

PILGRIM  SCHOOL



**Annual Report**

2007

2008

2009

2010

2011

**2012**

2013

2014

2015

2016

2017



## Our Mission and Values

*The mission of Pilgrim School is to nurture the mind, spirit, and moral awareness of our students.*

### Values:

*We are committed to...*

### Enriching the mind:

- *By developing strong academic and critical thinking skills.*
- *By using tools and technologies to expand innovative thinking.*
- *Through personal attention and support for each student.*

### Nurturing the spirit:

- *By offering participation for all students in the fine, visual, and performance arts, as well as team sports through our "no-cut" policy for athletics.*
- *By cultivating a climate of appreciation for the diverse contributions of people of all religious, cultural, and ethnic backgrounds.*

### Enabling thoughtful moral choices for the 21st century:

- *Through the extraordinary diversity of our school, students of all backgrounds and beliefs study, work, and play in a context of mutual respect, preparing them to be global citizens and ethical leaders.*
- *By participating in a wide range of extracurricular activities, including community service, students learn the benefits of teamwork, cooperation, and shared experiences.*



Laurence K. Brown, Governing Board Chair

August 2012

This year's Annual Report is focused on the community. Pilgrim's community includes its faculty, staff and students, but also its families and friends who are essential to its health. I want to recognize one long-time supporter who passed away this year: Thomas Hunter Russell, a member and former Chair of the Governing Board, was a true friend of the school.

Pilgrim's community also includes foundations which support the quality of its education and provide special opportunities to its students. The Rose Hills Foundation has given scholarship grants to two Pilgrim School students. These generous grants will fund their entire four-year high school education. The Dream Scholars Foundation has made a two-year financial commitment to three independent schools, including Pilgrim. The E.E. Ford Foundation has offered scholarships for Latino students attending Pilgrim. The Ahmanson Foundation has again supported Pilgrim School with a significant grant of financial aid for its students. All of these foundation grants enable some current students who would not otherwise be able to return the next year, and some new students who might otherwise not have access to this level of education to be here at Pilgrim.

Thank you to those of you who have supported Pilgrim School as donors and volunteers; your investments of time and treasure are truly appreciated. Thanks to you, Pilgrim's future is more promising now than ever before.

Sincerely yours,

Laurence K. Brown  
*Governing Board Chair*





1. Kindergartners blowing paint through straws.

2. Elementary students made the Honor Code their own.

3. Secondary student in the ARC (Academic Resource Center).

4. Elementary field trip to LACMA.

5. She's a winner!

6. Junior Gabe Garza goes for the gold.



7



2

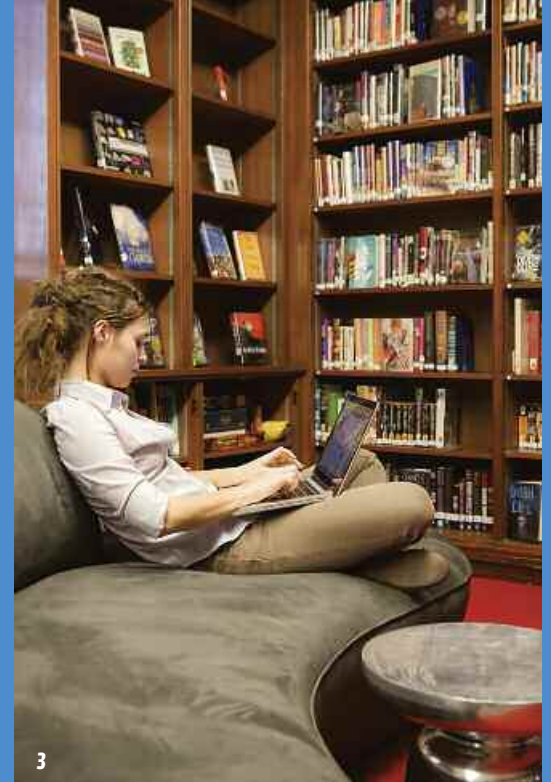
7. Secondary students jog-a-thoning.

