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Tuesday-Saturday 10-6

Students from The Saklan School Perform in the Musical "13"

Submitted by Christine Kuckuk and Carol Goldman



From left: James Rokas, Mac Goldman and Orion Binder perform in the musical 13.
Photo Carol Goldman

Fifth Grader to Attend Johns Hopkins Gifted Summer Program

Submitted by Myra Ozaeta



John Mark Holbrook Photo provided

This summer Del Rey fifth-grader John Mark Holbrook, from Orinda, will attend the Johns Hopkins Center for Talented Youth's (CTY) which offers challenging programs for academically gifted second-through 12th-graders.

Holbrook will be taking a CTY Summer Program called Model United Nations and Advanced Geography at Johns Hopkins University. In this course, students learn

how the United Nations addresses global concerns. They study the structure, authority, and processes of the UN through readings, discussions, research, and short lectures and examine how physical, economic, cultural, and political geographies influence and inform policymakers' decisions. Concurrently, students hone their writing, speaking, and critical-thinking skills and gain a working knowledge of international relations and geography which they put into action when they assume the role of ambassadors for a model United Nations simulation.

Holbrook qualified for CTY Summer Programs by participating in CTY's Annual Talent Search, which accepts applications from early September through May. During the Talent Search, advanced young learners take above-grade level tests designed for older students as a means of gaining insight into their abilities. Seventh- and eighth-graders take the SAT or ACT—the same tests used for college admissions, while second- through sixth-graders take the School and College Ability Test, an above-level test scaled for younger students.

For more information about enrolling in the CTY Talent Search, visit: www.cty.jhu.edu.

All Dressed Up and Someplace to Go!

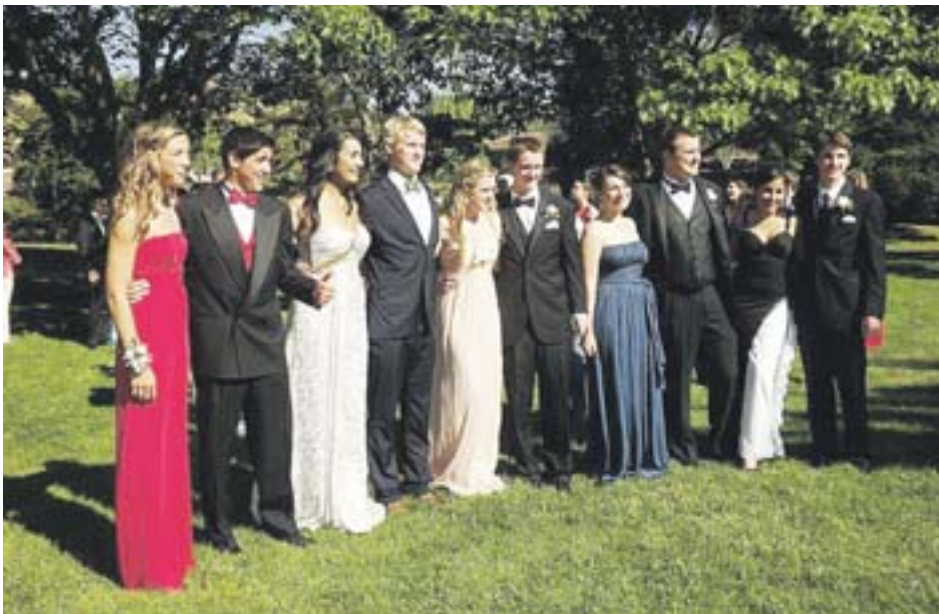


Photo Cathy Dausman

Elegant in their finery, students from the Campolindo Class of 2012 gathered at the Moraga Commons Park last Saturday afternoon,

in time-honored tradition, as proud families took photos galore before the soon-to-be graduates boarded a bus bound for their Senior Ball.

Another Fun-Filled Day at the 149th SMC Commencement

Submitted by Michael McAlpin



Saint Mary's graduating students cue up to receive diplomas at the May 19 commencement ceremonies.
Photo Cathy Dausman

More than 650 Saint Mary's College seniors participated in the college's 149th Commencement Ceremonies Saturday, May 19, which included commencement speeches from two extraordinary individuals: Tom Meschery, a former All-Star NBA player, now an accomplished poet, author and teacher; and Jim Fruchterman, a successful social entrepreneur who uses technology to change the world. The formal graduation held at the SMC Stadium was followed by

traditional post-graduation lawn parties, more affectionately known as "plot parties," which have been happening for more than 30 years. Some families went "all out" and had the event catered with gourmet offerings, while others brought in trays of home cooked meals. DJs and live bands filled the air with Blues, Country, R&B and Salsa music. An estimated 400 students received diplomas Sunday, May 20 at the Graduate and Professional Programs Commencement at SMC Stadium.

Students from The Saklan School Perform in the Musical "13"

Submitted by Christine Kuckuk and Carol Goldman



From left: James Rokas, Mac Goldman and Orion Binder perform in the musical 13.

Photo Carol Goldman

Middle school students from The Saklan School performed the coming-of-age musical, 13, April 27 and 28 at the Town Hall Theater in Lafayette. The annual musical has grown to be one of the most popular parts of the middle school music curriculum at The Saklan School, despite the fact that participation by every student is mandatory. Music teacher Grace Chaffey instituted the annual musical production when she started at the school in 2008. Because of its popularity, this year she began directing musicals for Saklan's

elementary students, too.

At The Saklan School music is taught in Pre-K through fifth grade three times per week. Middle school students meet in larger, mixed-grade ensembles where they develop skills in instrumental and vocal performance. In addition to her role as Saklan's Pre-K through eighth grade music teacher, Chaffey also serves the community as the vocal director for the Campolindo High School Musicals and teaches at the Town Hall Theater's Educational Program.

JM Student at Woodminster

Submitted by Kathy Kahn



Photo Kathy Kahn

Elliott Carr as Snoopy with Joaquin Moraga Intermediate School seventh-grader Nathan Correll, who played the title role in You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown

May 6, a preview performance and benefit for Woodminster Summer Musicals' Kids Come Free program at Woodminster Amphitheater in Oakland.

Campolindo Chamber Singers Shine in Atlanta

By Sophie Braccini



Campolindo Chamber Singers show off their trophies

Picture provided

Campolindo High School music teacher Mark Roberts does not lack ambition for his elite group of singers, called the Chamber Singers. The group is one of the nation's top musical talents and Roberts feels it is his duty to take them to compete with other top-rated groups in the country. "We went to the Atlanta Heritage Festival to compete with six other choirs, all part of the top 10 percent nationally," said Roberts. The result was outstanding: the Chamber Singers received a gold rating (the highest granted) and were honored as the top choir at the festival, receiving the Outstanding Choral Group Award. The Chamber Singers also received the Adjudicators Award, given to the highest-rated group of all participants in the festival including bands, orchestras, and choirs.

The Chamber sang, among other pieces, Haec Dies by William Byrd [1540 - 1623] and Frank Ticheli's There Will Be Rest. The other competing choirs came from Florida, North Carolina and Massachusetts. "The students had an all around musical experience, including a clinic with Eric Nelson, Director of Choral Studies at Emory University," said Roberts.

Roberts is also quick to point out that the students had the opportunity to explore the richness of Atlanta. "It was a multi-faceted experience," he said. "Musical, cultural and historical." They visited historical landmarks, sampled local food and got immersed in local music. According to Roberts, it was a great opportunity for students to explore and grow.