

THE GAVEN STREET

SUMMER 2023

# GAZETTE

THE SAN FRANCISCO SCHOOL MAGAZINE





**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.



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*The Gaven Street Gazette* is published twice annually by the Office of Advancement of The San Francisco School. We always welcome feedback and story ideas at [advancement@sfschool.org](mailto:advancement@sfschool.org).

### **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).

**PHOTO COURTESY OF:** Christopher Baker '95, Jeanie Chang, Theo Dumothier, Jenn Keese-Powell, Matt Lever, Erika Liedtke, Juna Kim McDaid, Steve Morris, EJ Neal, Libby Reder, Steve Rubin, and Mugsy Clicks

**ON THE COVER:** 1st Grade students Sartaaaj, Morgan, and Ruby in the Art Studio

**INSIDE FRONT COVER:** 2nd Grade students Abby, Celina, and Ben in *Puss in Boots*.

**INSIDE BACK COVER:** 6th Grade students Jasmine, Kayleen, and Mariana learn about food justice at the SF Marin Food Bank.

## LETTER FROM STEVE



**T**hank you.

Thank you for giving me a shot 15 years ago (19, if you count my Assistant Head of School years, which were some of the most formative for me). While I had the ambition to be a Head of School from a young age, the fact of the matter was, in 2008, I was unproven. But you gave a 34-year-old person of color a chance to lead. It is this courage that I wish so many other institutions had, as it would surely help diversify the leaders of our schools and our country.

Not only did you give me a chance, but you supported my family and me in a way that could help us thrive. The School's leadership took great care in helping my young and growing family find its way forward by helping Beth and me learn how to become parents. You committed to the professional development that a Head of School needs and opened the door to help me to understand better who I am as an individual and as a professional. You offered community, and you encouraged that community to practice, model, and better define mutual respect, collaboration, and shared vision.

I am so proud of what we have accomplished together, and to me, the most important word of this phrase is "TOGETHER." Together we have learned so much. Together we climbed to great heights, as demonstrated in the pages that follow. Together we have positioned ourselves to achieve so much more at 300 Gaven St. I am forever grateful to you, San Francisco School.

Know that I will always be your biggest fan!

Together,

**STEVE MORRIS**  
Head of School

## LOOKING BACK ON STEVE MORRIS' TIME AS HEAD OF SCHOOL

It was 2008. Barack Obama was elected the first Black President of the United States. California legalized same-sex marriage. Billboard's top hit for the year was "Low" by Flo Rida. The most popular baby names were Jacob and Emma. And Steve Morris became the fourth Head of The San Francisco School.

Though founded in 1966, the School has had only four heads — Renee Luby and Jeanne Mahoney served during the first ten years, and Terry Edeli led SFS for the next 32. In 2004, Terry attended a California Association of Independent School (CAIS) diversity presentation co-facilitated by Steve (then the Dean of Multicultural Programs at University High School). They hit it off immediately.

Even then, Steve wanted to be a Head of School. Born in a small town outside of Pittsburgh, he was raised on the other side of the railroad tracks — literally on Railroad Ave. in Sewickley, PA. As a child, he surmounted many challenges to become one of few family members to earn a college and graduate degree. He was grateful for the support of his independent school, the Sewickley Academy community, and the mentorship of Sewickley's Head of School, Hamilton Clark.

Steve was thrilled to become the SFS Assistant Head in 2004, and as such, he coordinated and oversaw the 4th-8th Grade curriculum, student affairs, and faculty professional development.

During Steve's first few years, SFS cultivated its philanthropic spirit and diversity. SFS had just built the Edeli Building to expand the Middle School to twice its size, renovated the North and South yards, and created

our beloved Adventure Playground. This provided great opportunities with both upper school curricula and outdoor learning (a few years later, the PBS documentary *When Learning Comes Naturally* would highlight SFS students' connection to nature, and the School would begin fostering baby goats each spring). Its Cultural Kitchen was established to celebrate international cuisines through school lunches. SFS students, staff, and families marched as a school in the City's Pride Parade for the first time.

Together, Steve and Terry led the community's celebration of the School's 40th anniversary. Soon afterwards, Terry announced that his long and successful tenure would end, and he would retire. After a nationwide search, the Board of Trustees unanimously appointed Steve as the next Head of School. They were confident in the close alignment between the School's mission, values, and strategic goals and Steve's personal strengths, skills, vision, and experience.