8. An unexpected visitor to the secondary Cedar Lake Retreat.

9. Secondary student film class.

10. Sixth grade trip to Catalina.

11. Secondary science class.



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10



11





Mark A. Brooks, Head of School.

August 2012

Everywhere I look as I walk through the Pilgrim campus, I see the future. I see it in the stacks of contracts on the desk in the admissions office, the new students and returning students whose lives we are guiding, whose minds we are training and expanding, whose dreams we are nurturing. I see it in our students too, in how they are teaching us, and each other, to explore technology and ideas and the world. I see it as I watch the huge delivery trucks parked across the street bringing in the wonderful landscaping for the Mayflower House, our brand new boarding facility, which will bring the international city experience not just to our boarding students, but to the student body as a whole, as our day students are introduced to new cultures from all over the world. I see potential everywhere, and the possibilities for Pilgrim are breathtaking. Pilgrim's bright future is limited only by the imagination, and Pilgrim continues to grow in ways never thought of even a few years ago. So much of this has to do with the events that have taken place over the past year, commitments that have been made, promises kept, ideas and dreams encouraged and realized. Our Class of 2012 is on its way to realizing its potential after Pilgrim, in art schools, Ivy League schools, in smaller liberal arts colleges. The Annual Report is our chance to thank you for participating and supporting Pilgrim School, and to let you know about some of the unique opportunities Pilgrim students, faculty, and staff enjoyed in the last school year.

This year in a section of the Annual Report, we have chosen to focus on several students whose commitment to community service—which plays such a large part in the Pilgrim experience—is exemplary. And these students' efforts are indicative of the roles that so many of our students play in community service programs throughout the city. In addition to specific personal commitments, over seventy-five secondary students participated together in the Walk to Defeat ALS, raising money and awareness for a disease that currently has no treatment and no cure. While the Pilgrim experience in the classroom is very important, education at Pilgrim embraces so much more; from class trips, spring break trips to Asia, the senior class community service trip to San Francisco, community service programs, art projects, the list is extensive.

Financial aid was again at a record high as we ensured that deserving students receive an independent education. Gifts to the Annual Fund were also at an all time high, in recognition perhaps that in these tough financial times, it is more important than ever to give if one is able.

This past year, we began the year with secondary students signing the honor code, and students participated in the honor council throughout the year. Our Visiting Artists and Writers Program expanded to celebrity author events, such as Lisa See speaking to the Pilgrim community, and the community-at-large in a well-attended evening event in the Sanctuary; and through our Visiting Artists Program, secondary students had a show at a gallery in Venice, and elementary students actually cast bronze statues at a Los Angeles foundry. In fact, I have started a student art collection with three bronze sculptures, generously donated by students. Our sports teams showed what Pilgrim spirit is really all about, detailed in this report. Our school

newspaper turned over a new leaf, so to speak, as it became a contender in student newspaper competitions with other schools. In the community, we had the second annual Pilgrim at the Pier, the Party Book, which promoted great community spirit, the second annual Afternoon in the Garden, which gets more lovely every year. Parent education workshops, led by a Pilgrim parent, Alicia Murray who is a Child Development Specialist and licensed Marriage and Family Therapist, continued with great success for a second year.

As always, it has been an honor in this past year to work with First Church Senior Minister, Dr. R. Scott Colglazier; the First Church Trustees, the Pilgrim School Governing Board, and our chair, a true gentleman who epitomizes the heart of Pilgrim School, Mr. Laurence K. Brown.

I want to thank everyone who supported Pilgrim School this past year. Parents (current and past), alumni, First Church and community members, faculty, staff, and friends, all gave generously of their financial resources, their time and volunteer commitments, and of their spirit.

Our future is bright and I am so glad that you are a part of our community.

