at [www.sfschool.org/alumni](http://www.sfschool.org/alumni)
- 2) "Like" our Facebook page, The San Francisco School [www.facebook.com/thesanfranciscoschool](http://www.facebook.com/thesanfranciscoschool)
- 3) Join our LinkedIn Alumni Group [www.linkedin.com](http://www.linkedin.com)



# MATH, AN ESSENTIAL CONVERSATION

CHRIS MADER, HEAD OF MIDDLE SCHOOL



There is a substantial movement in math education, inspiring educators to reexamine how we ask our students

to think and learn. This development has been ignited by the work of Jo Boaler and Carol Dweck from Stanford University. Boaler's recent book, *Mathematical Mindset*, applies the tenets of Dweck's growth mindset, first published in her 2007 book *Mindset: The New Psychology of Success*, with approaches to teaching mathematics. The central theme of their work is to change a student's mindset from one that is 'fixed' to a 'growth' mindset, in which a student understands that abilities can be developed through hard work and dedication.

A critical part of this process is making mistakes. Articulating mistakes, what most math teachers emphasize as 'showing your work', fosters this mindset that is open to new perspectives and understandings. Scientific research corroborates that measurable brain growth occurs more readily in students when they make mistakes. This type of work takes intentionality, as rewarding mistakes seems anathema to the

traditional performance-based approach to math teaching where more often than not, only the correct answer is celebrated and rewarded. We may each remember the feeling in math class if we did not get the correct answer, perhaps believing that we were just not good at math. Research shows, and mathematicians have confirmed, that ability in math is not an innate trait, but rather cultivated through developing a student's growth mindset.

While there is still work to do, many of these ideas are already in place in our math curriculum at SFS and we are fortunate to have passionate, dedicated teachers leading the way. Jadine Louie, our Seventh and Eighth Grade math teacher has been championing this type of mindset with student activities such as "my favorite mistake" where students share their blunders in an environment where mistakes are seen as growth opportunities. In 2010, we adopted the TERC Investigations Math curriculum in Elementary because of its emphasis on reasoning about mathematical ideas and teaching children that they can be mathematical thinkers. Last year, we created the new position of Middle School Math Coordinator and hired Jiazhen Zhang who, in collaboration with our math team, began designing curriculum while supporting differentiated learning in the Eighth Grade. This coming year, Jiazhen's role will expand to include

Sixth and Seventh Grades. Additionally, this year, our Sixth Grade Math and Science Teacher, Melissa Doezeema, will lead an effort to focus on the progression of mathematical thinking and computational skills through the early grades with particular attention to the transition to Middle School.

As we were reflecting on our own curriculum at SFS, it became clear that a broader conversation about math education was necessary. In an effort to initiate this dialogue, The San Francisco School, in partnership with the California Teacher Development Collaborative (CATDC) hosted two math curriculum meetings this spring. These meetings brought together middle and high school teachers and administrators from more than 40 Independent Schools to examine math curriculum, high school math expectations, and sequencing and placement practices. Having planned and facilitated those meetings, I am encouraged by the collaborative intention to shift from curriculum that is heavy on content to curriculum that embraces mathematical thinking skills and growth mindsets. Our teachers and I left these meetings feeling even more empowered to continue our efforts and proud to have taken a leadership role in math education in the Bay Area. We look forward to sharing our continued progress with the community in the months to come.

## MILESTONE ANNIVERSARIES

Each Spring, we honor our faculty and staff who are celebrating milestone anniversaries. We appreciate the great wealth of experience, historical perspective and wisdom that they bring to The San Francisco School. Congratulations!

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Stewart Dorsey  
Admissions



Melissa Holman-Kursky  
4th Grade



Eugene Stampley  
Science



Josefina Bolton  
Spanish

# A LUCKY BREAK

## 42 YEARS WITH KAREN GOODKIN

One of the traits that makes The San Francisco School so special is the longevity of our faculty and staff, with an average tenure of 14 years. So when one of the faculty or staff retires, it is difficult to say goodbye. Karen Goodkin, our most tenured teacher, retired at the end of the school year after 42 years.

Karen joined the faculty in 1974. She had recently moved to San Francisco and was looking for a piece of the city to call home. She arrived at the school in its pioneer years during a time of growth. The next year, she referred her boyfriend, Doug Goodkin, to the school when it was looking for a music teacher. They later married and together have spent four decades teaching at the school. Their two children, Kerala and Talia, attended the school and daughter Talia joined the faculty five years ago.

Karen established the art program that inspires many parts of school life today. She taught students how to freely create and interpret art. Throughout the years, she developed projects, activities and manipulations that worked well while continually challenging herself and her students with fresh ideas. Karen transformed the blank walls of our

hallways into colorful galleries filled with student artwork enjoyed by all. Works produced in the elementary art room frequently live on, as time and time again alumni families mention artwork made long ago that is still displayed in their homes.

Families, friends and staff celebrated Karen this spring with a retirement party that took place in the form of an art exhibit of Karen's own paintings in our library. At the party she was presented with a "black journal" from current parents with notes and memories shared by many. The School also unveiled the newly named hallway, the "Karen Shultz Goodkin Gallery," in her honor. Lastly, The School received a generous financial gift in tribute to Karen which will assure that her legacy lives on.

