

# The Hawk Newsletter Fall/Winter 2020

Dear Alumni, Parents & Friends,

Happiest Holiday wishes from St. Albans!

It seems now more than ever, our connections with others directly impact our happiness. During this uniquely challenging year, I found myself repeatedly feeling grateful for the many ways our students, teachers and families rose to meet every challenge, and remained connected to each other.



We are blessed to have each of you, as well, in this extended family of friends and alumni. I'm happy to share that from September 7 - December 3, St. Albans enjoyed having students safely on campus full-time. In an act of caution and care, we transitioned to remote learning for the final 8 days of the trimester, and plan to return after winter break. Throughout the year, we have watched our students gracefully meet every academic challenge and change, pursue their personal interests as much as possible, and show compassion and empathy for others.

We are grateful for you, and truly look forward to the days ahead when we can all be together once again.

Happy Holidays! *Mrs. Laura Bernauer* Head of School

# 2020: Learning the Art of Improv

This semester, we changed almost everything to make sure *one* thing stayed the same: our students received the best education possible.

Many classes were held outdoors. Drum kits and ukuleles replaced wind instruments and singing. Field Trips were virtual. The playground became the lunchroom. Our teachers learned to simultaneously teach live and inperson, while guiding at-home learners.

In the process, we learned a LOT about how resilient kids are, how easily we adapt to change with a little time and ingenuity, how amazing our

ce that families are willing to make to help their kids.

teachers are, and the level of sacrifice that families are willing to make to help their kids. We are blessed.



1st Graders enjoying an outdoor art class.



Kindergarteners held "Centers" in the open air part of Day Care.



8th graders learned ukulele in place of wind instruments.



Effie Yeaw Sacramento Nature Center brought their exciting field trip to our 2nd Graders remotely.

#### St. Albans Gives Back!





Even during a pandemic, St. Albans families exhibit the most incredible generosity! We recently gathered over 8,000 cans and non-perishable foods for local families through the Roseville Salvation Army and Kids Can food drive!

7th Grade student, JJ, canvased his entire neighborhood (along with his classmate Ted)

to gather over 390 food items from neighbors. Doing for others who will never repay you... is true generosity. Thank you each for all that you do for others.

## **Upholding the Holiday Show Tradition!**

Since singing and gathering for our Annual Holiday Show wasn't possible this year, Mr. Cook worked with every class to produce a pre-recorded video of holiday classics featuring students as storytellers, musicians and actors.

Every family will be able to view this virtual show from their very own living rooms!



# Thank you for your support! New Newsletter Sponsorships Available

#### **Annual Giving**

Thank you so much for the generosity you have shown to St. Albans this year. As a non-profit, independent school, we have always relied on the support of our extended community to help bridge the gap for our annual operating budget each year. However, this year more than ever, your gift helps to offset the extraordinary costs we incurred from the Covid-19 pandemic.

Consider a gift to this year's Annual Fund. Your support helps us retain the best teachers, keep class sizes small, offer accelerated learning, and create the supportive and nurturing community that epitomizes St. Albans Country Day School.

*Thank you* for supporting our students in so many ways. Your gift makes a difference!



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## **Preparing the Campus**

Beginning last spring, St. Albans staff and administrators began the monumental task of safeguarding our campus for the return of our students, faculty and staff this fall.

With extensive new protocols and equipment in place, we were able to safely enjoy three months with our students on campus! From the simplicity of new hand sanitization stations and an additional custodial staff member, to the creation of new schedules, playground designations, outdoor learning spaces, and pick-up and drop off rules - we did everything we could to ensure safety throughout the day.

Students were cohorted by their grade level, and every student, staff member and visitor was made to wear a mask and be symptom-checked prior to entering a building or

classroom each morning.

Classroom supplies were purchased so that students would not need to share. Lunches were made individualized, packaged and delivered to each classroom. Classrooms and communal areas were cleaned daily with new electrostatic sanitizing machines and our computer lab was outfitted with Plexiglass partitions.

These are just a few of the many changes and adaptations made possible through the stealth leadership of our Executive Board, Administration, and teachers. We are grateful for the healthy space in which our amazing community can learn, and we look forward to being back on campus in January!

#### **Meet our New Instructors**

We welcomed three new instructors to our classrooms: Mrs. Sarah Emerson is our new kindergarten teacher; Mrs. Andrea Perron is our new upper grade Spanish teacher; and Mr. Rich Doran is our new computer technology instructor.

We are grateful for their warmth, high level of experience, and willingness to hit the ground running in a year that no one will forget!



Mrs. Sarah Emerson Kindergarten



Mrs. Andrea Perron Upper Grade Spanish



Mr. Rich Doran Computer Technology

Happy Holidays!
Please take care of yourselves... and each other.



# Lots of love from all of us at St. Albans Country Day School

St. Albans Country Day School | 916-782-3557





