

Alumni & Friends of the Madeleine



SCHOOL OF THE MADELEINE ALUMNI NEWSLETTER

SUMMER 2020



A focus on Prayer

Through all the social distancing and protective health measures, our connection to one another remains strong — buoyed by prayer, faith, trust and the bonds of community.



ROOTED IN THE DOMINICAN TRADITION
SINCE 1937

A Bright Light in the Midst of a Dark Pandemic

How the School of the Madeleine answered the call for educational action when the Coronavirus hit

By Susan Ashworth

Schools across the country struggled with the same question over the last few months: how do we best serve our students when they're not able to come to the classroom?

As the world wrestled with tough questions brought on by the Coronavirus pandemic, the School of the Madeleine looked to its own mission for answers. Guided by the Dominican pillars of Prayer, Study, Community and Service, the staff and administrators at the school are continuing to meet the challenge of distance learning head on.

When the Oakland Diocese made the decision that its schools must transition to distance learning in mid-March, the Madeleine staff hit the ground running. And thanks to the school's strong investment in technology, enthusiastic adoption of new learning platforms and focus on teacher training, the school was positioned for success. The administration — led by Principal Joseph Nagel, Vice Principal Jennifer Walwark and Distance Learning Support Coordinator Michael Stokes — designed the school's distance learning approach on a three step plan. First, by reflecting on what at-home learning looks like, second by implementing a learning plan that fits real-world home learning conditions, and third by making big and small adjustments as needed.

Teachers strategized, conceptualized and brainstormed. They thought outside the box as they built new lesson plans. Many began turning to new learning platforms like Seesaw, Google Classroom and Zoom.



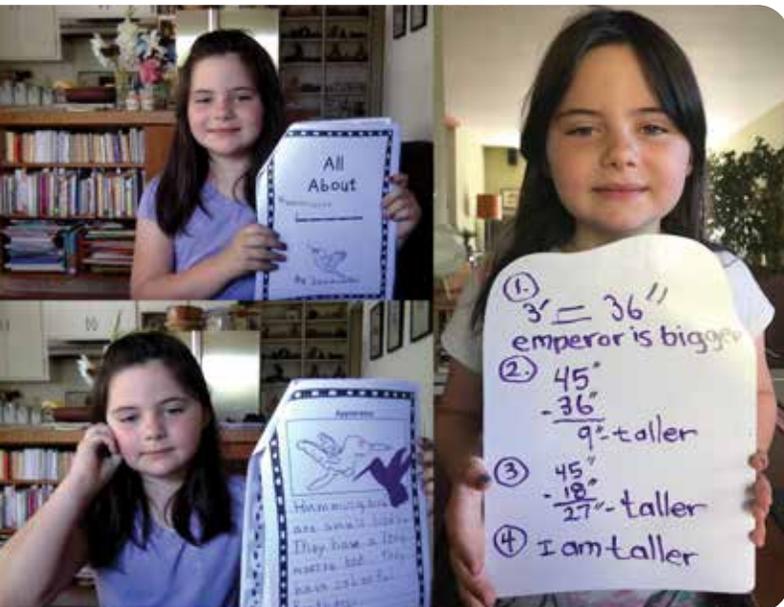
As the weeks went by, creativity blossomed. Teachers built at-home whiteboards to craft clever video-recorded lessons, such as an art lesson inspired by the works of Henri Matisse. The staff created a list of internal experts in different technologies to help train one another. Each day started with a spiritual Morning Meeting video welcome message to the community; each afternoon concluded with virtual Enrichment Clubs for pet lovers, dancers, readers and artists.

In the midst of chaos and uncertainty in the outside world, the Madeleine educational community was held together by a reliance on those four Dominican pillars and the awareness that we are in this together.

“What has really worked well from the beginning, honestly, is the faith that our families have in us, and the genuine and sincere love that the children share for one another, for their school, and for us,” said Gisele Teixeira, the third grade teacher who, alongside her teaching partner Marilo Aceves, brainstormed unique ways to use technology to educate, from hand drawn stop-motion multiplication lessons to funny read-aloud videos.

