THE GAVEN STREET

SUMMER 2022

# GAZETTE









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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).

CREDITS: Elfi Chandra, Jeanie Chang, Michelle De Leon, Kim Fabiani, Ellen Fey, Matt Lever, Mugsy Clicks, Nancy Nagramada, Carly Reiter, and Daniel Watson '05

**ON THE COVER:** 8th Graders hike the Batteries to Bluffs

**INSIDE COVER:** 6th Grade Girls Futsal team play their first



LETTER FROM STEVE

n March, I made the difficult decision that 2022-23 would be my final year as Head of School (www. sfschool.org/our-story/hos-search/). To put it simply, it's been a great run! While my plans for what I will do next are still developing, it feels like the right time to turn over the reins to the next person who will care deeply for this very special school.

I am so proud of our accomplishments during my 15 years as Head of School. When I look around campus, knowing that SFS will soon have a new leader, I deeply appreciate the program, staff, students, and the School's position of strength. I believe this will be a wonderful opportunity for my successor.

Even though this year was another incredibly heavy lift (Omicron did not make things easy), in true SFS fashion, we persisted and progressed. Our staff has grown in their practice, delivering our program more effectively than ever. For example, the Creative Engineering Cohort had a year of professional development focused on integrating engineering into their classrooms. Their projects with students ranged from solar-powered carnival rides to robotic fashion shows to interactive haunted houses, and what I appreciated most was the pride of the teachers and the enthusiasm of the students.

This semester, child-centered, student-driven performances took place — before live audiences! Most of the grades performed original plays for their families. School celebrations honored Black History Month and Asian Pacific Islander Desi American Heritage Month with guest speakers and parenting affinity group members in attendance.

At long last the Community Center hosted spring concerts where audiences enjoyed our humble maestros and eager students presenting programs of mindblowingly diverse music. We were finally able to welcome our extended community to celebrate Laura Burges, Doug Goodkin, and Maggie Weis, who retired in 2020. It was a thrill to host nearly 400 guests from every decade of SFS history to honor their work and legacies.

Our students also enjoyed learning and exploring off campus again. They went on local field trips and overnight camping adventures, participated in service projects, and toured important historic sites like the immigrant settlement in China Camp, quarantine facilities on Angel Island, gold mines of Coloma, redwood forests of the Santa Cruz mountains, and civil rights landmarks in Alabama.

We are rebuilding community, and we are re-establishing our connections with the world around SFS. As all of these things are happening at school, I have been volunteering to be a part of anything and everything.

"Steve, we need a substitute coach for futsal today."

— "Count me in!"

"Want to record an Olivia Rodrigo song for an 8th grade graduation project?"

— "Heck, yeah."

"Steve, the goats need to be put away in the barn."

— "I'm on it!"

"Hey, we need an extra chaperone for the middle school dance."

— "..."

Well, I do have my limits.

In all seriousness, I find myself spending more time in the staff lounge, engaging with students in classrooms or on the yard, and catching up with parents and guardians in the white zone. Bottom line, I am already feeling nostalgic, and I am making every moment count between now and my last day.

Together,

fm-

Head of School

## RETURNING TO THE QUINTESSENTIAL SFS

March 2020 seems so long ago. As the COVID pandemic emerged, the Gaven St. gates closed and School on the Go began. The subsequent SFDPH visit and school reopening are deep in the past. Ever since, we have been prioritizing the wellbeing of our community while getting back to our regularly scheduled program.

This has required collective strength and resilience, as these past few months have been challenging. Though we are a highly-vaccinated and boosted community, the Omicron subvariants have made this year tumultuous. There were moments when administrators were teaching classes, Extended Day hours were shortened for staffing shortages, students and staff absences rose as the city's COVID cases swelled. Despite the dark moments, the staff has persevered with camaraderie and grace. With support and appreciation from our Board of Trustees and our families, we kept the gates open.