Sincerely,

Mark A. Brooks  
*Head of School*

# 2011-2012 Highlights



*Kindergarteners getting to know the iPad.*

## **Academics**

Pilgrim School is a traditional college preparatory school, able to support the pursuit of knowledge in both technological and creative ways, and through special programs that illuminate the academic path.

iPads were introduced to students in kindergarten, and a pilot program began in eighth grade, incorporating the iPad technology into the classrooms. We continued with our laptop program of course, and the last of the smart boards went up in the remaining classrooms. Electronic textbooks were available in a number of courses.

The secondary math program implemented an online practice system called Enhanced WebAssign for all math classes Algebra and above. This system allows teachers to assign problems from the textbook that students can complete online and receive immediate feedback. The program also has opportunities for students to practice additional problems as well as watch videos about the problems or topics covered. In addition to the practice system, WebAssign also allows students to have access to an interactive e-book, which is an online version of the textbook with additional resources, including video lectures on most concepts and ability for students and teachers to make notes and

adjustments in the online book.

Additionally, in Geometry, Pilgrim started using a dynamic geometry system called Geometer's Sketchpad. This program allows students to explore concepts from geometry and algebra in a dynamic environment. Students interact with the concepts in a tangible and visual way that allows them deeper understanding.

Cognitive scientist and poet Pireeni Sundaralingam spoke to the secondary students and gave a fascinating presentation on the commonalities between science and poetry. Before her presentation, she joined several





Flags adorn the Pilgrim Campus on Un Idioma, Muchas Banderas Day.



Japanese exchange students.

faculty members and students who were able to ask Ms. Sundaralingam questions about her research, her education at Oxford, and her recent work in Germany. This was a great opportunity to introduce our Pilgrim students to world-class scholarship and ideas!

Pilgrim School this year celebrated Un Idioma, Muchas Banderas, a day devoted to all the countries where Spanish is spoken! Our campus was transformed by all of the colorful fluttering flags, and our students were transformed as they danced the salsa to Latin music in the forecourt. The musical group Mexika played ancient indigenous instruments from Mexico. Secondary students enjoyed a QR Code treasure hunt. Pilgrim School was transformed into South America, Central America and Mexico. Students were given a map and had to identify countries using clues, and then figure out the corresponding location on the Pilgrim campus. At each location were answers to a quiz, and a free dress day was awarded to those who finished the quiz. The Paella Project was on campus and served samples of Paella to all the students. City Cuisine served handmade tortillas and Mexican food. Parents brought desert type items and cultural items to give the students a taste of foods they might otherwise not experience. A special thanks to Dr. Amy Gregory for all of her work in putting together this event.

On Monday, January 9, the Mock Trial team



Secondary students making their case at Mock Trial.

gathered at the law offices of Richards, Watson, & Gershon for its annual awards banquet, hosted by Attorney Coach Mitch Abbott. The team had a very successful season, faring remarkably well against far larger teams. The lawyer judges of the competition recognized Senior Cosmo K., Junior Henry K., and Freshman Jacob H. with honorable mentions for their performance. Mr. Abbott, Pilgrim's coach for eighteen years, was recognized by the Constitutional Rights Foundation, which sponsors the Mock Trial Program, as Attorney Coach of the Year. The Mock Trial program is a great opportunity for our students to learn about how to debate, how to

plan an argument, and basic steps of logic and building a case; all great life skills.

Through our newly developed international exchange program, three new students from Japan joined Pilgrim in January and lived with Pilgrim host families. During the summer, six Pilgrim students traveled to Japan with Ms. Hiromi Takahashi, our Japanese teacher, and lived with the three new students' families. Takamasa Nanno, Ryusei Kinugasa and Hiroshi Nakamura soon became close friends with fellow Pilgrim students and it was an emotional moment when they returned to Japan.





*Pilgrim School Walks to Defeat ALS.*

## Community Service

Community service is an integral part of life at Pilgrim School for students, faculty, administrators, and families alike. It is not only a requirement for graduation, it is a part of the very essence of the Pilgrim School philosophy.

