



# THE FACULTY CORNER

## FROM THE ANACAPA SCHOOL PERFORMING ARTS DEPARTMENT. . .

Throughout the year, Anacapa students have many opportunities to perform. Whether it is singing, dancing, playing an instrument, or acting, our students have many ways to express themselves and to share their talents. The benefits of instruction in the performing arts are widespread, and we strive to give our students educational and fun ways to develop their skills.

### PERFORMING ARTS

**GRASSROOTS 2013** - This semester, the Performing Arts students are preparing for the January concert, "The History of American Music," which will be performed at Center Stage Theater in Paseo Nuevo on Friday and Saturday evenings, January 11 and 12. In collaboration with the Ensemble Music class, the students in Performing Arts have prepared songs that represent American composers over the years. These include musical genres like Ragtime, Jazz, Country, Folk, Disco, Motown, and—of course—Rock and Roll. In addition to practicing for this performance, students have had the opportunity to learn about the different genres of music and to design how they want to perform each song (costuming, choreography, etc.). Preparing for our winter Grassroots performance is always a great team-building experience.

**THEATER 101** - This semester, the Performing Arts class also focused on learning the basic elements of theater. We studied theater terminology, practiced our pantomime and improvisational skills, learned how to score a script, and performed monologues and short scenes. We teamed up with the Photography class, and students were assigned a photograph to discuss; then, using what they learned about the important elements for a good scene, they are writing a scene for a photograph that will be performed in January.

**SPRING PLAY** - This year's spring production will be "Disney's Little Mermaid." We all know the story of Ariel and her sea friends, and we will have fun designing an underwater set, creating sea creature costumes, and working on the wonderful Disney songs that are part of this production. We hope to see you May 17 and 18 for this entertaining play! I am working on a special opportunity for the class to go to Disneyland, following our performance, to participate in a Disney Theater Workshop designed for our class.

~ **SALLI EVE**

### ENSEMBLE MUSIC

Students in Anacapa's first semester Ensemble Music class have been learning the fundamental principles of playing in a group and how important it is to be disciplined and to work as a team to make performances enjoyable and fulfilling. As Salli noted above, the Performing Arts class and the Ensemble Music class have been collaborating on the songs that will be performed at the Grassroots show in January (see above for details about time and place). The focus of the music class has been to learn about the variety of styles of American music and to adapt them to the instruments played in our ensemble. Students are participating on the arrangement of the songs by giving ideas and suggestions on how to improve the quality of the music. We are truly an ensemble! We invite you to come hear us play this month.

In the second semester, the focus of the Ensemble Music class will be to prepare songs for the Auction and for the spring concert. As we get ready for these two performances, students will bring proposals for the repertoire, and together they'll choose the tunes they want to play. It is important for students to learn different musical genres and to respect all musical expressions as part of the diversity of the music spectrum. Having talented musicians in the class makes things easier, and in the end the effort put forth on rehearsals and the teamwork both pay off as students deliver not only great music but also project their energy and feelings through their performance.

~ **HUGO MACARIO**