THE GAVEN STREET

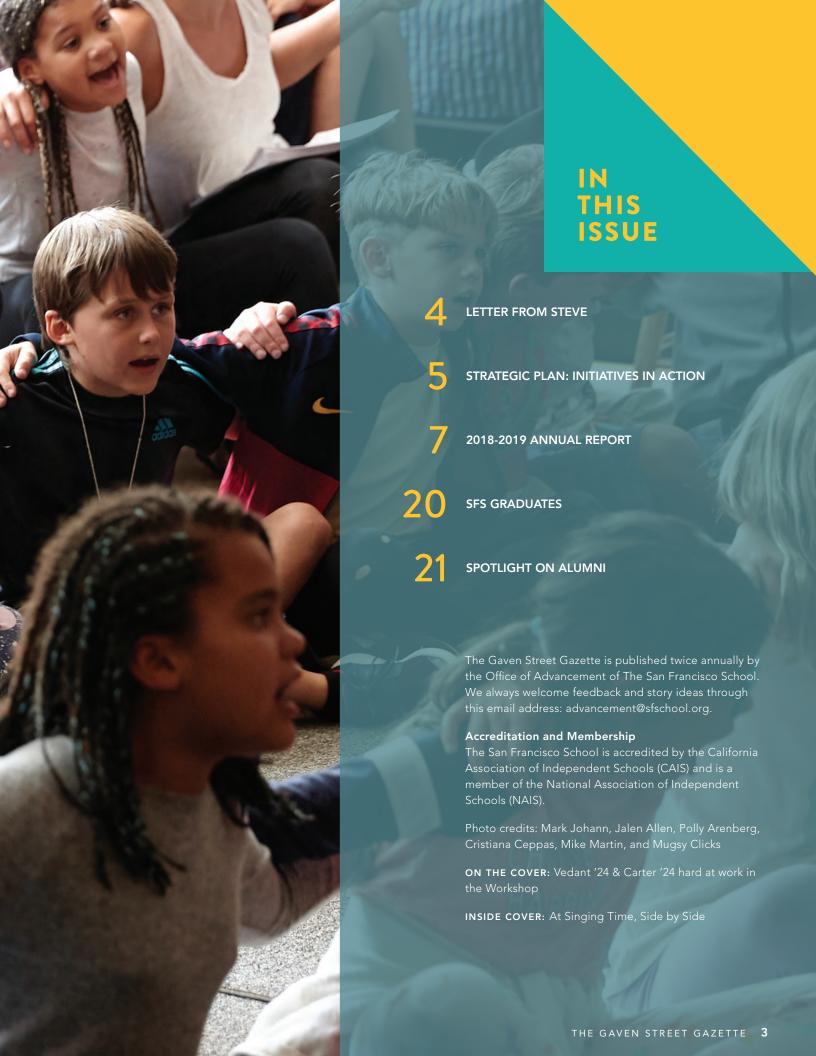
FALL 2019

GAZETTE











LETTER FROM STEVE

his is why we're here. On my mind, as we were preparing for the new school year during staff orientation, and then as students jubilantly entered the 300 Gaven gate, and then as we saw all of our community gathered during opening ceremonies, was the idea of being here for one another, belonging to each other, and learning from one another. I see that throughline when recent graduates come back to campus for surprise visits, to say hello to the teachers who helped shape them, or to pause

I recognize our school's value when I see alumni, now SFS parents themselves, having lived both sides of the SFS experience. What a joy to see our former students watching and listening as their little ones regale them with familiar tales of Singing Time "...Halloween is coming...Halloween is coming...." Over the years, their big ones will become more discerning, ask provocative questions, and articulate their own story while preparing for the next chapters. You'll read some reflections from our SFS parents who are also alumni in this issue of the Gazette.

their high school lives for a moment to visit with younger

siblings and friends.

Wrapping around all of this (and over it, and through it) is gratitude. Gratitude to two cornerstones of the SFS foundation — Music Teacher Doug Goodkin and Lower School Head Maggie Weis, who this June will retire after decades as educators here. We have all year to celebrate and appreciate Maggie and Doug (please look for save the dates in this issue). Similar gratitude goes out to the generous stewards of The San Francisco School who consistently answer the call with their time, talent, and treasure. As you will see in this, our Annual Report issue, we lead through service and community at SFS. The metaphorical barn-raising is found everywhere, in all that we do. With our Strategic Plan, "Fulfilling our Humanitarian Promise," guiding our way, our vision is clear. Our continued work together is essential and transformative, and I am grateful for your partnership.