This year in the Annual Report, we want to recognize a few of those students who have demonstrated in an outstanding way the Pilgrim spirit of community. We have included contact information about the groups that inspired our young students, in case you in turn should be inspired by the actions of these students.

Co-ASB president, senior Chloe Chais, was a Community Service Super Star this past year! In addition to her many hours of service to the school through ASB activities, she has dedicated hundreds of hours to the Violence Intervention Program sponsored by USC Hospital. Chloe began volunteering there the summer before ninth grade. She has worked with these special children, whose lives have been directly impacted by violence, tutoring and mentoring them for four years. During her bi-weekly visits, it became apparent to her that the children needed more resources. Recognizing this need, Chloe organized a

book drive to provide a library for the program. She collected over five hundred books from the Pilgrim School community to stock the shelves of their library. Chloe's impact on this organization will last for years, but she graduated this year and it is Chloe's wish that someone in the Pilgrim community continue in her footsteps. Please go to the VIP website and consider volunteering: <http://www.violenceinterventionprogram.org/>

Cosmo Kelley was a senior this year at Pilgrim, and he is another Community Service Super Star. He participated in service projects throughout his high school years, especially Big Sunday projects. But last summer Cosmo wanted to do more. Along with his family, he decided to do 30 different community service projects in 30 days. They went to *LA Works*: <http://www.laworks.com/>, a website that provides daily volunteer opportunities throughout Los Angeles, and found 30 different projects. Cosmo said his favorite project was the downtown Union Rescue Mission. There he worked on the food line with many different people providing meal services. He recommended getting out of your comfort zone to interact with people all over the city. Cosmo stated that, although he was born and raised in LA, volunteering led him to parts of



*Cosmo Kelley.*



*Chloe Chais.*

the city where he had never been before. Thanks Cosmo, your actions inspire!

Senior Man "James" Son is a Community Service Super Star! James comes from a family with a tradition of service. His grandparents and parents dedicated time and means to the less fortunate in Korea, and they inculcated these values in James. His freshman year at Pilgrim, he performed over 100 hours of community service, helping to construct the walls and roof of a local church. With these hours, James more than completed his required eighty hours of service, but he was just getting started. Throughout his four years at Pilgrim, James has performed hundreds of hours of service. His work with the disabled children at Joy Center Saturday School stands out. This organization is a year round, community-based day program which provides educational and recreational services for the developmentally disabled. Every Saturday for three years, James taught children piano and Tae Kwon Do.

A very heartfelt thank you goes out to Community Service Super Star, Junior Anabella Arakaki. She organized a clothing drive for the homeless on skid row. She discovered a committed group of individuals through face-





Anabella Arakaki



Pilgrim students with sack lunches prepared for PATH clients.



Man "James" Son.

book who are trying to make a difference in our city. Every Monday and Thursday, they make meals and distribute them to the homeless that overflow the spaces available in the Midnight Mission. If you are interested in helping this group, or supplying them with food, here is a link to their facebook website: <http://www.facebook.com/mondaynightmission>. If you join this group, you will be moved by the need there is in Los Angeles for food and shelter, and you will be touched by the spirit of those who choose to help.

Another Community Service Super Star was tenth grader Abby Bergman. This young sophomore swims on a club team and she came up with a community service project that included her passion. Abby participated in Equality California's ocean swim fundraiser. She collected pledges using both word of mouth and emails and ended up raising almost two thousand dollars for this worthy cause. You can find out more about Equality California from their website: <http://www.eqca.org/site/pp.asp?c=kuLRJ9MRKrH&b=5609559>. Abby swam 1.7 ocean miles, and you really have to have done ocean swims to appreciate the magnitude of this athletic accomplishment!

