

Gmail

Electronic News for Sandia Prep Grandparents

June 2008

A Message from the Headmaster



Welcome to our Grandparent newsletter. As a grandparent myself I can never get enough information about what happens in the life of our newest addition – and most children spend as much time (hopefully awake) in school as they do in their waking hours at home. We have a wealth of activities for children in all of our seven grades and I am certain that getting an eyeful of our school in this newsletter (or online at www.sandiaprep.org) will give you both insights and ideas for discussion with your grandkids. We welcome your input and questions and sincerely hope that the information shared here helps bring you a little closer to your family.

– Dick Heath, Headmaster
dheath@sandiaprep.org



Grandparents Celebrate with Graduates

On May 31, grandparents from near and far joined their families on the Sandia Prep campus to take part in the school's 40th commencement. At 10 o'clock in the morning,

94 students honored a school tradition by wearing white dresses and tuxedos and marching on the lawn to a shaded seating area in front of the Barbara Young Simms Classroom Building. As each

student walked onto the stage to receive a diploma from Headmaster Dick Heath, a faculty member read a prepared statement by the student for the 1,000 friends, family, faculty alumni and students in attendance.

Congrats Grads!



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Charitable Planning Strategy: Gifts of Life Insurance

If you have decided to make charitable gifts an important part of your legacy, life insurance may be a simple and cost-effective solution. Depending on your age, health, and time of death, the premium requirements may represent just a small portion of the death benefit your charity can receive. As a result, a life insurance death benefit may provide a significantly larger gift to the charity than gifts of cash or property. There are several scenarios.

If you already own life insurance insuring your own life, a gift of existing life insurance can be an attractive option if the coverage is no longer necessary for personal needs. Many people discover that their life insurance needs change with financial and family circumstances. In order to assess your current needs, you might consider a comprehensive review of your existing coverage. Your financial professional can help.

The gift of an existing policy may be tax deductible to the lesser of the fair market value of the policy or your cost basis. You will want to check with your tax professional on the specifics before you take action.

You may choose to retain ownership of a policy and make the charity beneficiary. If so, you may enjoy tax-advantaged supplemental income from the policy. At death, the policy proceeds will be included in your estate, but your estate will be able to deduct the portion passing to the charity. Again, review the taxation and insurance implications with your advisors before you act.

For more estate planning news and information, [click here](#).

— With thanks to Dick McLain of Hartford Life

Got Green Fingers?

Are you interested in gardening? Do you have some spare time? We are looking for SPS grandparents to help with our school garden, year-round, but particularly over the summer. The garden is part of the 6th and 7th grade science curriculum. To find out more or to volunteer and share your skills, please contact science teacher Helen Haskell at hhaskell@sandiaprep.org. Thank you!

What's Going On? at Sandia Prep

(Click [here](#) for Sandia Prep's full calendar)

Summer Break
June 1 – August 11

SummerPrep
June 2 – July 11

08-09 Classes Begin
August 12

Field House Dedication
August 17

Homecoming
September 19 – 20

Balloon Fiesta
October 3 – 12

Chorus Concert
October 7

Jazz Band Concert
October 8

Fall Play
“The Importance of Being Earnest”
October 23 – 25

Middle School Play
“Seussical The Musical”
November 14 – 15

Grandparents' Day
November 26

Fine & Performing Arts Festival
December 4 – 5

Winter Break
December 19 – January 2

Annual Fund News

Sandia Prep's 2007-2008 Annual Fund has been a tremendous success this year both in the amount of money contributed (more than \$500,000) and the level of participation by grandparents. For everyone who contributed, thank you for helping us to reach this healthy level of annual giving and, most importantly, for helping us to create new possibilities for each Sandia Prep student.

Sandia Prep will close its 07-08 Annual Fund drive on Thursday, July 31, so if you would like to support a program of particular interest to your grandchild or simply see your gift work where it's needed most, there is still time. [Click here](#) to give now or contact **Roxanna Caird**, Associate Director of Development, for more information.



— Physics II field trip participants



Become an SPS Athletic Booster

Would you like to support your grandchild in Sandia Prep's no-cut athletic program? If so, join the SPS Athletic Booster Club! Membership is only \$25 per year. Every new member will receive a free SPS license plate holder. Please call Booster Club President Linda Benavides (898-4373) for more information.

SPS Seniors Named National Merit Finalists

SPS is proud to announce that Alex Clement, Amy Clement, Jayson Lynch and Hannah Rabinowitz have been chosen as National Merit Finalists. Congratulations Alex, Amy, Jayson and Hannah!