When the fall 2020 school year begins, the Madeleine will be ready with its full educational program, providing educational excellence and emotional support for families as we traverse this new environment together.

“We are all in this together,” Vice Principal Jennifer Walwark said. “It makes me grateful to be a part of this community.”



Sylvia Eli sharing her assignments in Zoom class meetings

Enriching Beyond the Classroom



Distance learning provides opportunities to explore more than just Math, English, Science and Social Studies

By Jennifer Walwark & Michael Stokes

Even during this time of uncertainty and anxiety, the Madeleine has continued to steadfastly focus on our Dominican pillars. One of those pillars — Community — was brought to life through the introduction of daily afternoon Enrichment Clubs for students, which meet virtually via video conferencing or YouTube.

These clubs provide additional learning content beyond the school. While students traditionally spend nearly all of their time with their same-aged peers in a classroom setting, these open-age Enrichment Clubs provide an opportunity for students to engage with friends in other grades. Older students can take on the role of teacher and role model; younger students are given new avenues for learning. Each club's faculty facilitator helps to make sure the club is accessible to all of its members.

The first clubs were the brainchild of the Madeleine faculty. In the weeks' since, however, students began to create their own clubs. Today there are 20 MAD Enrichment Clubs including: Story Time, Origami Club, Garden Club, Art Club, Trivia Club, Star Wars Club, Pet Club and Poetry Club to name a few.

What they all share in common is that they provide students a new opportunity to share their passions and develop their interests.

"I enjoy being in the Service Club because we help people in need, and we get to work on fun and interesting projects together like the hearts for healthcare workers and the letters to the service members and local community workers," said Gaby, a rising 4th grader.

Letter from the Principal

By Joseph Nagel



Friday, March 13th, began just like any other Madeleine school day. We gathered as a school community in our Dominican Garden to open our day through shared Morning Prayer.

Since that fateful Friday, however, our school experience has been altered like no other time in the Madeleine's 82-year history. Our students and faculty have pivoted to learning and teaching in improvised classrooms in living rooms and on kitchen tables.

As an educational community, we have adapted to distance learning by employing our resources, creativity and optimism to best serve the needs of our resilient Madeleine learners. An early investment in technology, teacher training, and the collaboration and vision of our dedicated teachers and staff were key to getting us up and running quickly and to adapting and pivoting along the way. Our STEAM curriculum allows students to work independently from home in imaginative and unique ways that foster individual thinking. The Catholic social teachings and daily prayers provide our students with a sense of compassion, caring and guidance. This path has taken us through uncharted territory, but our journey is fortified by the spirit of camaraderie and shared mission between students, families, and teachers.

To help members of the MAD community impacted by this pandemic, we will make financial relief for families directly impacted by COVID-19 a priority, while continuing to support adaptive teaching approaches that boost engagement for students (whether at home or at school) and sustain the Madeleine's rich and varied curriculum and programs.

For those in our community who are able to help our Madeleine families who find themselves in need of tuition assistance, we ask that you consider supporting our MAD Annual Fund (see attached envelope). Your donation will benefit families impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic and help to keep our community intact.

As we make plans for the next school year and set our sights on the future, I want to give a big shout out to all of our MAD parents. You have been the foundation that has helped our students build resilience in this new normal. You have run households, worked day and night, and supported your community under an extremely challenging shelter-in-place order. Through all of this, you have become tech support, gym teachers, counselors, tutors, lunch servers and ECP staff — on top of everything you did before. I sincerely applaud your strength and stamina as you work at the most important job there is: raising your children. I am truly humbled to count you as co-educators along this journey. You exemplify the Madeleine motto of **"Be Good To One Another — And Pass It On!"**



2019/20 MAD Annual Fund Report

TOTAL DONATIONS = \$337,000

TOTAL DONORS = 268

(including 42 anonymous donors not listed)

The School of the Madeleine is grateful to our community of dedicated volunteers and donors whose investment of time and resources ensures our students receive the very best possible education taught within Dominican pillars of Study, Community, Service & Prayer.