Members of the sixth grade class (plus a sec-

ond and a third grader) made and served over 1000 sack lunches, including a hot meal for Thanksgiving, to the clients of PATH (People Assisting the Homeless) from October to December of 2011.

PATH is a community collaborative of 15 nonprofit and government agencies that serves as a "one-stop" center where homeless and low-income individuals can find many of the services they need located under one roof. From case management and substance abuse counseling to health care and hair care, the PATH Mall offers a range of comprehensive resources to the clients, all free of charge. The lunches provided a meal to the homeless clients while they utilized the services provided at the PATH facility to help each one on them get back on their feet and find jobs and housing.

The Pilgrim students were involved in every aspect of the process. They helped plan, budget, and shop for each meal on a weekly basis. On Sunday the group gathered together to make sandwiches, decorate and fill the lunch bags and, if possible, helped pass out the lunches at PATH the next day. Each child learned so much from the experience. "It was so amazing to discover that it is possible to help someone and make their day a bit more pleasant and hopeful," said one of the students. "I learned to appreciate my own life a little more by helping these people who have lost so much!" said another.

All the parents and students involved were grateful to be able to help others less fortunate while building a stronger Pilgrim sense of community. These families are all Community Service Super Stars.

This past school year, on Sunday, October 23, Pilgrim School participated in the two-mile Walk to Defeat ALS in Santa Monica. Over seventy-five students walked with Ms.



Abbie Bergman swimming in the Equity California ocean swim.

Kathryn Atwood, our Director of Communications, and her son, third grader Stafford. They had been walking for several years in memory of her father who passed away from ALS, also known as Lou Gehrig's disease, and were delighted to be joined by such an overwhelming number of students, who walked in memory of her father and in support of all those who are battling this crippling and fatal disease. The website for the ALS organization is [http://web.alsa.org/site/PageServer?page-name=ALSA\\_homepage](http://web.alsa.org/site/PageServer?page-name=ALSA_homepage)

Every year, Pilgrim seniors make a year-end service trip. The class of 2012 went to San Francisco, where they worked with Habitat for Humanity in Daly City.

Our seniors worked very hard, working side-by-side with Habitat to provide affordable housing for families in need. It was a rewarding experience for both the students and the teachers involved in this worthwhile project. Students had a chance to have fun and spend some quality time together, sightseeing in San Simeon, Monterey and San Francisco. Hearst Castle, elephant seals, Fisherman's Wharf, and Chinatown were a few among many other highlights of their trip.





Secondary student in perfect form.



Secondary student clears the bar.

## Athletics

This has been a truly terrific year in Pilgrim athletics. And here is why:

The first-ever season fielding a cross-country team, the Pilgrim Patriot runners won races and set the pace for other schools. But they did more than that. The Patriots showed their pride as well as their skill as Gabe Garza, '13, and Marina Pena, '14, demonstrated the kind of leadership that earned them their roles as team captains when they led several others on a run back on to the course to help a teammate who was trying his best to reach the finish line.

As thrilling as it was to root home the runners who finished at or near the top of the standings, it was more inspiring to watch the way our Pilgrim students looked out for one another so that they could figuratively all cross the finish line together.

At the Westside League Cross Country

championship, Pilgrim runners finished first in both the boys and girls divisions. Our boys team finished fifth for the season, and the girls team finished second, and went to the CIF Southern California Championships. Pilgrim students gave an outstanding performance in a sport that demands focus, discipline and endurance—the very qualities encouraged at Pilgrim. A group of six girls and eleven boys from grades 9-12, these Pilgrim runners reflected their school's values by supporting their teammates.

The Pilgrim boys basketball team, The Patriots, earned a divisional championship in the Omega League that sent them on to the C.I.F. Southern Division playoffs.

The Pilgrim Dance Force cheerleaders competed at USA Regionals, the competition a qualifier for Nationals in March. The teams competing needed a score of 75 points to qualify, which the Pilgrim Cheerleaders surpassed to secure a spot! The girls competed

against 8 teams and placed 4th. This was the first competition ever for all but two of the nine girls on the team.