For more student news [click here](#).
(<http://www.sandiaprep.org/students/students.htm>)

Spread the Word!

Do you know an SPS grandparent who communicates by email? Encourage them to email Pam Dorner at pdorner@sandiaprep.org and request to be added to the Gmail list.

What are your Grandchildren? up to Nowadays?

Physics II Class Goes "Behind The Scenes" at the Very Large Array
(photos at left)

Earlier this spring, seven members of Sandia Prep's Physics II class, accompanied by their teacher John Suding and calculus teacher Allen Arsenault, were treated to an expanded, "behind the scenes" visit to the Very Large Array outside of Magdalena, New Mexico.

The class was allowed to visit inside one of the data collection and processing rooms high up in one of the facility's 28 gigantic radio telescopes. The telescopes are currently being renovated and updated, hence the new name EXPANDED Very Large Array, EVLA. This "expansion" is not in physical size — the telescopes can already be arrayed across an area that is larger than the size of Washington, D.C. — but rather to an expansion of their operating hardware. While inside the data collection / processing room of the telescope, the students were given an introduction to its collection of one-of-a-kind, cutting edge technology that exists nowhere else on earth (or, as far as we know, anywhere else in the cosmos.) The amount of science that was on display and explained within the 15' by 15' collection room was far beyond what any high school science student, anywhere, could ever hope to see.

Check out SPS students on air and online. **Sandia Prep Radio International**, the monthly Internet radio is available online at <http://www.sandiaprep.org/radio> and free in Apple iTunes.

Field House Nearly Complete



It is only a matter of days now before Sandia Prep's new 23,380- square-foot Field House will be open for use. The \$5.1 million building is home to an 850-seat gymnasium, athletic training suite, weight room, multipurpose classroom, officials room and staff offices. A westbound turn lane has been added to Osuna Road to allow entrance

into the new building's parking lot without slowing traffic. A building dedication will be held on Sunday, August 17. [Click here](#) to find out how you can participate in the project.

Performing Arts Center Construction to Begin

The completion of the Field House makes it possible to begin the demolition of Sandia Prep's old gym (built in 1955) and construction of a 24,000-square-foot building for performing arts, middle school classrooms and admission wing.

[Click here](#) to take a virtual tour of the building.



One Final Thought...

As you watch your grandchildren flourish at Sandia Prep, you may wonder how you can personally further and enrich their experience. Prep is a place that is dedicated to providing children with a personally challenging and satisfying learning environment. Besides the extraordinary academic curriculum, which is so well managed by a superior faculty, the school gives all students a wide variety of extra curriculum outlets.

The excellence that Sandia Prep offers your grand child is possible because of the foresight and generosity of previous grandparents and other donors, who have made special arrangements in their estate plans for the school. Many of the estate planning vehicles benefit which can benefit the school can even benefit your heirs, through estate tax advantages. Talk with your tax professional or feel free to contact the Development Office ([Julie Cook](#)) to discuss how you may further support Sandia Prep, which is giving so much to your grandchild. [Click here](#) for more information.

-Debra Romero Thal (dthal@comcast.net)
Chair Planned Giving Committee
Mother of Carson '12


Students, Parents, Faculty, Alumni:

Fitness Center Open for Summer

All members of the Sandia Prep community (this includes grandparents), ages 13 and older, are welcome to use Sandia Prep's fitness center and weight room this summer at no charge. The fitness center, now located in the new Field House, will be open on weekdays from 4:00 to 9:00 p.m. through July 31 and will be staffed by Brian Arndt, who is CPR-certified.

Contributors:

 **Bill Cates**, SPS Planned Giving Committee

 **Debra Romero Thal**, SPS Chair Planned Giving Committee

 **Julie Cook**, SPS Director of Development



If you'd like to share news about your SPS grandchild, contribute a recipe, or provide a useful tip, contact Julie Cook at jcook@sandiaprep.org.

Recipe Corner

Blueberry Jello

Jere Newcomb, grandmother of Kaitlyn Glass '13

2 small boxes black cherry Jello
1 can blueberry pie filling
1 large can crushed pineapple (drained)

Prepare Jello following package directions. Add the pie filling and pineapple. Pour into a 9x13" pan. Let it set over night.

Blend together:

8oz cream cheese
8oz sour cream
1/2 cup confectioners sugar

Spread over the top of the Jello and cover with chopped pecans if desired.

If you would like to share your favorite recipe, send it to Julie Cook at jcook@sandiaprep.org. Don't forget to give us the name of your grandchild.