

Nurturing Creativity

Dear Friends,

Saint George's School just completed its 63rd year of operations and celebrated the 61st graduating class. It was an excellent year for the SGS community and the accomplishments of our students.

From the start of the year during the Dragon Dance, where the newest kindergartners were introduced, to the culminating tradition of graduation on the lawn, we framed the year around the tag line of Inspiring the Confidence to Serve and Lead. Each year we see our students grow in confidence in a caring and nurturing environment where they are provided a plethora of opportunities in academics, athletics, the arts and outdoor adventures to engage, explore and sometimes fail. These valuable experiences start from Day One.

When our most recent graduates visit campus, we are thrilled to hear how well prepared academically they are for college. This year, we also heard our graduates discuss their ability to self-manage the college workload. One of the greatest attributes our students gain from the Saint George's experience is confidence, and with that comes the resilience to overcome challenges. Our students are challenged and the bar is set at a high level, but our Dragons develop and practice the skills they will need for success in all they do.

The final weeks of school are always exciting with stepping up ceremonies and culminating activities. This year, in addition to the experiential Upper School program, May Term, our 5th-8th graders presented the results of their Genius Hour projects. This program came about through professional development workshops that several of our teachers took part in last summer. The premise comes from leaders in the business world (Google, Microsoft, 3M, etc.) where you can focus on a big idea of your own choosing. These students spent an hour each Friday developing their ideas and projects, either in groups or individually. The results were impressive with projects that included

a photography business, an electronic lock for lockers, a custom-built drone, and a bird habitat restoration effort in Redding, CA.

This summer we are on schedule to break ground on a new arts facility that will replace the "art portable" and provide one location for Lower School art and music and Middle School art classes. This facility, made possible by a million-dollar gift and additional benefactor donations, will continue to strengthen our commitment to the arts and nurture the creativity of our students. (See an article about the new building for the arts on page 6.) Our Lower School arts program fosters the foundation for creative thought in math, science, robotics and the arts that our students will build upon through their Middle and Upper School experiences. Our community is grateful for the generosity of our donors to make this transformative gift come alive for our students.

We are looking forward to an exciting 2019-20 school year. Each year brings changes and challenges but more importantly exciting accomplishments and achievements among our students.

Have a great summer! Go Dragons.

Sincerely,

— Jamie Tender, Head of School



Jamie Tender,
Head of School

SGS 5th-8th graders gave TED Talk-style presentations on their Genius Hour projects on May 31, followed by time for questions at their posters or displays.