This year's report includes a passionate letter written during the past school year by Josh Manly, "Voted Coach of the Year for Girls Varsity Basketball for the Omega League." The passion and commitment evident in this letter explains why the Pilgrim sports program is so special.

"Whenever you look back on a season, there are flashes and moments. Flashes are seeing a play that you particularly liked or a player cutting to the rim in a way you have been practicing over and over again. Then there are the far more important moments. The moments are times in practice when Lily hit a half court shot during a game we play in warm-ups, or seeing all the girls sit together for the first time without being told to do so. The moments are watching Chloe kick a ball across the court after losing in knockout, then

## Student Quotes

*"I think my favorite part of the season was when we all became friends and when we all gave each other support so we could win the games. The worst part was when the season ended."*

Daisy Esparza, '16

*I think my favorite part was watching the teamwork in our team."*

John Gittens, '16





Girls Varsity Basketball team.

going and hugging another player for something as simple as bumping in to her.

Whenever you look back on a season, you can mark steps in the schedule; the time we got blown out by Price after losing Delina and Chace, but saw Chloe and Evelyn fight until they were bruised and exhausted to keep us in the game; the time we beat someone we shouldn't have and the freshmen start to believe in something bigger than themselves; the time you had to tell them, "the season is probably over because we are down 40 points in the fourth quarter but let's try to make a mark anyway."

It's hard to say something towards statistics or scouting ability. This player got better, that player got worse. That is really not what high school sports are about at Pilgrim. You don't play because you want to start in the NBA, you play because your best friend does and all of your future friends do too, (only you don't know it yet).

Whenever you recap the season, you think of the first time players score in competitive sports and the way their faces change from "I am not so good" to "I can't wait to be so much better." It's in the body language of Gracie, or the strength of Mae, the instincts of Chace, or the blossoming of Lily.

Whenever you recap the season, you go back to your scorebook, and your photos, your game tape and your memories and you sit down and realize how much you want next season to start. And how much you want this one to never end.

I could not be more proud of a group of people in this entire world. I don't care about divisions or points, I don't care about playoffs or win-loss (well, sort of). I care that when we began this season we were seniors and underclassmen. I care that when we finished this season, I saw Sofia stand tall as the new leader ready to carry the team. In basketball, you call the starting players the Starting 5, we



Pilgrim Cheerleaders.

shortened that to simply the 5.

There was a 5, there will be a 5, there is always a 5.

The key is knowing that the 5 will always be there for you."



# Creative Opportunities



Visiting Writer Erik Larson.

## Visiting Writers Program

A very special thank you to Janet Steeper, whose generosity made the Visiting Writers Program a tremendous success again this year.

October 5th at 7:00pm was a wonderful night in the Sanctuary. The Visiting Writers program stretched well beyond the ARC (Academic Resource Center- formerly the secondary library) and elementary library as best-selling author Lisa See gave a public reading, followed by a question-and-answer period and book signing. A lively storyteller, her books are filled with impeccable research into Chinese history and culture. In the first-ever public event in our Visiting Writers Series, over 100 people joined us in the Sanctuary for an evening of fascinating stories of China, old and new. Ms. See is a Los Angeles City Commissioner and knows as much or more about our Chinatown as anyone—her stories of the business beginnings of her great-grandfather were hilarious. We had a great surprise when Councilman Tom LeBonge stopped by our special reception to present a beautiful proclamation he had created for Ms. See honoring her creative and civic contributions to the city.

Bookending this year's Visiting Writers program, our final and our second community

event- over 200 people attended the talk and book signing by Erik Larson, best-selling author of *Thunderstruck*, *Isaac's Storm*, *The Devil in the White City* and *In the Garden of Beasts*. It was such a thrill to have one of the most widely read and well-respected authors in the country at our school, and such a great opportunity for Pilgrim to shine in the community. Many people were introduced to our school and First Congregational for the first time, and we made many new friends. Mr. Larson was so impressed with our community, and especially with the group of students who made sure to thank him for his visit as he prepared to leave after over an hour of signing books for a long line of fans.