Although COVID has not gone away, we have found ways to bring back the quintessential SFS from its pandemic latency. With the SFDPH and community voices to guide us, we have cautiously lifted restrictive measures to allow family members, instructors, and visitors back on campus to visit, teach, and cheer for performances, extracurricular activities, and athletic competitions. Our students

have gone outside the gates on field trips and overnight excursions. Baby goats have returned to the Adventure Playground! Special thanks to the Hicks-Jablons family, SFS alumni parents and owners of Toluma Farms, who helped us to foster baby goats on campus again this spring.

Importantly, community members are seeing each other more and more. Parenting adults were welcomed to classroom events, theatrical performances, and concerts on campus. It was amazing to see so many alumni, former staff, and friends at the Grand Retirement Party (see pg. 13). Families joined together to participate in the annual SFS Week of Service, enjoy the Outdoor Movie Night, and socialize at the All School Gathering Under the Redwoods (see pg. 10). Many affinity groups and classes have been getting together, reestablishing old bonds and forming new connections.

The pandemic is not over, but we are preserving many of our beloved traditions while creating new ones. With this shared experience, we continue to provide our students with the unique blend of academics, social emotional learning, experiences, and culture that is The San Francisco School.









# THE STRATEGIC PLAN 2017-2022: FULFILLING OUR HUMANITARIAN PROMISE

After serving as our compass for the past five years, our current strategic plan is coming to a close. Its impact on The San Francisco School will endure long into the future. Its visionary initiatives have become integrated into our ethos while preserving the School's character and culture in our daily routines and our interactions with the world around us. In its final semester, the plan continued to generate progress in so many of its initiatives.

#### EMPATHY IN THE AGE OF ACCELERATION

The teaching of technology has expanded and thrived. Building on the foundation established by Director of Design, Engineering, and Technology Carly Reiter and our partnership with ed tech consultants Knowing Technologies, STEAM has been integrated throughout our program. This year, a diverse group of SFS staff known as the Creative Engineering Cohort playfully explored, expanded their skills, and gained confidence to try new things in the classroom. The participants — preschool to middle school teachers, science and arts instructors, administrators — all found joy and excitement in learning and felt a strong sense of pride in their accomplishments.

As the students' technical knowledge increases, the need for learning empathy does too. While social emotional learning (SEL) is a hallmark of The San Francisco School, in the context of modern technology as well as the enormous societal strain of an historic pandemic, it is particularly critical.

For years, our team of teachers, librarian, and Upper School Counselor Laura McGourty have taught digital citizenship, cautious media use, and respectful online behavior. Additionally, in her role as SEL Coordinator, Laura has helped to create dedicated SEL classes for elementary and middle school students which,

combined with Health & Wellness instruction, promote the mental and physical wellbeing of our students. Additionally, our student support services have expanded. During the pandemic, we added a school nurse to the staff and in 2022-23, an Educational Therapist/SEL Educator will join our Learning Specialist and Counseling team to help meet the increased social and academic needs evident from the past two years.

From teaching preschoolers to "be a good friend in the neighborhood" to formally adopting an SEL curriculum across all grades, SFS recognizes the critical importance of teaching empathy alongside academic instruction.

#### YOUTH HUMANITARIAN INITIATIVE & DEEPENED PARTNERSHIP WITH SAN FRANCISCO AND THE PORTOLA DISTRICT

One of the School's highest priorities is for our students to be humanitarians. SFS students learn compassion, advocate for social justice, and are stewards of our home in the Portola and in San Francisco.

Throughout the year, the Public Purpose Committee, Family Association, and SFS staff provided service learning opportunities for students. During the pandemic, SFS established friendships with local public





schools, and this year, our community responded to their urgent requests for assistance through clothing and toy drives. In partnership with the Portola Neighborhood Association, students have cultivated garden spaces of the greenway along Highway 101, scrubbed graffiti from public art, staffed street fairs, and cleaned sidewalks and gutters. Our students created a map of Garden District murals for others to explore the art that surrounds us, and they helped set up the race course for SFMOMA's SoapBox Derby in McLaren Park. They made drawings of local flora to create coloring books for elders at the Portola Gardens senior living community. Our annual Week of Service included projects like cleaning up the redwood groves of McLaren Park and dunes of Ocean Beach, packaging groceries at the SF Marin Food Bank, and assembling hygiene kits for unhoused San Franciscans.