Donors at every level provide critical resources that have a direct impact on the students and families at the Madeleine and a ripple effect on our community. Each name in this report represents an investment in our students' education and a contribution to our mission. *Thank you for your continuing support and generosity.*

Why giving matters?

89%

of current MAD parents fulfilled pledges, despite COVID-19 challenges!

22%

of our students receive tuition assistance.

Donations received between June 1, 2019 and May 31, 2020

Veritas Circle (\$10,000 +)

Stephanie Campbell & James Higgins
Janine & Mark de Souza
School of the Madeleine Parents Association
St. Mary Magdalen Parish
Joe & Sheri Siino

Dominican Circle (\$5,000-\$9,999)

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An opportunity to give back...

When the School of the Madeleine opened its doors in 1937, it was driven by a mission and wish to provide the best possible education for our students. Since then, parents, grandparents, alumni families and parishioners have supported the school's goal of following the Dominican Pillars of Prayer, Study, Community and Service. Please join our community of supporters and make a donation to the MAD Annual Fund! Gifts of all amounts are vital to our ongoing success!

The School of the Madeleine is a non-profit organization as described in section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.

Angel Circle (\$499 & below)

William Acevedo
Dionne & Richard Anciano
Anonymous
In memory of Jean Marie Hart
Marco Aponte-Moreno
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Mauricio Baiocchi & Gemma Trias
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LaTrina & Peter Franklin
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Nyisha & William Galvez
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Mary Ghidella

In honor of my 1959 classmates

Elizabeth & Stuart Gibb
Sean & Sheila Grady
Therese Grange
Johana & Robert Hance
Charles Hansen & Rebecca Milczarek
Leah Hawkley
In gratitude for my early education
Fabiola & Jeffrey Higginbotham
Janet & Paul James
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William Joyce
Pamela Kaaloo
Barbara & Joe Kelly
Khurram Khan & Aster Khurram
Edward & Jenny Koehn
Vicent Koo & Jacqueline Li
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In memory Donald G. Larkin Jr & in gratitude to Rev. Wm. Norton O.P.

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Vincent & Patty Lipinski
Edgar Lopez & Nain Villanueva de Lopez
Vladimir Lopez & Amy Gonzales
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In memory of Mark McClenahan
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Melly Secuya
Dionysos & Emmylou Slaga
Marvella Smith
Oscar & Susan Sung
Finella & Procyon Tabuzo
Clif & Jane Taylor

In Memory of Eugene C. Payne III

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We apologize for the omission of any names. Please contact Debbie Dinneen, Advancement Director, at: ddinneen@themadeleine.com for any corrections to this report.

School of the Madeleine Graduate News

Congratulations to the eighth grade graduates, the Class of 2020



Jennifer Walwark, Joseph Nagle and Heather Skinner carry on the School of the Madeleine parachute ceremony tradition.

MAD class of 2020 High Schools

Albany High School	Culver Academies, Indiana
Berkeley High School - 2	El Cerrito High School - 7
Bishop O'Dowd High School	St. Mary's College High School - 25

MAD class of 2016 Colleges

Berkeley City College	University of California, Los Angeles - 3
Cal State East Bay - 2	University of California, San Diego
Contra Costa College	University of California, Santa Barbara - 2
Clemson	University of California, Santa Cruz - 3
Diablo Valley College	University of Colorado, Boulder
Lehigh University	University of California, Merced
New York University	University of Oregon - 4
Saint Mary's College - 3	University of San Diego - 2
San Jose State	University of San Francisco
University of California, Davis	University of Southern California

IN MEMORIAM for Maiysha Glaude-Slavin

We learned in early April of the passing of Madeleine alumnus, Maiysha Glaude-Slavin from the Madeleine Class of 1991. Maiysha is the eldest daughter of the late Denise Glaude and Remus Glaude, and the sister of Kiana Glaude Martin, featured in this issue's article on alumni healthcare heroes, and Bryn Glaude Hunt. Maiysha was a gifted competitive ice skater and gymnast and later a much sought-after coach for both skating and gymnastics. Maiysha lived in Canmore, Alberta, Canada with her beloved husband, Grant Slavin.