Lisa See's many novels.

Here are some highlights from visiting artists throughout the year. Three of the most highly regarded members of the Los Angeles performance poetry scene visited and created a powerful experience for our students. Brendan Constantine, Suzanne Lummis, and Douglas Kearney performed their poetry separately, and ended with a brilliant ensemble piece. The students were mesmerized, and James S. even said, "I don't usually like poetry, but this was fantastic!"

Our Secondary students got a glimpse of the wide world this week as they gathered to hear about the adventures of Casey Sci-



Author Lisa See.

eszka and Steven Weinberg. Casey is the daughter of children's author Jon Scieszka, and went to college here in California. She spent her semester abroad in Morocco, where she met Steven Weinberg, who was going to college in Maine. After graduation, they spent 6 months teaching English in Beijing, then traveled throughout Asia, and on to Mali where Casey had received a Fulbright grant to study the role of Islam on the education system in that part of Africa. On their return to the U.S., Casey wrote and Steven drew *To Timbuktu*, a wonderful account of their adventures, and yes, they did make it all the way to Timbuktu. The students were full of questions, and our international students who attended were fascinated to hear about what foods they had



liked in China, and also had observations about the differences between the schools in China and here.

Poet Kim Dower and artist Thom Dower offered a fascinating look at the creative process, and a discussion of how that process is similar in the visual and verbal art worlds. Art and creative writing students were encouraged to think about what stimulated their own creativity, and what they liked –and didn't like– about famous works of art and poetry. Especially nice was the lunch with faculty and students and a free-ranging discussion of what it means to be an artist– and importantly, how to make a living if that is the life you choose.

Adam Jay Epstein and Andrew Jacobson spoke to secondary students about *The Familiars*, their series of books about a group of magical animals. Their first book is now being made into an animated movie by Sony Pictures; they are writing the screenplay, and they talked about their unusual collaborative writing process for both books and screenplays. Their most important advice: if you want to be a writer, you must write every day.

The elementary library was delighted to host best-selling children's author Betty G. Birney. Birney is responsible for bringing us the fabulous *Humphrey*, the extraordinary classroom hamster in seven wonderful adventures. Ms. Birney presented the *Humphrey* series to second, and third graders, and they were thrilled with her presentation. The fourth and fifth graders got to enjoy her presentation on the wonderful *Seven Wonders of Sassafras Springs*, a book that was nominated for the California Young Reader Medal a few years ago.

The elementary library also hosted author James Thach. Mr. Thach gave two presentations, one to Kindergarten through second grade and one to third through fifth grade. All students were completely captivated and mesmerized as he recited the first chapter from his wonderful rhyming book *The Seal Pup*. *The Seal Pup* is a wonderful story inspired by a documentary that James Thach saw where a seal went out into the ocean to distract a shark from some other seals who were stranded on a rock. He talked with the students about his inspiration for the book,

the animals in the book, and how we can all help protect the ocean. The students found the illustration process particularly fascinating. After each presentation, James signed copies of *The Seal Pup* for students.

On Tuesday 2/7, writer, artist, publisher and comic expert Oliver Chin had a wonderful day here at Pilgrim! In the morning, he presented his newest book about the animals of the Chinese Zodiac to the Kindergartners, first, second and third graders in the Elementary Library. He also talked about his writing, and how his books about the *Octonauts* have been turned into a television series that is seen by children around the world.

Mr. Chin also met in Barnum with the Middle and High School students who were interested in comics and graphic novels. Every student got a booklet with a simple format for writing their own comic and Oliver took them through his comic writing workshop step by step. Some of the students had started work already in their workbooks and some created their story and characters on the spot, but Oliver answered all their questions and helped them to move their stories along. Students and teachers both were asking when he could come back to work with them again.

