



# THE FACULTY CORNER

FROM THE ANACAPA SCHOOL VISUAL ARTS DEPARTMENT. . .

## **VISUAL ARTS AT ANACAPA PROMOTE CROSS-CURRICULAR CONNECTIONS**

Many exceptional learning opportunities are successful in the unique setting of Anacapa. Our size is really a great advantage for offering visual arts experiences that are not isolated to a single class, but instead connect the arts with what is being studied in other classes as well as to the world outside school.

### **CERAMICS**

Inspired by the World History I curriculum that the Upper School is studying, this year's Ceramics class started from the beginning—the beginning of time. We studied the caves of Lascaux with their wonderful early cave paintings, and by creating basic pinch pots, students began to understand how important clay was to ancient man for its utilitarian uses. Our next exploration was ancient man settling the Nile region, moving from hunters and gatherers to early civilization. To understand the culture and ceremonies of Egypt, students created a modern-day sarcophagus. Then we moved on to study one of the most tangible and iconic elements of ancient Greek art, ancient Greek Pottery. Students created some beautiful pieces of pottery using the red-figure technique—terracotta clay with black slip details and incising lines to create very interesting designs. Students also made Native American-style, three-legged pots with lots of surface texture. We filled these with succulents, and they made a wonderful and popular addition to the items at the Anacapa Auction.

~ **Paula Campanelli**

### **ART OF THE WORLD**

Visual expression is amazing because it is both universal and diverse—all cultures on this earth produce some form of art and yet each uniquely represents elements that are important to the people who make it. The projects in the Lower School Art of the World class are designed to take the students on a virtual trip around the globe by studying and then producing their own versions of traditional art forms from different regions, using materials that are as authentic as possible. This year one project was to make Javanese puppets, Wyang Kulit. Conventionally these are stylized, flat puppets hinged at the joints, which are used to perform elaborate stories as silhouettes behind a screen. Interestingly, the puppets are actually intricately painted and are thus stunningly beautiful art forms in themselves. Students chose a story from regional folk tales, chose the characters, and—after making their Wyang Kulit—filmed a performance. Finally, the students worked with Levi Maaia, Anacapa's Digital Voyage teacher, to edit and add music. Needless to say, the resulting film is an impressive example of using old and new technology!

~ **Suzie Sichi**

(over please)

## **DIGITAL VOYAGE: MEDIA STUDIO**

Digital Voyage regularly uses film to explore contemporary issues of interest. By doing extensive research, then writing, filming, and editing to effectively communicate their findings, students gain considerable depth of understanding, as well as opportunities to follow their interests. This year, one of our students made an awesome surf video with interviews of several local surfers and footage of surfing at Santa Barbara beaches. Although no Anacapa students were in the video, the subject matter was a passion of our student filmmaker that was ignited by the surfing program at Anacapa. Another very timely first semester film project was a group of documentaries on the "Occupy Santa Barbara" movement. Currently, students are working on public service announcements (PSA's) to promote healthy eating as part of a student video production contest. These not only follow up and add another dimension to this year's Anacapa "You Are What You Eat" Synthesis Unit, they also connect to the Health Day morning coming up in April!

~ **Levi Maaia**

It is exciting for us as visual arts teachers to have the flexibility to create cross-curricular projects that are relevant to our Anacapa students, their other studies, and the world. The Santa Barbara Fair and Expo in April and Anacapa's Concert and Art Show in May are two upcoming opportunities to see our students' fine work displayed and honored. We are sure you will be impressed, so be sure to attend!