Steve felt it was imperative that students graduate with a combination of both academic skills and strong character traits in order to succeed in and contribute to the world. He recalled that the resources he had as an independent school student made it possible for him to transcend the many obstacles of his childhood. "I will be visionary — one who builds on the successes of the past while always looking for ways to serve the students and community of the future. As a person of color who has spent his entire academic and professional career in independent schools, my life in these schools has been and will continue to be devoted to inclusion and integration." He officially took the helm on July 1, 2008.





“Beyond the founding of SFS, forty-five years ago, and the purchase of our current campus in 1969, the construction of our new Community Center will be one of the largest endeavors in our history. Our volunteer needs are significant, the timeline is incredibly ambitious, and our fundraising goals are bold. We will need the entire community... to help us “raise the barn” if we are to be successful.”

– STEVE MORRIS, 2011

When he became the Head of School, he and his wife Beth also became SFS parents, with their first child beginning in the North Class (since then, their sons Rowan '19 and Mason '21 have graduated, and this fall, their daughter Harper '26 will start Middle School). As his kids grew, Steve grew as the Head of School, further defining the importance of the home-school partnership. His role as a parent has informed his leadership at the School.

The early years of his tenure were guided by the strategic plan, *Our Broad and Adventurous Look at the Future: 2007-2012*, which focused on creating an exceptional physical and intellectual environment for SFS students. Actualizing its initiatives relied on the participation and generosity of the School's constituents. This was not easy during the Great Recession. Many of the School's families and staff were profoundly affected by the country's economic crisis. But in response, SFS established the Community Fund, collecting an additional \$100,000 above and beyond tuition assistance that helped to meet the needs of those families and staff. Despite this difficult period for our country, SFS raised \$5M in its capital campaign *Community at the Center*. This project's intention was to create the heart of the campus for School celebrations, traditions, and community.

In 2010, Steve visited alumni parents Tom Meyer and Julie Stevenson on their family farm in New York's Hudson Valley. There were Amish contractors in the midst of an impressive barn-raising. Steve observed clear similarities between building the Community Center and barn raising:

- » A community event where all are expected to come together to assemble it for one or more of its households
- » Often the first, largest, and most costly structure built by a family
- » An essential structure for community gathering and storage
- » An event that strengthens social bonds and enhances interdependence
- » An activity that demands humility, trust, accountability, commitment, and sacrifice

Plans were made to create a 11,500 ft<sup>2</sup> building for art, science, language, and library spaces, with a



4,100 ft<sup>2</sup> theater and gymnasium. The school relied on philanthropic support to cover the project costs, vowing to keep tuition at or below the median of other preschool-8th schools in San Francisco. At City Hall that spring, Steve, elementary and middle school students, parenting adults, and staff attended the planning department meeting to speak about what a new theater and gym on campus would mean to them. The commission passed the plans unanimously.

Teaching and learning in a construction zone was memorable, indeed! During the 2012-13 school year, the 12-month project was completed not only ahead of schedule, but under budget. In a surprise finish for the school year, the Class of 2013 graduation ceremony took place in the Community Center. The official ribbon cutting kicked off the new school year on August 28, 2013, and the space became a theater, gymnasium, and much more. With the immense potential of the Community Center, Steve, the Board, administration, and faculty pursued new initiatives centered on student learning, technology in education and school operations, diversity, and efficient and meaningful use of the School's campus facilities.

Under Steve's leadership, SFS strengthened its connections to the world. In 2010, students traveled to Salzburg for the International Orff Schulwerk Symposium; in 2011, SFS began an annual home stay and service project for 8th Graders in Nicaragua. Students were immersed in Spanish language and Central American culture. The international Orff Internship Program at SFS began in 2013 with participants from all over the world. The School welcomed 24 students from Beijing for summer camp in the summer of 2014.

During the 2015-16 school year, The San Francisco School marked its 50th year with an alumni panel at the Fall All School Meeting, an alumni social during the winter break, the Glitter & Gold Auction for Tuition Assistance, and a 50th Anniversary Celebration. More than 700 community members, including founding members,

alumni, past & current families and past & former staff came together on Gaven St. for a barbecue hosted by co-chefs Patty Corwin and Jane Loeser, and to sing together, make merry, and honor our remarkable school.