STEVE MORRIS

STRATEGIC PLAN: INITIATIVES IN ACTION

PLACE: Deepened Partnership with San Francisco and the Portola District

Families 4 Families

Engagement in service and connection to community are the goals of The San Francisco School's Families4Families initiative. Spearheaded by SFS parents Raveena Rihal and Libby Reder, through joint efforts between the Board's Public Purpose Committee and the School's Family Association, Families4Families implemented our first annual Weekend of Service earlier this year.

Last spring, over three days in April, more than 100 volunteers – SFS students, parents, guardians, and staff members – fanned out to four locations to join in the struggle for families experiencing homelessness and poverty. "Despite being a wealthy city and technology hub, homelessness is part of our daily lives in San Francisco," note Raveena and Libby as they reflected on spring 2019 efforts. The SFS Weekend of Service is an opportunity to "empower our school community to understand and work to improve these incredibly complicated issues."

The SFS community engaged with four service providers, some who welcomed support from even our littlest volunteers. At the Excelsior Community Food Pantry, volunteers (age three and up) helped organize and distribute thousands of pounds of groceries. The Pantry, just a short distance from the School, serves nearly 300 neighborhood families each week; the connection was originally forged by SFS parent Amelia Zimmerman Wolff, who has a long history with the organization. Another organization, Simply the Basics, welcomed our volunteers in assembling hygiene kits for more than 200 neighbors experiencing homelessness. SFS families also supported two San Francisco mainstays in leading the fight to disrupt cycles of poverty, hunger, and homelessness in the City, Glide Memorial and Raphael

House. At Glide Memorial, our volunteers made 800 lunches and at Raphael House, they cleaned and spruced up the roof deck for the families living there.

Raveena and Libby have been hard at work in continuing to provide opportunity, as they put it, for SFS "families to engage in deeper conversations about poverty and people experiencing homelessness, and how we as a school can get more involved in our community." Families4Families will share additional details around service opportunities during the 2019-2020 school year on The San Francisco School website and through other school communications; there are also lists of service providers and family resources to help keep SFS connected to our wider community. October 2019 saw the launch of a school-year partnership with the Food Pantry. This December will see another hygiene kit drive effort, with a Parent Education evening talk to follow on January 29, 2020. The next SFS Weekend of Service will be held March 21-22, 2020. The overall goal: to keep all San Francisco School classes connected to service organizations in the community, and to maintain the School's presence within these efforts.

The SFS Weekend of Service is an opportunity to "empower our school community to understand and work to improve these incredibly complicated issues."



PLACE: Environmental Stewardship

Students Advance Environmental Justice

For decades, students at The San Francisco School have come away from their sixth grade Proteus project with deep and broad understanding of their chosen issue area. For some, like Asa DeZerega '21, informed knowledge ignites change closer to home.

Armed with facts about CO2 emissions, the high costs worldwide of raising animals for food consumption, and water use in food preparation, this June Asa pitched his proposal — "Meatless Mondays" — to the SFS Head of School, Director of Finance and Operations, and Chefs. "My sixth grade Proteus project sparked my idea for Meatless Mondays. I was researching meat consumption and its impact on climate change," Asa recalls. "Turns out all the aspects of raising meat to feed humans creates a bigger carbon footprint than all forms of transportation combined. I realized that Meatless Monday was an easy contribution to slowing climate change. I knew I could do it.



If I could get the SFS kitchen (onboard), it would be bigger than just one sixth grade student hoping to help."

Just imagine, Asa says: instead of having sliders one day, the School could save approximately 115,500 gallons of

water by serving grilled cheese with tomato soup instead. "Importantly," Asa goes on, "'Meatless Mondays' is a great example of our strategic plan that states, 'Our environmental and sustainability education will result in further appreciation of our natural surroundings; maximization of energy conservation; reduced water use, waste, and emissions; and stronger recycling and composting efforts."

