



THE FACULTY CORNER

FROM THE ANACAPA SCHOOL PERFORMING ARTS DEPARTMENT. . .

The benefits of instruction in the arts are impressive and well documented. Many studies have shown that students who participate in the performing arts actually perform better academically. Not only do these students experience the personal fulfillment of sharing their talents in front of an audience, they also develop self-discipline, a collaborative spirit, and perseverance—all qualities that empower them in other disciplines and classes. Anacapa School understands the value and importance of the arts in education, and we strive to provide our students with many opportunities to showcase their talents.

PERFORMING ARTS

This semester, students in the Performing Arts elective class are busy preparing for their January performance, “Motown Magic,” which will be presented at Center Stage Theater in Paseo Nuevo on Friday and Saturday evenings, January 10th and 11th. In collaboration with the Ensemble Music class, the students are working to perfect vocals of songs from the wonderful Motown collection—memorable hits like “Sugar Pie, Honeybunch,” “Just My Imagination,” and “Mister Postman.” Students are learning both the two- and three-part singing techniques of the Motown sound and the iconic dance moves that go with these tunes. Seventh grader Briza Espinoza says, “It’s really fun working together with the other students, and the harmonies are pretty cool. Plus learning the dances with Sam (*that’s Samantha Eve, Anacapa Class of 2003*) as our teacher is easy.” Be sure to plan on joining us at Center Stage Theater in January for a very fun evening!

ENSEMBLE MUSIC

As mentioned above, Ensemble Music is working together with Performing Arts for the production of “Motown Magic,” practicing the fantastic instrumentals essential to the rhythm and sound we all recognize as Motown. Upper Schooler Lara Kostruba says, “The students really enjoy themselves, adding their own original touches to the familiar tunes. It’s really fun because we’re playing music and what’s better than that?” The Ensemble Music class will also be preparing traditional Mexican songs on traditional instruments for the March “Fiesta Anacapa” Auction. Last but not least, students will be performing at our traditional Spring Art Show and Concert in May. The entire Anacapa community is welcome to come enjoy music and artwork by our students—you won’t want to miss that event!

GLEE CLUB

This semester, we offered our first Glee Club to students who want to learn how to read and sing music on sight. The students in this club have been working on music concepts including rhythm, pitch, dynamics, and two- and three-part harmony. Each week students select a theme, and the following week they work on a song chosen for that theme. Eighth grader Natalie Whiting shares, “It’s great that we get to have student input on the themes. We just did Christmas music but a while ago we focused on Billie Joel.”

SPRING PLAY

In the spring semester, students in the Performing Arts elective will prepare a full-length play to be performed at Center Stage Theater May 16th and 17th. Students will be involved in all aspects of play production including play selection, set building, costume and lighting design, and character analysis. The play has not yet been selected, so keep an eye out for further updates on our spring production. Maybe your student would like to join in to experience the fulfillment and benefits the Performing Arts can provide!

~ SALLI EVE AND HUGO MACARIO