Additionally, Steve supported the expansion of curricula. For example, the Elementary and Middle School math programs underwent a major revision, incorporating a new curriculum for differentiated and conceptual instruction as well as a strong growth mindset. The Spanish department was expanded and strengthened. Furthermore, the SFS Educational Philosophy and its pillars of curiosity, challenge, collaboration, courage, and compassion were defined. Technology was deliberately strengthened both operationally and within the School's program. Consistent with the mission and his own values, Steve emphasized the importance of diversity and teaching social justice. In 2016, when the Zika virus made travel to Nicaragua unsafe, he and the senior administration adapted the 8th Grade trip to a sojourn through the American South for an in-depth lesson in the Civil Rights Movement.

Further programmatic enrichments were the result of *The Strategic Plan 2017-2022: Living Our Humanitarian Promise*. Created with input from all of the School's constituents, the Plan served as a compass for further growth under Steve's leadership. Through its overlapping categories of People, Program, and Place, the plan emboldened the community to focus on its humanitarian values, social emotional learning, social justice, and student support, even while integrating technology and building the endowment. Steve referred to the Strategic Plan at every opportunity, and it became woven into the very fabric of our school — in the management of time and communication, care of the staff and their lifelong learning, and maintaining empathy through teaching STEAM.

When the world was in turmoil with COVID and life as we knew it was completely upended, Steve's leadership was measured and calm. His practices of listening,





consensus building, and informed decision making provided stability and confidence as the School moved from the intended two-week *School on the Go* to months of distance learning. He was the first Head of School to lead the San Francisco Department of Public Health officials through a successful school inspection for permission to return to school in person. With transparency, science-based data, and an open ear for community voices, Steve, the administration, and the COVID Task Force made tough decisions regarding policies, campus reopening, and the subsequent teaching and learning in a pandemic. As the threat of COVID subsided, our gregarious and caring community returned to its traditions and celebrations with the support of affinity groups and the Family Association, which had been established earlier during his tenure.

Despite the many challenges of those years, the School has thrived. In 2021, the second major capital campaign during Steve's tenure, *Forge Our Future: The Campaign for SFS*, concluded. It raised \$7 million to deepen the School's STEAM program and grow the endowment Steve has led the operations and functions of the school while also being strategic and visionary, allowing the staff, program, and facilities to grow. Steve has prepared SFS for future challenges of local and national circumstances. The racial reckoning motivated him and the Board to further efforts to embrace diversity by undergoing a year-long introspective process and championing anti-racism as a priority. As a result, board committees and their administrative liaisons use an anti-racist lens to review their practices, adjust practices as needed, and plan for future initiatives.

In a city where the disparities in wealth and privilege are ever increasing, financial sustainability of independent schools is a critical issue. Since 2008, the School's annual budget has doubled while the endowment has more than tripled. SFS has managed to preserve its core

values and adopt a culture of philanthropy that is more inclusive than ever before. Working closely together, Steve and the Finance Committee have maintained financial stability. With equity in mind, during Steve's time, two *ad hoc* board committees on socioeconomic diversity and the allocation of Indexed Tuition have created policies to ensure a diversity of families.

Steve's experience as Head has been enhanced by his membership on multiple boards, including The Urban School of San Francisco, Marin Country Day School, San Francisco Day School, California Teachers Development Collaborative, Bay Area Teacher Training Initiative, People of Color in Independent Schools (POCIS), Youth Speaks, and the San Francisco Zoo. Within CAIS, he has served as the Chair of its Board of Directors. He has supported his staff and colleagues and worked especially hard in being a mentor, teacher, and administrator of color as well as being active in organizations such as Vanguard, a mentorship for Black male students in independent schools; Northern California's People of Color in Independent Schools; and National Association of Independent Schools' People of Color Conference.

Perhaps it is the combination of his ability to see the best in people and his passion for advancing educators of color in independent schools that drove his decision to be part of a search firm for independent school leadership. Steve will join RG175's team of experienced consultants to guide schools in hiring senior administrators and strengthening their governance structure.

Though we will miss his presence on campus, we are grateful for all he has done for The San Francisco School. His legacy will live on. Steve Morris has led the School for 15 years, preserving its traditions and ethos while transforming it from "a hidden gem in the Portola" to a highly-regarded, sought-after independent school in San Francisco.