Our students also look beyond the city to national and international issues of equity and human rights through activism. For example, middle school students organized a rally to support reproductive rights, and coalitions of SFS students and parenting adults marched across the Golden Gate Bridge for gun violence awareness and wrote postcards to Get Out The Vote. Our community raised funds for the Portola's Immaculate Conception Ukrainian Catholic Church which is leading local relief efforts to assist war refugees.

From within our gates to around the world, SFS students care deeply for each other and for humanity. Through the teaching of social justice and service learning, our graduates will leave SFS to live with compassion and stand up for equity.

#### BUILDING THE ENDOWMENT

Last year's Forge Our Future: The Campaign for SFS will double the value of the School's endowment. This has allowed us to increase our financial commitment to ensuring the socio-economic diversity of our student body and to providing equitable compensation for our staff.

The draw on our endowment supports the work of the ad hoc Socioeconomic Diversity Committee. In April 2020, this Board subcommittee set goals for the allocation of Indexed Tuition funds to ensure accessibility (making it possible for families to attend SFS), affordability (easing the financial strain for families to attend), and sustainability (assisting families who are not able to continue paying full tuition). The committee also set diversity goals recognizing underrepresented groups and the demographics of our neighborhood and city. Thanks in part to the enhanced endowment, the Admissions team and Finance Committee have been making significant progress in achieving these goals.

The endowment draw has also supported our ability to compensate teachers, administrators, and new hires equitably and commensurately with comparable Bay Area schools. We funded a pay study in Fall 2021 to define staff roles and determine fair pay within the competitive Bay Area market.

Through the generosity of our entire SFS community, the endowment has grown significantly. Your contributions to Forge Our Future made these increased investments in our students and staff possible, and we are grateful.

## **ANTI-RACISM AT SFS**

The commitment to diversity is one of SFS's core values and is included in our mission statement. This commitment requires constant examination of our culture, curriculum, and practices. In doing so, we aim to eliminate unintentional and insidious implicit bias. SFS strives to be an environment where all students are treated equitably and feel not only included, but that they belong.

This year, the Board of Trustees has taken on this antiracist work. With a steering committee of trustees and senior administrators, the Board has focused on social justice and using an anti-racist lens in board work, committee discussions, and monthly board meetings. The Board partnered with The Mosaic Project (www. mosaicproject.org) on anti-racism and justice initiatives for the School. During the introspective examination of practices at SFS, trustees recognized the intersectionality of gender, socio-economic class, nationality, and neurodiversity while intentionally keeping racial justice at the forefront of this effort. The goal is promoting an anti-racist approach in all aspects of school life, including governance, admissions, academics, social-emotional learning and student support services, hiring, building community, alumni relations, and fundraising.

Much of the work took place at the committee level. For example, the Nominating Committee identified groups who were lacking representation on the Board. The needs were plainly articulated to the community, nominations were solicited from a broad pool of constituents, and the interview process was standardized to mitigate potential bias. The Committee made deliberate efforts to be as transparent and inclusive as possible, increasing the response to this year's call for nominations and resulting in a diverse, talented slate of new trustees.

To support the School's anti-racist efforts, the Diversity Committee has created the SFS Statement on Diversity, Equity, Justice, and Belonging to clearly delineate the School's values. It was involved in drafting an acknowledgement for the Yelamu Ramaytush Ohlone on whose land SFS exists. The committee also collaborated with senior administration on the SFS Inclusion Dashboard, a measurement tool the School began using this past semester to quantify students' sense of belonging.



The Advancement Committee revised its fundraising practices to be more inclusive of all SFS constituents. Although the annual Auction for Tuition Assistance was enjoyable for many community members, for others, it did not feel inclusive. Beginning in 2022-23, our annual fundraising requests will take place once a year through the fall Annual Fund campaign, allowing families to plan their participation and give at a level that is comfortable for them. As a result, school gatherings will not be fundraisers but community building events.