"At the end of last year, Asa emailed Chef Anne O'Driscoll and me with a compelling, well-researched, and thoughtful proposition to adopt 'Meatless Mondays' in the SFS kitchen," notes the School's co-chef Jessica Battilana. "We were thrilled to support Asa in formally taking this pledge, though the truth is that nearly 80 percent of the meals we serve are vegetarian, even though only 25 students and teachers eat strictly vegetarian diets."

There is a throughline from Asa's efforts in 2019 to the School's beloved long-time chefs, Patty Corwin and Jane Loeser, who helmed the SFS kitchen for decades. From the earliest days creating healthful and delicious meals for students, Patty and Jane followed the model of sustainable and tasty options for community members to enjoy, while modeling tenets of environmental responsibility around waste and sourcing. The joy, creativity, and love Patty and Jane shared for creating dishes for the School community were essential ingredients as well. And as Jessica notes, this emphasis continues: "While there are certainly environmental reasons to eat less meat, we also make vegetarian meals because they are delicious."

Taking his Proteus project knowledge into action during his seventh grade year, Asa sees an opportunity for wider change, but change that stays true to the School's overall approach. "SFS encourages us to think about environmental justice like avoiding single-use plastic in our lunches, the Walking School Bus, and supporting students in attending the recent Global Climate Strike," he says. "When I go to high school in two years, I will try to change my high school cafeteria to a Meatless Monday program if it isn't already on one."

"I realized that Meatless Monday was an easy contribution to slowing climate change. I knew I could do it."

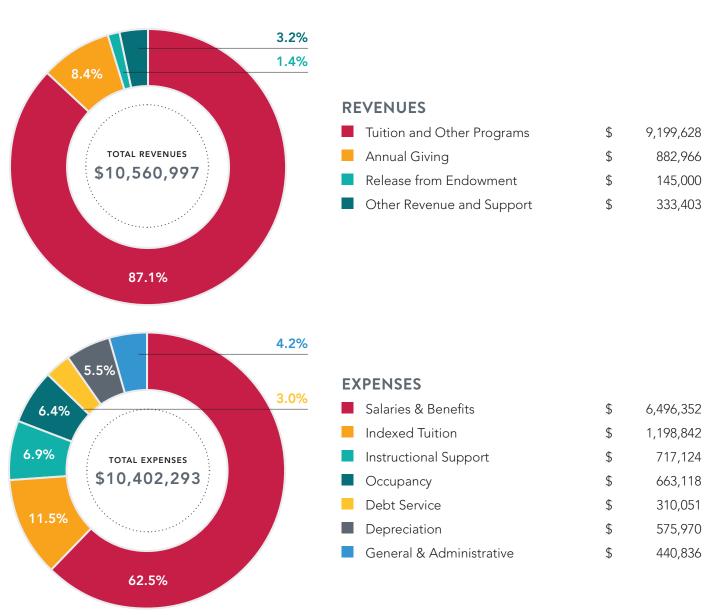
Asa DeZerega '21



FINANCIAL REPORT*

ANNUAL GIVING			CAPITAL GIVING		
Annual Fund	\$	722,064	Forge Our Future	\$	859,034
Auction/Other	\$	160,902	(gifts and pledges)		
			Other Gifts	\$	2,000
			Endowment	\$	33,906
Total Annual Giving	\$	882,966	Total Capital Giving	\$	894,940
TOTAL GIVING				\$	1,777,906

^{*}Audited Financials





THE FUND FOR SFS

The Fund for SFS is The San Francisco School's Annual Fund campaign which takes place each fall, running from October to December. Gifts of all sizes are welcome and appreciated! We receive gifts from parents, guardians, trustees, grandparents, faculty, staff, alumni, alumni parents, a San Francisco School education even more extraordinary.

Gifts to the Fund comprise an essential portion of The San Francisco School's operating budget each year. Last year, seven percent of the budget came from the Annual Fund. These contributions provide resources for students and faculty not necessarily covered by tuition. Put to use right away, they help provide an exceptional environment for teaching and learning, allowing our students to explore, discover, and grow.



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And many more volunteers who supported various events, drivers for field trips, chaperones for middle school dances, bakers, and so much more. Thank you for making these experiences that much richer with your presence and support!

THE SAN FRANCISCO SCHOOL ENDOWMENT

Endowment gifts provide essential income that is consistent and reliable. The San Francisco School endowment, established in 1982 and currently valued at \$3.7 million, ensures long-term security for the school and a perpetual source of annual revenue that complements both annual fundraising and tuition income.