# TRIBUTES



To show Steve Morris our gratitude for his leadership and contributions to our beloved school, there have been several events during the spring semester to celebrate him.

In March, trustees and administrators from the School's board assembled for a festive Hawaiian dinner, Steve Morris trivia, and a Bud Light toast. It was a moving evening for Steve to be surrounded by the group of alumni, parents, staff, and colleagues who over the years have supported his vision, governance, and deep efforts in leading the School as well as an opportunity for him to express his gratitude for their advocacy.

At the end of April, the Family Association hosted the entire SFS community for its Spring Social & BBQ in McLaren Park. Attended by alumni, their families, past staff, and current community members, there were blue skies, games and activities, good food, and great company. Words of appreciation were shared by Jalen Allen '08, Stewart Dorsey, Maggie Weis, Nate Lundy, Mitch Bostian, Jenn Keese-Powell, and Charlie Meade — representing alumni, school parents, staff, and colleagues. Steve expressed his gratitude for this community as well as his beloved family — his children Rowan, Mason, and Harper; his wife Beth Goya; and his sister Melissa.

As the Gazette goes to press, there are other celebrations planned in May and June. This year, the traditional Spring All School Meeting will instead be a party for parenting adults and staff community. And in the final weeks of his tenure, the staff will take Steve to a San Francisco Giants vs. Pittsburgh Pirates game at Oracle Park. Finally, in June, current students from Preschool to 8th Grade will have the last goodbye at a special assembly.

**It is impossible to overstate Steve's impact as our Head of School. Whether as an act of appreciation for his leadership or an investment in the future, we invite you all to help ensure his legacy through a contribution to The Morris Family Fund for Equity and Justice.**

The fund was founded by Dottie and Craig Mattison in 2008, Steve's first year as Head of School, when they foresaw the positive impact that he would make on the community in the realm of diversity, equity, inclusion, and belonging. It has grown over the last 15 years through additional gifts and market growth. Please help us grow this endowed fund to honor Steve and to support the continuation of the important work of increasing representation of and supporting staff of color.

[sfschool.org/morrisfamilyfund](https://sfschool.org/morrisfamilyfund).

## STEVE MORRIS COMMUNITY CENTER

In a fitting tribute to the Head of School who made it possible, anonymous donors have elected to name the theater/gymnasium in honor of Steve Morris. The result of his vision, leadership, and tireless efforts to solicit the support of the community, including alumni and past families, the Community Center was intended to be the heart of campus, bringing all students, teachers, administrators, and families together for ceremonies, athletic competitions, performances, and celebrations. It transformed the space and strengthened the connections of the people and program within the Gaven St. gates.



## HAPPENINGS

There are so many exciting things happening on campus. This year, students can ride a bus to school! In partnership with a neighboring school, the program offers transportation from various locations throughout the city to SFS and home again. An environmentally conscious endeavor that's fun for its passengers, the school bus has reduced traffic in the neighborhood and been an enormous convenience for families.

The winter saw the return of beloved traditions like concerts, *St. George and the Dragon*, and skating at Yerba Buena. Middle Schoolers paired up with gleeful Elementary students who had never taken part in the skating tradition due to the pandemic. Afterward, many of them bowled with The Pact, an interscholastic mentorship program for students of color in independent schools.

Elementary and Middle School students welcomed the Year of the Rabbit through an afterschool lion dance program and Lunar New Year performance in the Community Center. Then, on a rainy, windy night, student dancers and percussionists took part in San Francisco's Chinese New Year Parade — the drummers and cymbalists steadily set the beat for younger students as they pranced playfully for the crowd. One 4th Grader breathed, "This is the most fun I've ever had!"

SFS athletes have been all in. Cross-country, volleyball, futsal, and basketball seasons were in full tilt this year (with a heartbreaking buzzer beater loss in the Finals for Coach Savanna Andrews '13 and the Varsity Girls Basketball team). Go Bears!

Our staff is pushing out into the community. At the National Association of Independent Schools (NAIS) Annual Conference in Las Vegas, SFS hosted a workshop called *STEAMing Up Shakespeare*. Sofía López-Ibor (Music Teacher), Sadie Wilcox (Art Teacher), Carly Reiter (Director of Design, Engineering, and Technology), and Nancy Nagramada (Assistant Head of School and Head of Middle School) shared their experience teaching 7th Graders *A Midsummer Night's Dream* and led a workshop on how colleagues can integrate teaching technology and engineering with arts and humanities.