Similar efforts are being made in other Board committees such as the Finance Committee's intentional allocation of indexed tuition to ensure accessibility, affordability, and sustainability, or the Public Purpose Committee's partnership with marginalized neighbors in the Portola. The work done by the Board will guide the Head of School and senior leadership, staff, students, and their families, and together as a community, we will work toward anti-racism and greater inclusivity.





#### **EMORY DOUGLAS**

Despite being close neighbors in the Portola since the 1960s, only recently have SFS and the legendary activist Emory Douglas finally come together. SFS was honored to welcome Mr. Douglas, the Revolutionary Artist and Minister of Culture of the Black Panther Party (BPP), as the keynote speaker for this year's Black history celebration. In addition, Middle School students presented aspects of Black history and culture to an audience of K-8th students, staff, affinity group members, and live streaming guests.

Mr. Douglas spoke about how the BPP was organized as a response to systemic racism, police brutality, and social injustice, and how they created the legendary Oakland Community School (OCS) in the 1970s. Led by Ericka Huggins, the innovative OCS had free breakfasts for its students, incredible music programs, theatrical and fashion shows, and a myriad of after-school activities. It was a visionary Black institution, attracting many illustrious visitors such as Maya Angelou, Merl Saunders, Oscar Brown, Jr., and Rosa Parks.

After sharing photographs and anecdotes of the OCS, Mr. Douglas presented his artwork, including his iconic portraits of civil rights figures like Martin Luther King, Jr. and Malcolm X and enduring posters declaring "Health is wealth" and "Respect Mother Earth." He shared more recent work, championing causes such as Native American land acknowledgment, the Black Lives Matter movement and reparations for descendants of enslaved African-Americans, food insecurity, and homelessness.

We look forward to more opportunities to learn from him and his work. With his final Papergirl slide (left), Mr. Douglas said, "'All power to the people' means that people should have a say, to make decisions in things that affect our lives."

## **CIVIL RIGHTS STUDY** TOUR OF ALABAMA

After a two-year COVID hiatus, SFS resumed the 8th Grade trip to the American South. By visiting activists and sites of the civil rights movement, students relive the Black resistance efforts that continue to impact our nation today. As Middle School Science Teacher Eugene Stampley said, "[This trip] allows us to make connections between what has happened in the past and what is currently happening."

In early April, the Class of 2022 flew to Birmingham for an emotional week together. They visited Bethel Baptist Church (pictured) and stood at the home of the renowned Reverend Fred Shuttlesworth. After meeting Freedom Rider Catherine Burks-Brooks, they walked through Kelly Ingram Park, a site where brutality against Freedom Riders and youth protesters took place. In Selma, activist Joanne Bland told students that anyone can be an everyday hero and urged them to stand up for what is right. She showed them the path she took in the name of voting rights across the Edmund Pettus Bridge on Bloody Sunday 1965. In Montgomery, 8th graders imagined being the activists who risked their lives to demand their rights at the state capitol. At the Rosa Parks Museum, they reflected on ordinary people doing extraordinary things; at Martin Luther King's Dexter Avenue Baptist Church, they learned the Black congregation's important revolutionary work, and with vocals and instruments, they performed the song "Glory." At the Equal Justice Initiative's National Memorial for Peace and Justice, they were confronted by the names of thousands of of people murdered by white racists in the name of retaining social power, their lives were changed.

There were moments of inspiration and heavy-hearted reflection, but impressions and memories were made for a lifetime. "Each of us is a very important piece of [the puzzle of making the world a better place," reflected 8th grader Frannie. "If we're not helping, then we are the missing piece."

## **FAMILY ASSOCIATION**

As SFS families gradually emerged from their homes and screens, the Family Association (FA) seized the opportunity to gather when health authorities and comfort levels allowed. With the support of the leadership team, FA Chair Tracy Kaplan was eager and determined to press onward in providing meaningful events whenever possible, always aware that pandemic conditions could change and alter plans.