The San Francisco School endowment consists of a general fund as well as named funds. The general fund is comprised of gifts received which have been undesignated. These gifts allow the Board and school administration to determine how to allocate the proceeds. Undesignated endowment funds allow the school to be flexible when unfavorable economic conditions strike, and in favorable economic conditions, allow the school to be bold in the advancement of the school's strategic imperatives.

Currently, there are 20 named endowed funds that support key priorities of the school such as tuition assistance, professional development, and program support. These funds supplement the operating budget for their designated areas, filling an important gap that is not covered by tuition income.



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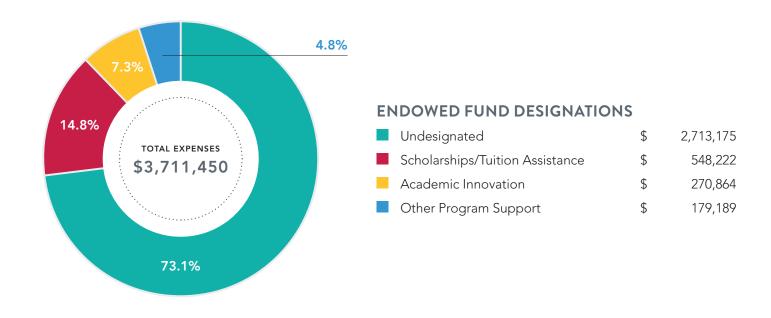
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We are honored to include the following donors in the The San Francisco School's Legacy Society, a group of dedicated donors who have made planned gifts to The San Francisco School Endowment:

Terry and Kathie Edeli Terry Gamble Boyer and Peter Boyer Miriam Phillips and Charles Eley



^{❖ 5} Year Consecutive Donors 👶 10 Year Consecutive Donors → 15 Year Consecutive Donors 🔭 20 Year Consecutive Donors * 25 Year Consecutive Donors

Donors who made gifts to the school between July 1, 2018 and June 30, 2019 are listed in this annual report. We have tried to provide complete and accurate information for this report. Our apologies to any persons inadvertently omitted. Please let the Advancement Office (415.239.1475) know if we need to correct our records. THANK YOU.



The San Francisco School's founding gift was the property on which it was built. In 1969, a group of parents pooled their resources for the down payment to buy the property at 300 Gaven Street.

The endowment was established in 1982, with a gift from the Factory Store for \$30,000 that established a designated fund to be used for Tuition Assistance. From those humble and generous beginnings, through targeted endowment campaigns in the 1980s, 1990s, and 2000s plus market performance, our endowment has grown to \$3.7 million as of June 30, 2019.

While our endowment value has been steadily increasing, it has been more than a decade since we made a concerted effort to grow it. We are undercapitalized for the next era in our school's future and well below the recommended benchmark for independent schools, an endowment equal to one year of tuition revenue.

This undercapitalization limits our people and programs and narrows our aspirations. The greatest strategic need we face is to grow the school's endowment.

A strong endowment provides critical non-tuition revenue and secures the financial health and future of the school. Currently, the endowment totals \$13,250 per student. Our goal is to have an endowment equal to average annual tuition per student.

SFS's strategic plan aims to support people and program, and that simply isn't possible without an endowment significantly larger than our existing one. The enduring support of an increased endowment will allow us to protect our robust tuition assistance program, pay our faculty and staff competitive salaries, and fuel SFS for generations to come.

At critical times in our history, The San Francisco School's community has come together to provide for future generations of SFS students. These founders and friends dug the wells from which we now drink. Growing our endowment today is a critical way to strengthen the School's tomorrow. The School is beginning a new fundraising effort, Forge Our Future: The Campaign for SFS, and will share more information about this important campaign in the coming year.

WAYS TO GIVE TO THE SAN FRANCISCO SCHOOL

The San Francisco School is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization (#94-1629702) and gifts are tax deductible to the extent allowed by the law. The school offers various ways to support the school, including:



ONLINE

You may donate to The San Francisco School online at www.sfschool.org/donate.



BY PHONE

Gifts are gladly accepted over the phone with a credit card at 415.239.1475.