Praise for the Gathered Community

A Letter from Fr. Nick

The pandemic has disrupted much more than our classrooms. Its impact touches every part of our parish and personal lives — not least of which, for me, is our worshipping together.

Most of us know there are three ways in which Christ is present in the sacraments: the gathered community, God's Word proclaimed, and in our rituals. Word and rituals mainly come to mind when we think of liturgy but sometimes we forget that the gathered community is the foundation on which these are built. The quarantine has made the vital nature of gathering clearer to us all.

Since the shelter-in-place began, Saint Mary Magdalen has offered live-streamed liturgies every Sunday. Mostly it has been the effort of amateurs. We've streamed through Facebook using my iPad (which actually has a very good camera) and a dedicated team, including a videographer, lector, musician, parish IT manager and priests. Live streaming isn't as good as being actually present but it's the best we can do during the quarantine.

It also gives us an opportunity to participate in the life of the Church during these stressful times. You can pray with us, stay current with parish and school communities, and express hope for the day when we gather in the church again.

You are in my prayers,
Fr. Nick

Panthers Passing It On!

Alumni, parents, parishioners and friends - email us at Advancement@themadeleine and tell us how you are living our school motto of "Passing it On"!

Healthcare is all in the family with the Boones, and rising 7th grader Sydney claims a lot of Panther Pride with both parents on the front lines. Dad Kevin works as Fire Caption at Station 6 of the Berkeley Fire Department, which has undergone a complete paradigm shift with how they respond to medical calls since the pandemic started. Sydney's mom Deanna works as an occupational therapist at On Lok Lifeways in San Francisco, a program of all-inclusive care for the elderly with the mission of helping nursing home-eligible seniors to remain living at home. With the current shelter-in-place orders, they are learning, together with their clients, how to navigate virtual connections to ensure seniors are safe at home. This is the Boone's first year at the Madeleine, and they are grateful for the community and continuity that the Madeleine has provided their family.



Sydney Boone with her parents and brother Aiden.



Healthcare Heroes

By Heather Skinner, Kevin & Deanna Boone

In mid-March of 2020, it became clear to the administration and staff of the Madeleine that the growing concern around the dangers of COVID-19 would mean a long-term dismissal and a quick pivot to a distance-learning model. We also understood that the distance-learning program we developed would need to provide secure anchors to the community for the sake of our students, parents and staff. As we did on Sept. 11, 2001, we took a page from the playbook of Mr. Rogers' mother, Nancy Rogers, who always taught her son to "Look for the helpers. You will always find people who are helping." In an effort to look for our own alumni helpers, Madeleine Vice Principal Heather Skinner along with Kevin and Deanna Boone, set out to find these Madeleine hometown healthcare heroes.

Louise Dalo (parent of Angelo, Valentina, and Massimo) works at UCSF Benioff Children's Hospital as a registered nurse. She has worked in the Pediatric Hematology/Oncology and Bone Marrow Transplant Unit for more than 15 years. Louise loves her job and feels honored to take care of the kids on her floor. "I would definitely agree that prayer and faith plays a huge part in my everyday life and the work that I do," she said. "It gives me strength and guidance during difficult times. I work with an amazing group of people that are family."

Aaron Feit (1989) is working as a clinical psychotherapist with an underserved population of individuals with mental health and substance abuse issues in Port Townsend, Washington, an area hard-hit by COVID-19.

Kiana Glaude Martin (1994) is an emergency department nurse and front-liner at Kaiser Richmond. This hometown hero credits her vocation in part to what she learned at the Madeleine. As you can see from the picture she sent, she has a powerful message for all of us. **Kathryn (Katie) Adams (1984)** is also a dedicated and tireless ED nurse on the front-lines, now serving at Sutter Hospital, Oakland.