Our adult community had a variety of opportunities for coming together this year. In the Spring, we gathered for the School's first PechaKucha (see next page). Many also enjoyed *Side by Sides*, smaller gatherings for parenting adults. All parents and guardians were invited to sign up for one of these events, hosted by other community members, such as progressive dinners, a lesson in making the perfect pour over coffee, South Asian snacks in the park, and poker night, to name a few!

Many learning opportunities have taken place off campus. There have been field trips within the city, such as to the Mission Cultural Center, the studios of KQED, and the Portola Family Center. Outside the City, students were welcomed to Toluma Farms in Marin and brought two goat kids back to the Adventure Playground (thanks to alum family the Hicks-Jablons!). There have been overnight stays as students journeyed through California history in Coloma; camped at Boulder Creek, China Camp, and the Marin Headlands; and toured landmarks of the Civil Rights Era in the American South.

The semester is flying by, and we have been enormously grateful for these opportunities for students, parenting adults, and staff to learn, socialize, and celebrate.

# FAMILY ASSOCIATION

This year's energetic and highly motivated Family Association (FA) leadership has offered myriad events for SFS families! Activities that were outdoors more often than not last year have moved inside again. Last year's Movie Night was a fun but chilly screening on the Greentop, so it was a relief to be in the cozy warmth of the Community Center this semester. Frequent Community Cafes are happening on campus with opportunities to chat with administrators, division heads, and Incoming Head of School Juna Kim McDaid. Parenting adults have volunteered at heritage luncheons. In partnership with SPEAK SF, a consortium of K-8th independent schools, SFS hosted a talk by neurodiversity expert Debbie Reber.

There has been enthusiasm in affinity groups this year, too — parenting adults formed the Minds of All Kinds Affinity Group for neurodiverse families; made a display of adopted students and famous people to raise awareness (Adoptive Family Affinity Group); held shabbat in the park (Jewish Affinity Group); hosted a garden picnic and attended Drag Queen Bingo (LGBTQIA+ Affinity Group); organized student Bollywood dance performances and a Holi celebration (South Asian Affinity Group); roller skated and reflected on identity with artist Amanda Phingbodhipakkiya (Asian American Pacific Island Affinity Group); and deepened their connections through heritage celebrations and gathering off campus (Black/African American Affinity Group).



The FA brought together our adult community in March for its first PechaKucha (Japanese for “chit chat”), an evening of storytelling with drinks and dessert! On the theme of transition, six community members each shared twenty slides, each for twenty seconds. “We went deep and brief,” said Head of School Steve Morris about their six minute and forty second time limit. Their personal, candid stories and vulnerability were truly inspirational.

The FA gathered the entire community — nearly four hundred past and present students, families, and staff — for the Spring Social in McLaren Park to honor Steve Morris (see description in Tributes, p. 9). It was an enormous celebration and an amazing opportunity to see the generations of SFS community together.

Thank you, FA Co-Chairs Crissy Koehler and Tracy Kaplan for leading the SFS families through a busy and exciting year, caring so deeply for our community, and helping us foster the relationships that are the foundation for our school.



# MILESTONE ANNIVERSARIES

Our staff is the heart of our school. The unique SFS experience is only possible because of 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: 30 - James Harding | 15 - Tiffany Fong, Diana Jang | 10 - Melissa Holman-Kursky



Left-Right: 5 - Emmanuel Legorreta, Anne O'Driscoll, Hector Rivera, Michael Travis

# TRANSITIONS



It is a bittersweet time of the school year as we say goodbye to retiring and departing staff members.

**Nancy Nagramada** began at SFS in 2017 as the Head of Upper School and more recently transitioned to the Assistant Head of School and Head of Middle School, infusing her passion for diversity and inclusion into her leadership. She and her partner Charlie have also been SFS parents with their son Milo currently in Middle School. We wish her well in her next role as the Head of Island School in Lihue, Hawaii.

Chief Financial and Operational Officer **Terri Hamer** arrived at SFS in 2019, and shortly afterwards, she was confronted with the pandemic. While managing the School's operations through COVID, Terri oversaw numerous campus enhancements including the construction of the Field Station; renovations of the Preschool and Kindergarten building, the Music Room, and the Learning Commons; and an HVAC upgrade in the Edeli Building. Terri is exploring opportunities outside the field of education.