The year began with the New Family Welcome Picnic, an occasion to orient community members arriving at SFS after a primarily online admissions process due to the pandemic. The momentum gathered with a proliferation of affinity group gatherings and other events throughout the year such as Community Cafes, Trivia Nights, and family education in partnership with Speakers for Parents, Educators, and Knowledge (SPEAK). The FA hosted a discussion group that took on anti-racism through reading Ibram X. Kendi's *Stamped*. They provided further family education in a virtual Town Hall featuring infectious disease experts and fellow SFS Parents Drs. Darpun Sachdev and Monica Gandhi, who

spoke about COVID health and safety measures in the context of the SFS community, California, and the United States.

Families were excited for all-community gatherings this semester as pandemic restrictions eased somewhat. On a blustery February evening, the FA held its first outdoor Movie Night with great success. In April, hundreds of children and parenting adults from preschool to middle school came together for an All-School Gathering under the redwoods in the Portola's McLaren Park.

Throughout the year, the FA's enthusiastic volunteers supported the Public Purpose Committee's drives for clothes, toys, and school supplies; cleaned local beaches and parks during the annual SFS Week of Service; and channeled appreciation for SFS staff through holiday gifts, breakfasts, treats, messages of gratitude, and so much more.

We are incredibly thankful for the efforts of the FA. It has sustained and uplifted our community in times of challenge and celebration.



#### MILESTONE ANNIVERSARIES

Our staff is the heart of our school. The unique SFS experience is only possible through the knowledge, enthusiasm, experience, innovation, and care of our teachers and administrators. Each spring, we celebrate their milestone anniversaries. Thank you for your service to the School, and congratulations!







Left-Right: 25 - Vahlee Peters, Preschool Head Teacher | 15 - Stacy Lee, Preschool Teaching Assistant 10 - Jackie Escasa, Accounting, Events, and Database Manager











Left-Right: 5 - Jalen Allen '08, Lower Elementary STEAM Teacher | Christina Baum, Preschool Head Teacher | Dimitri Barton '08, Spanish Teacher Manuel Cases, Spanish Teacher | Nancy Nagramada, Assistant Head of School and Head of Middle School

## 2021-22 ALUMNI STAFF













In addition to Jalen Allen '08, Lower Elementary STEAM Teacher, and Dimitri Barton '08, Spanish Teacher (both pictured above), our 20<mark>21-22 staff</mark> included many SPS alumni! This year's team included Yma Airaghi '12, Extended Day Instructor and Substitute; Brendan Dunlap '11, Extended Day Instructor and Substitute; Talia Goodkin '98, 5th Grade Teacher; Nina Palada '12, 1st Grade Teaching Assistant; Molly Treadway '99, 1st Grade Teacher; and Alisa Weinberger, School Nurse, who attended SFS as a preschool student.

#### RETIREMENTS





#### **VIVIAN WALZ**

Celebrating Vivian Walz's retirement is bittersweet. She has served SFS in a multitude of roles since 1999 — Extended Day and Summer Camp Instructor and Coordinator; preschool, elementary, and middle school substitute; sous-chef; 1st Grade and 5th Grade Teaching Assistant; and most recently, Front Office Coordinator. Vivian, with her husband Bob, is also a parent and grandparent to children Diana Naranjo, Adrienne Dunlap '07, and Brendan Dunlap '11, and grandchildren Matias '32 and Milo.

In all of her school roles, Vivian has been a calm but lively presence. She has taught students with kindness, supported her colleagues with grace under pressure, and welcomed guests on campus with genuine warmth. At the Front Desk, she is legendary and beloved for her loose tooth extraction, being a caring and respectful listener, and despite being a self-proclaimed introvert, sharing openly. A talented writer and artist, Vivian has been an effective communicator within the gates as well as outside them. She has shared her love of art with SFS students, hoping to inspire them to see and express beauty as she does. This semester, she organized a show of the students' Opening Painting Project Pathways to the Portola at the Peninsula Museum of Art, San Bruno, so that they'd have the experience of exhibiting in a gallery.