At the 50th Anniversary Ceremony, Karen acknowledged how luck played a role in finding her home at SFS. According to her, she landed in the "right discipline at the right age" and the school was "the right fit all along." She leaves confidently knowing that in its 50th year, "We're there. We've landed. We're real. We're gonna keep going, forever."



We can't thank Karen enough for her dedication and service. We will miss seeing her regularly, but are thrilled for her as she begins a new chapter. The luck has been all ours, Karen.

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**Maggie Day**  
2nd Grade

15



**Michelle Yi-Martin**  
Humanities

20



**Elyse Wolland**  
Learning Services

35



**Rosemary Malone**  
Substitute Coordinator



**Sofia López-Ibor**  
Music & Spanish



**Patty Corwin**  
Kitchen



# HAPPENINGS



*SFS Girls' Varsity Futsal Team, Winners of the San Francisco Athletic League Finals, May 2016*



*SFS Middle School Orff Ensemble at the American Orff-Schuwerk Association Conference in San Diego, November 2015*



*SFS Parents at Glitter & Gold, the 2016 Auction for Tuition Assistance, March 2016*



*Sojourn to the Past, 8th Grade Trip to the South to Study the Civil Rights Movement, April 2016*



*Grandmother and Grandchild Playing at Grandparents & Special Friends Day, November 2015*



# ALUMNI NEWS SPRING 2016



Kelsey Robinson '98



Ethan Watts '09

Read more about Kelsey and Ethan online at [www.sfschool.org/alumni/alumni-news](http://www.sfschool.org/alumni/alumni-news)

We caught up with lots of SFS Bears at the Alumni Social in December. Among them were **John Middleton '90** who is living in San Francisco and working as a Project Manager at Comrade; **Tori Freeman '90** who is a busy mother of two and works as a community liaison at Pier 70 Partners; **Jane Ivory Ernstthal '93** who is a nurse practitioner at City Clinic and UC Berkeley while teaching at both City College and Skyline College; **Will Aspelin '05** who, after graduating from University of Washington in 2013, is consulting for a Bay Area software company that identifies cost efficiencies for health care providers; **Kris Horowitz '05**, who was visiting from New York where she is working as a mobile game designer; and **Sam Green '07** who, since graduating from Boston University in 2015, has been working on Capitol Hill and this June headed to Kosovo with the Peace Corps.

We had the great pleasure of seeing so many alumni at the 50th Anniversary Celebration in April. We could not possibly list them all, but will highlight a few who participated in the ceremony. **Laralyn Bergstedt '88**, one of SFS's first Middle School graduates, reminisced with the audience about favorite childhood memories at The San Francisco School. Laralyn is challenging and inspiring students at Lick-Wilmerding High School where she has taught chemistry since 1998.

**Mina Zargham '03**, also spoke at the ceremony where she shared the impact that SFS had on her while attending the Middle School and the community that embraced her after immigrating from Iran. Mina graduated from Princeton in 2011 and, after working in private equity in New York for a few years, recently returned to San Francisco to join the content team at Periscope, a live streaming app. **Josh Tazman Reinier '13** performed a sweet song for Karen Goodkin. Josh is a singer, pianist, and composer and released his debut EP in April. **Kelsey Robinson '98**, proprietor of The Whole Cake in Oakland, generously donated cupcakes for the 50th Anniversary Celebration.

Throughout the spring, we heard from alumni near and far, including **Ethan Watts '09**, who is dancing with the National Ballet of Canada, **Lincoln Lighthill '86**, who fulfilled a lifelong dream in 2015 and opened his own architecture firm in San Francisco, and **Gabe Wachob '88**, who is a software engineer and lives a few miles from **Gabe Lucas '87**, Principal at Ed Tech Recruiting and SFS Trustee, on the Peninsula and they're still good friends, some 32 years after leaving SFS!

*Do you have news to share? We are always interested in hearing from our alumni. Let us know what's new these days! Visit [www.sfschool.org/alumni/update](http://www.sfschool.org/alumni/update)*

## ALUMNI SOCIAL

In celebration of our 50th year, we hosted an Alumni Social in December 2015 at local restaurant Bernal Star. It was great to reconnect with local alumni, alumni parents and staff, as well as many who were visiting from out of town. We had so much fun, we'll have to do it more often!



S U M M E R 2 0 1 6

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**San Francisco School**



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## MISSION STATEMENT

The San Francisco School cultivates and celebrates the intellectual, imaginative and humanitarian promise of each student in a community that practices mutual respect, embraces diversity and inspires a passion for learning.

## OVERVIEW OF SCHOOL

Founded in 1966, The San Francisco School is a Pre-K through Eighth Grade independent, coeducational day school. The school is an established, vibrant educational community with a multicultural enrollment of 270 students, an experienced and dedicated faculty, and supportive and involved parents. The preschool program centers on the ideas of Maria Montessori. The elementary and middle school program reflects the ideals of a progressive, student-centered approach. The school also includes an extended care program, parent education opportunities, and summer recreational activities. Suitably characterized by a parent as "an urban school with a village atmosphere," the school embraces San Francisco's ethnic, cultural and economic diversity. Our progressive approach to education encourages children to develop self-reliance, solid academic skills, integrity and a sense of social values. The school is respected for our strong academics, our vibrant community, our personal attention to students and our dynamic arts program. Our students graduate academically prepared, inquisitive, compassionate and eager for the challenges ahead.