And we thank **Diana Jang** for her 15 years of service in the SFS kitchen. Per chef Anne O'Driscoll, "she has been the calm force in our kitchen." We wish her a happy retirement.

Thank you to all departing staff members who have impacted the School in so many ways, plainly visible and behind the scenes, making it the great institution it is today. We wish you all the best as you continue your journeys beyond the Gaven St. gates.

# INTRODUCING JUNA KIM MCDAID



Though she officially assumes her role as Head of School on July 1, 2023, Juna Kim McDaid has already been incredibly involved at SFS. Staff, students, and parenting adults have been getting to know Juna both virtually and in person. She and her family (partner Dan, and children Quinn and Troy) are eager to return to the Bay Area after several years in Northern Virginia where she has been the Assistant Head of School for Academics at the Potomac School.

## How would you describe yourself as a leader?

I once heard Hugh O'Doherty from Harvard Kennedy School say, "Leadership is an activity, not a position. It's the capacity to mobilize an organization to address an adaptive challenge."

A leader should lead and live by example, and SFS's culture of character, creativity, and inclusivity align with my core values. My personal and professional experiences are a testament to how I join teams together to create tides that raise all boats with optimism and care. Being with others throughout the day is how I build relationships, engender trust, and show respect. In every school community I have been a part of, I will be one of the first to volunteer to cover classes or a duty to model how we care for one another.

Living in service to others is a core value of my own upbringing, and being a part of a community is about being there for others. I love being with students any chance I can get. I'll read to and eat lunch with lower school students, teach seniors in my English elective, and show up as a "shark" for students' pitches in an 8th Grade elective. I also find great fulfillment in collaborating with staff, parenting adults, and other leaders in the community. I gain so much perspective through moments like coaching teachers one-on-one as a part of our professional growth and development program, talking with a parent who is wondering how we are integrating Asian-American history as American history, or hearing from the parenting association reps about the impact of our programming on parenting adults. Being open to feedback only makes us stronger. I look forward to partnering with all SFS community members and the broader community to ensure that we are meeting the needs of all of our students and fulfilling the humanitarian promise.

## How is the transition going?

I've been in regular communication with Steve Morris ever since I accepted the job! I'm finding that we are running in the same direction — our styles are so similar, and we are often finishing each other's thoughts and sentences.

During The Potomac School's spring break in March, I was delighted to be at SFS to be involved with the hiring process for the School's next Director of Finance and Head of Middle School. I learned more about the staff and their work by meeting with teams of teachers, student support services, the curriculum and program team, and administrators. On Pi Day, I tasted every pie baked by SFS chef Gaby Fusco for the staff social. What a joy it was spending time with all staff and engaging in meaningful conversations.

I really wanted to be with students. I met them at the gates one rainy morning, toured classrooms, and attended Elementary Gathering and Middle School Town Meeting. I also took an opportunity to sneak away between meetings to sit with some third grade students, Troy's future classmates, to cheer for the Bears at the futsal triple header.

It was exciting to be among the parenting adults, too. SFS has such a warm and welcoming community. The Family Association (FA) hosted a Community Cafe for me and all parenting adults on my first morning. I interacted with many of the trustees at their March board meeting. On my last evening, I enjoyed dinner at an SFS family's home with the FA and affinity group leaders (thanks for hosting, Jacquelyn and Carolyn!).

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## Education

Middlebury College, Bread Loaf School of English, M.A. English Literature 2010  
Boston College, Lynch School of Education, M.Ed. in Secondary Education, 1998  
Boston College, B.A. in English, 1997

## Administrative/Leadership Experience

The Potomac School, Assistant Head of School for Academics, 2019-2023  
Sonoma County Day School, Middle School Division Head, 2017-2019  
Drew School, Dean of Faculty, 2013-2017  
Drew School English Department Chair, 2010-2013, 2015-2017