Vivian was celebrated at a joyful gathering of past and present staff in June. Surrounded by colleagues she has worked with and inspired, Vivian was fêted with loving speeches, showered with heartfelt affection, and crowned the dancing queen in a nod to the Friday morning Front Desk dance parties. And in the School's Closing Ceremony with students, staff, and families (and a live stream audience), the announcement of her retirement was met with sadness, appreciation, thunderous applause, and a standing ovation.

We wish her happiness in her retirement. Please read Vivian's message to the community.

" It's with mixed feelings that I approach my retirement after twenty-three years at The San Francisco School. This has been so much more than a workplace to me — I'm a parent of two grads (including one who is now a colleague), the grandmother of a preschool student, and a close friend to many current and retired staff members. I've been able to bring my whole self to work — the artist, the cook, the organizer, the writer, the teacher, the talker, the listener. I have been proud to help advance the School's mission, and in troubled times I have been grateful to be part of such a supportive community.

But it feels like the right time to move on. I'm especially looking forward to spending more time on three of my big passions: food, nature, and art. I recently bought a vegan Korean cookbook and an Instant Pot; I joined the San Mateo branch of the Audubon Society and plan to spend more time hiking and birdwatching; and I've been gathering materials for portraits of children in Halloween costumes that represent their inner aspirations or fears.

SFS has been my home away from home, and the staff, students, and parents/guardians my extended family. I will miss the meaningful traditions and joyous celebrations, the yummy lunches, the colorful displays of art, the changing seasons in the garden. I will miss the little daily pleasantries and the deep discussions about social justice issues. Thank you for the many years of love, inspiration, and commitment. I will keep SFS in my heart wherever I go!"

#### A BELATED CELEBRATION



"We have each other. We have SFS. We have love. Each day at SFS reinforced the best of human potential...SFS seeks a heartfelt, intellectual and creative counterbalance to an often insane world "

- MAGGIF WFIS

MAGGIE WEIS. LAURA BURGES. AND DOUG **GOODKIN** 

The Grand Retirement Party was a joyous occasion to belatedly congratulate three legendary SFS educators on their 2020 retirements. Emerging from the shadow of the COVID pandemic, it was the first time that The San Francisco School community could gather together on such a large scale.

Maggie, Laura, and Doug were honored as individuals as well as the guardians of much of the magic of SFS. The celebration began outdoors under the bright sun and cool breeze, recounting how native New Yorker Maggie Weis pedaled on a bike to her interview at SFS in a wool skirt suit. She answered a classified ad for a physical education teacher and stayed for 31 years until her retirement as beloved Head of the Lower School. There on the greentop, she literally danced her way to the mic and was cheered by her partner Petra, close friends, and her SFS family with jingling keys and silent cheers. Mama fine thing, you have taught us we are each Somebody. You will be in the pocket of our heart forever.

The honorees and guests then followed the strains of the bagpipe under the red Tibetan prayer flags into the Community Center where Laura Burges ("Buddhist Auntie Mame," joked James Harding) was serenaded with music and limericks. Master educator and mentor, she taught us to breathe and roar like a lion; the true nature of 3rd Graders; and that "in effort there is joy." With her mother, brother, best friend, partner David, and daughter Nova Ray '93 in attendance, Laura read a story from her newly published book Buddhist Stories for Kids. At the end of the tale about children pure of heart and the secret of the sacred palash tree, Laura concluded, "In this world, everything changes."

Finally, generations of the community were united in the music taught by Doug Goodkin since his arrival at SFS in 1973. With gratitude, music teacher Sofía López-Ibor led the audience in a Spanish toast. His daughter and current 5th Grade Humanities Teacher Talia Goodkin '99 was a voice for his family in the audience, including his wife and longtime SFS art teacher Karen, daughter Kerala Taylor '94, and his grandchildren. She also represented students and staff, appreciating his mastery of the perfect ending; the importance of gathering, playfulness, and rituals; and telling him, "Your legacy here is honored. It's safe, it's valued, it's beloved. Thank you for everything you gave all of us."