BY MAIL

The San Francisco School 300 Gaven Street San Francisco CA 94134 attn: Advancement Office



SECURITIES

A gift to the school of appreciated securities are gladly accepted. For more details and information, please contact the Advancement Office at 415.239.1475 or advancement@sfschool.org.



AS A MATCHING GIFT

Many employers have established a matching gifts program that allows an employee's gift to be matched, often 1:1. Please ask your employer about their matching gifts guidelines. If available, please inform the school that the gift will be matched at the time of the donation.



AS A BEQUEST

For more information about including The San Francisco School in your estate plans, please contact the Advancement Office at 415.239.1475 or advancement@sfschool.org.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT.

SFS **GRADUATES**

CLASS OF 2019 HIGH SCHOOL ENROLLMENT

Reflection, gratitude, and pride filled the Community Center on June 8, 2019 when The San Francisco School celebrated each student of the graduating Class of 2019. With full hearts, we wish them the best of luck on their next chapter!

The Bay School of San Francisco Drew School International High School Lick-Wilmerding High School Lowell High School

Mission High School Sacred Heart Cathedral Preparatory Sage International (Idaho) Sonoma Valley High School SOTA — Ruth Asawa School of the Arts St. Ignatius College Preparatory University High School The Urban School of San Francisco (San Francisco) Waldorf High School



CLASS OF 2015 COLLEGE AND UNIVERSITY ENROLLMENT

Congratulations to the Class of 2015 on their high school graduation! We had a chance to reminisce with alumni and their parents at a reunion picnic on June 10, 2019. What a delight! We have so much pride in and hope for them, and cannot wait to hear about the various ways they will make a difference in this world!

Barnard College

Berklee College of Music

Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo

CSU Chico

CSU Long Beach

CSU Sonoma

Colorado College

Lewis & Clark College

New York University

Northwestern University

Occidental College

Reed College

Skidmore College

Skyline College

UC Berkeley

UC Davis

UC Los Angeles

UC Santa Cruz

University of Denver

University of Northern California

University of Portland

University of Southern California

Western Washington University

Worcester Polytechnic Institute

Yale University

This is a partial list. If you don't see your school on the list, please let us know. We'd love to hear from you!

SPOTLIGHT ON ALUMNI

SFS REFLECTIONS - PAST STUDENTS, CURRENT PARENTS

There is great joy in being a parent at The San Francisco School, but for a small group there is also a lovely layer of déjà vu.

At present, SFS has no fewer than six parents who are graduates or former students at the School. Some of these current parents attended SFS for preschool and kindergarten, some for their entire elementary school experience, and others through eighth grade graduation. Recently we had the chance to catch up with them to reflect back, and look ahead.

Thea Anderson '90, parent of a '14 grad and a current second grader, credits The San Francisco School with shaping her sense of what a school could, and should, be. "I was just so happy at that school. I felt appreciated. I believe education can be joyful. What I really want is for all children, everywhere, to have that sense of joy and safety and belonging that I had as a student." As for her observations as a parent, "I really appreciate that the School has retained the 'special' things that are not less important than the academic curriculum. Singing, art, outdoor play, P.E. — those things aren't 'extra.' SFS gave me a sense of what a school can do for a kid. It can be all these things."

"Every time I'm on campus," says David Edeli '91, "I am on the lookout for anything that was there when I was there. The cubbies in

the preschool hallway, everything." David says he knows how fortunate he is to have had the experience he did at SFS. "The teachers at SFS carefully and relentlessly taught us to seek and celebrate peace and justice. I remember writing a letter to President Reagan, on dottedline cursive paper, telling him the invasion of Grenada was not how people resolve a conflict." And now, it is beyond special to have his daughter poised to have the same experiences. "I can't wait to hear Lillian singing all of the songs that I learned from Doug (Goodkin)," David notes. "In her first two weeks of school, she already came home singing songs that I recognized."



Molly Treadway '99 has a special lens on the School — or really, three lenses; as an alumna, as a parent of a preschooler and a first grader, and as a veteran SFS educator. "This school is good at helping you know yourself," Molly says. She loves telling her daughters and students stories from her own SFS days.

Many beloved teachers are now her colleagues and, Molly notes, "are figuring into my kids' stories as well as my own. There's that shared language and experience, a shared knowledge." And, oh yes, there is also singing: "I do love that songs from Singing Time make their way to us at home." Chattanooga Choo Choo is among those currently in heavy rotation.