# COMMUNITY NEWS

## ALUMNI



**Chad Williams '90**, a Professor of History and African and African American Studies at Brandeis University, has written *The Wounded World*, the dramatic story of W. E. B. Du Bois's reckoning with the betrayal of Black soldiers during World War I. While in the city for his national book tour, Chad and his sister **Kelli Williams '95** (who is a Technical Developer for The North Face in Denver) visited and spoke with the 8th Graders about history and following one's passion. **Ginger Jackson-Gleich '99**, her husband Mike, and son Miles happily welcomed Daniel Roberto Schember-Jackson to their family in December 2022. Having played for SFSU and the University of New Hampshire, soccer star **Peter Swinkels '11** helped lead Knoxville's soccer club in its inaugural year in the pre-professional USL League Two. And this year, the goalkeeper will be part of One Knoxville Sporting Club's first professional year in USL League One. This year's Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration at SFS featured Yale student **Emilia Fernández '14** and her all-senior, all-gender, soprano-alto a cappella group *Whim 'n Rhythm*. She said, "It's not an overstatement to say that SFS has shaped everything I do in life—I still have best friends from elementary school and talk with new friends about my experiences at SFS all the time. And of course,



the art and music programs have deeply influenced how I interact with the world." CCSF sophomore guard **EJ Neal '15** has committed to play Division 1 basketball for the University of Idaho.

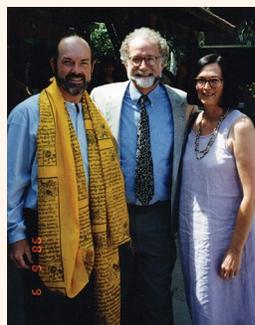
We've welcomed lots of alums on campus this semester — thank you **Jeffrey Chen '09**, **Micah Fobbs '11**, **Sophie Fyfe '14**, **Xara Jamey '14**, **Jasper Nelson '14**, and **Vivian Scheben '22** for stopping by to visit! We were delighted to welcome back members of the Classes of 2015, 2016, 2017, and 2018 for a winter break reunion in January.

## PARENTING ADULTS AND STAFF



Former 3rd Grade Teacher **Laura Burges** has published two books since her retirement: *Buddhist Stories for Kids: Jataka Tales of Kindness, Friendship, and Forgiveness* and *Zen for Kids: 50+ Mindful Activities and Stories to Shine Loving-Kindness in the World*. SFS Elementary students were lucky to have her read to them during singing time in December on Bodhi Day (Buddha's Enlightenment Day). During the 2019-20 school year, past and present SFS parents **Samantha Campbell**, **Rachel Benson**, and **Todd Dayton** formed Mallets Up Productions and began filming what was intended to be a documentary about Doug Goodkin's final year of teaching at SFS. *The Secret Song* shows how he, Sofía López-Ibor, and James Harding surmounted hardships of teaching during the COVID pandemic, sharing the magic of SFS well beyond our gates. The community was invited to screen it at the Roxie Theater this past winter. Learn more about the film and other screenings at [thesecretsongfilm.com](https://thesecretsongfilm.com). Since her retirement last summer, former staff member **Vivian Walz** has been showing her artwork at the Sanchez Art Center in Pacifica and participated in the Silicon Valley Open Studios Coastsides Weekend. See her mixed media pieces, monotype prints, other work, and artist statement at <https://vivian-marie-walz-art.square.site>.

## REMEMBRANCES



**Carol Baker**, alumni parent of **Christopher Baker '95** & **Zachery Baker '98**, passed away on December 15, 2022. Organized and skilled as an oral surgical assistant, she and her husband Tom settled in San Francisco in 1979 where they started a periodontal practice. She was greatly involved in her sons' education, including at SFS — an always available, supportive and effective parent volunteer. Remembered fondly as a kind, giving person, Carol participated in many aspects of SFS life.

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](http://www.sfschool.org/alumni/update).



## 2022-23 BOARD OF TRUSTEES

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Keith Wolff  
Steve Morris, President  
Terri Hamer, Treasurer  
Jeanie Chang, Secretary



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## WAYS TO STAY CONNECTED!

-  facebook.com/thesanfranciscoschool
-  instagram.com/sfschool
-  The San Francisco School Alumni Group

Update your contact information at  
[sfschool.org/alumni](https://sfschool.org/alumni)

## SAVE THE DATES!

### JUNE 2

Screening of "The Secret Song"  
6:30 pm at the Roxie Theater

Tickets can be purchased at  
[sfdocfest2023.eventive.org/schedule](https://sfdocfest2023.eventive.org/schedule)

### JUNE 8

Class of 2019 Alumni Picnic  
12:00-2:00 pm at SFS