The beloved trio will always be a part of The San Francisco School. The afternoon marked an important milestone in the school's history, and their legacy will live on. These three educators with their distinct personalities and talents helped to build, in Doug's words, "a sacred place" and preserve its original "quirky, weird, slightly odd, vibrant, fun-loving, grabbing-life-by-the-horns, and venturing-forth-on-thiswild-ride" character. At the end of the celebration, Maggie, Laura, and Doug linked arms with other SFS legends and swayed with the audience for a final rendition of "Side by Side."

## COMMUNITY **NEWS**

#### **ALUMNI**

Head of School Steve Morris presents Ginger Jackson-Gleich '99 and Moriah Ortiz '99 in his next installation of Here's the Scoop: Mud Pies with SFS Alumni (see it at www.sfschool.org/alumni/heres-the-scoop). The alums talked about their earliest SFS memories, the school's "local magic" with arts and trees, and the passion SFS inspired to create a better world. Both living in San Francisco, they visited SFS reuniting with classmate Molly Rose Treadway '99 and many other familiar faces along the way. Ginger and Moriah toured the campus, reminisced as they looked through their yearbook, and shared stories.

- Ginger and her husband Mike have a three-year old son. As an attorney, she works on criminal justice issues, currently clerks at the CA Supreme Court, but returns to criminal justice advocacy and client representation this fall at Rosen, Bien, Galvan & Grunfeld.
- Moriah works as a Registered Nurse Care Manager with SF Health Plan, providing advocacy, support, and health education to Medi-Cal recipients. She enjoys long walks outdoors and spending time with her partner Dominic and tuxedo cat Jasper. She will serve on the 2022-23 SES Board of Trustees.
- Molly teaches 1st Grade at SFS! She has two daughters who attend SFS, and she always enjoys it when old classmates come by for a visit!

CLASS OF 1999. Thank you, Ginger Jackson-Gleich, for rounding up your classmates in this special edition of Alumni News! Siannan Gall manages a dental office after an injury ended her massage career. She will be relocating to San Antonio, TX, in a few months with her husband, children, and four rescue dogs. Rachel Gelfond works as a general pediatrician at the Riverside County Hospital and its associated clinic. She, her husband Andy, and their two boys love Riverside and think of San Francisco often. Alexander Louie has a daughter and a newborn son. He lives in San Francisco and is busy with his research in HIV medications at the UCSF Hair Lab, baking, and photography. Max Newman lives in the Mission with his boyfriend Pat. He works at Black Jet Bakery in Bernal Heights where he still sees



lots of SFS people and thinks of our SFS family often. Lily Rachles lives in Berkeley with her husband Devin and their three daughters. She works at a print shop and as a doula. Huey Reed lives with his wife Caitlin and baby daughter in Brooklyn where he works as a Senior Forester for NYC Parks Department. He sings songs from singing time to himself in his head and out loud to his daughter. She is a Java Jive baby... on a branch down in the valley-o!! Livy Rogers lives in Oakland with her partner Dylan and her newborn baby. She works at the Office of Charles de Lisle, an interior design firm in Sausalito. Zach Shedd runs Flies Collective (fliescollective.com), a commercial production company in Brooklyn that makes movies and provides grants for new filmmakers. Zach lives in the Catskills and is getting married next year. Marley Shepard-Ohta lives in San Francisco with his wife, two kids, and a third on the way. He works with the SF Department of Public Health, focusing on the treatment of the city's most vulnerable, mentally ill residents. Holly Smith lives in Corvallis, OR. She works at a natural foods co-op deli where she is cheese mongering and is training to be a creative



facilitator through the Jewish Studio Project in Berkeley.

Sophie Nunberg '04 recently shared a eulogy for her father, Geoffrey Nunberg, who passed away in 2020. A linguistic scientist and scholar, he was known to the public through his appearances on NPR's Fresh Air and his pieces in The New York

Times. Read her eulogy about the man who was to her a "rockstar academic, intellectual mentor and father" at medium.com/@sophien. Daniel Watson '05, inspired by those SFS camping trips and his study of Africa, just hiked Mt. Kilimanjaro with his girlfriend Stephanie Wong in May.

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







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