Chris Selhorst (1993) currently serves as a radiologist at Kaiser Washington D.C. As you can imagine, Chris and his team have devoted a full measure of time and energy toward speedy diagnostic confirmation or ruling out of COVID-19. (Chris is also a former Madeleine classmate, dear friend, and trusted advisor to Madeleine Principal Joseph Nagel.)

Diane Mesones (*MAD past-parent and Health Chair*) A proud MAD parent from 2001-2012 to daughters Frankie and Teresa, Diane also served as Health Chair for the school for many years. She currently works as the dayshift Emergency Room Charge Nurse at Alta Bates Summit Medical Center in Berkeley. As visitors are no longer allowed in the medical center, Diane and her colleagues are the only human touch and contact a patient has. The Madeleine saying of "Be Good to One Another — Pass it On" resonates now more than ever. "The biggest thing that has helped us is the early shelter-in-place," says Diane. "So each and everyone of you are heroes for making this sacrifice. I thank you all."

Adie Remiker (2003) recently moved back to the Bay Area from New York City where she served on the front lines as a physician assistant at Bellevue. She is now working at Stanford Orthopedic in Emeryville where she and her colleagues are helping to create space in emergency rooms by safely diverting orthopedic patients to other venues.

Katie Ring (2006) is a pediatric nurse practitioner in Wilmington, Delaware. She is proud at this time to be primarily supporting underserved new mothers in her area. Two of Katie's classmates from the Mad Class of 2006 — **Alexandra (Alx) McVay** and **Andrew Spivey** — are presently operating closer to home. Alx is working as an emergency department technician at Sutter Lakeside in Lakeport and Andrew is a first contact EMT with Royal Ambulance in Oakland. Both Alx and Andrew are spending most of their waking hours these days wearing their scrubs and uniforms and doing, as Alx puts it: "Everything you can possibly imagine!" (It should be noted that Alx, who is also an expert in the makeup arts, is always gorgeous under her protective shield.)

Shamideh Rossoukh (1995) is presently working at San Francisco General as a registered nurse in psychiatric emergency services. Shami and her colleagues are on the front lines of healthcare activism, advocating for safe and effective personal protective equipment for all. Shamideh is also a current Madeleine mom! Her daughter, Ella, will be in third grade this fall.

Last, but by no means least, we honor the service of **Kryisia Grycz (1999)**. Kryisia works as Senior Manager of Clinical Operations for Vir Biotechnology in San Francisco. Vir Biotechnology focuses "on combining immunologic insights with cutting edge technologies to treat and prevent serious infectious diseases, such as influenza and COVID-19." Kryisia oversees the successful execution of clinical trials for novel drugs while prioritizing and safeguarding positive patient experience.

Call for Help!

If you would like to contribute to upcoming newsletter editions or participate, please contact advancement@themadeleine.com.

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If this newsletter is addressed to a daughter or son who no longer lives at your home, please help us stay connected. Please mail, e-mail, or phone in the correct address.

Thank you!

Email: ddinneen@themadeleine.com
Phone: (510) 526-4744



This issue is dedicated to
Barbara Ellen Claire Banks

The Madeleine Community lovingly dedicates this PRAYER issue of the newsletter to a member of our Madeleine family who deeply embraced the power of prayer in her life. Barbara Ellen Banks, wife of Charlie Altekruise and mother of Ben and Jeremy Banks Altekruise, passed away on May 15, 2020. Charlie writes: “Barbara’s final weeks were especially filled with incredible joy, love, peace, beauty, and grace, as she was surrounded by friends and family.

We will miss Barbara terribly even as we seek to celebrate and uphold her indefatigable spirit and joy of life.” We take heart from her favorite prayer penned by Sir Francis Drake in the sixteenth century: Disturb us, Lord, to dare more boldly, to venture on wider seas where storms will show your mastery... where losing sight of land, we shall find the stars.

Our Mission

The Mission of the School of the Madeleine is to inspire students to grow as educated, morally informed individuals. In the tradition of Catholic education we believe that every student is an exceptional learner, and our goal is to help students become lifelong learners and compassionate leaders.

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