"The most important things The San Francisco School taught me were kindness, respect, and empathy for everyone," says Dina Greenwald **'92**. Dina, parent of a South Class preschooler, notes that, in terms of lessons and traditions that made a lasting impression on her as a student, "music taught by Doug Goodkin had a big impact on me," noting that other faculty, including Maggie Weis, Solveig Dimon, Erika Leidke, and Laura Burges, did as well. "The School's values helped lead me into the mental health field and contributed to my desire to help others. I am now a psychotherapist working with children and families, and proudly teach my children these verv same values."

"The SFS mission stuck with me from an early age," notes Adam Oberweiser, who attended SFS as a preschooler, and is now the parent of an eighth grader. "Practicing mutual respect, embracing diversity, and a passion for learning are tenets I have tried to live by and that have served me well."

SPOTLIGHT ON ALUMNI

SFS REFLECTIONS — PAST STUDENTS, CURRENT PARENTS

Adam has been deeply involved as a school volunteer, serving on the School's Board of Trustees and on the Advancement Committee. He has also served as a room parent, "another great experience I would recommend to anyone. It's really something special to help the school your child attends."

Nicole Nastari, parent of a '19 grad and two current middle schoolers, says it all came right back on the admissions tour for her eldest child. "I attended preschool and kindergarten (at SFS), from 1979 to 1982. I loved it so much, and my mom loved it for me; I thrived

there. When I went back and toured with my daughter, it was just an absolute flood of memories. The art projects - everything. It was so sensory, and tangible. Preschool and kindergarten should always be playbased, experiential." The book nook stands out as a special memory for Nicole. "My mother says I learned to read (at SFS), even though it wasn't taught. I see that sort of support with my own kids, too."

In terms of their professional paths and civic engagement, these SFS grads and past students exemplify living the intellectual, imaginative, and humanitarian promise.

David is a labor litigator; Molly is a first grade teacher at SFS; Nicole is a high school administrator and wellness director; Thea is a school social worker; Adam is a marketing professional; and Dina is a psychotherapist. All named the sharing of this SFS legacy with their children as a driving factor in choosing the School. The throughline for all of them, rooted in their time as SFS students, is an abiding connection to and empathy for others, a deep curiosity, and a rigorous approach to questioning things as they are.

ALUMNI NEWS

FALL 2019

This summer, Jocelyn Iglehart '13, Lauren Levine '14, Mitchell Rusitsky '16, and Roel Cahill-Rosqueta '17 joined us working in a variety of roles at SFS, from summer camp to tech and administrative support. We were delighted to have them on campus again! Brian Weis '08 stopped by SFS for a visit in March. He's currently living in Brooklyn as a working artist, a preparator at a NYC gallery, and a practicing visual artist. Jeffrey Yip '06 and Julia Yu were married in Burlingame this September. Congratulations! Classmate Nick Burton '06 served as a groomsman. Madeleine Katz '01 and her husband welcomed a daughter, Audrey, in October 2018. Andy Reed '96 and Yakira Teitel '95 celebrated the birth of their daughter, Sela, in September 2019. SFS sends a warm welcome to their little cubs. Former SFS Bear Jevon McFerrin came to campus this fall while visiting from New York City. Jevon is an actor perhaps best known for his recent roles in the Broadway hit Hamilton. Older brother Taylor McFerrin is now living in Los Angeles and working as a producer, composer, and singer. He just released his second album, Love's Last Chance. Last spring, Lena Corwin '91 and Doug Goodkin co-hosted an event, a special singing time for children of alumni from Lena's SFS generation.

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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SAVE THE DATES!

PLEASE MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR:

Grandparents & Special Friends Day

Monday, November 18

3rd, 4th & 5th Grade Holiday Plays

Wednesday, December 18

Auction for Tuition Assistance

Saturday, March 14

1st & 2nd Grade Plays

Friday, March 20

Weekend of Service

March 21-22

All School Meeting

Wednesday, April 29

3rd, 4th & 5th Spring Concerts

Tuesday, May 12

Middle School Spring Concerts

Thursday, May 14

Maggie Weis Retirement Party

Friday, May 1

Doug Goodkin Retirement Party

Saturday, May 23

Graduation

Thursday, June 4



The San Francisco School Alumni Group

Update your contact information at sfschool.org/alumni