Cecil Castellucci, a multi-talented Los Angeles artist, spoke about her many creative endeavors: young adult and children's books, graphic novels, and short stories; filmmaking; libretto-writing; performance art; and occasional music-making. It was a fascinating look inside a vibrant creative mind, and several students have said how exciting it was to hear how she makes her life work as a constant act of creativity. The students asked great questions about her work and her process, and hung on her every word. Talk about energy! Favorite idea: All acts of creation, whether visual, word-based, performance-anything– come from the same creative impulse and all are equally valid. Favorite quote: "Don't worry whether it is any good-just do it. Make art!"

The East West Players, America's premier Asian American theater company, presented their original play *Taking Flight: the Story of Katherine Cheung*. It's the true story of

Katherine Sui Fun Cheung, who was born in China and came to Los Angeles as a teenager. As a young woman in the middle of the Great Depression of the 1930's, she broke racial and gender barriers and became the first Asian American woman to be a licensed pilot. She became an accomplished stunt pilot, and even flew with Amelia Earhart. East West Players mounts a new production every year to perform in schools, and we hope to make this an annual event.

Author Caroline Arnold took our Elementary students on a fascinating journey through the natural world. She is the highly acclaimed author of over 100 books for children on all aspects of the world around us-animals and their habitats, climate change, endangered species, di-



Visiting Writer Betty Birney with elementary students.

nosaurus and more. The students loved her "wingspan tape measure" where they could measure their arms against the wingspan of birds-we had a red-tailed hawk, a flamingo, and it took three students to reach the span of the California condor! She even had penguin feathers, a fossilized Megalodon (prehistoric giant shark) tooth, and a casting of a woolly mammoth molar. Much too big for the tooth fairy! Ms. Arnold also shared the process of research and creativity that she uses to write her books, and how she creates the cut-paper art that she has used to illustrate some of her recent work. It was a wonderful presentation and the students had great questions-we could have gone on for hours!



# Visiting Artists Program



Visiting Artist Eric Johnson and second graders get up close and personal with his artwork.

Special thanks to Lee and Deborah Wolcott and the Ahmanson Foundation for making the Visiting Artists Program such a success.

Visiting artists graced the elementary and secondary sides of the Brown Family Art Center and our media room with colorful and creative visits throughout the year. In addition, students in secondary and elementary were able to go out into the community, to galleries, studios, theatres, and even a foundry, to learn about the creative process in the trenches.

Kim Abeles worked with the fourth graders, creating a totem pole that was displayed in a Santa Monica gallery in January. A special thank you to Pilgrim Governing Board member Joan Quinn for helping secure a gallery for the totem pole installation. After the gallery opening, the students, Ms. Abeles, and Ms. Alexy, the elementary art teacher, went to the studio of artist Carla Danes. The students were given unlimited

access to the studio and had free reign to create a sculpture using all the supplies in the studio. Ms. Danes shared stories about making art, and the importance of finding one's own voice.

Edith Abeyta, a well-established fiber artist, taught the elementary students the art of weaving using large boxes as looms. They then stacked the boxes they have been weaving, creating a large mixed media installation, learning a bit about public art and what it takes to install a large communal piece.

Gordon Bowen, a sculptor, brought sample work for the third grade students to touch and they were encouraged to feel the difference between various metals he casts in his foundry downtown. Gordon discussed the centuries old lost wax technique for creating bronze sculptures. Each third grader had a chance to create their very own miniature bronze sculpture. Much of the third grade curriculum is focused on three-dimensional exploration, so the third

graders were absolutely thrilled at the idea of creating their own solid metal sculpture. The students visited the foundry that Mr. Bowen owns downtown and were able to watch the lost wax process, and the pouring of hot liquid bronze.

Chris Beas shared his knowledge of set design with the secondary students leading them in the process of what it takes to cre-

*At one point, Lauryn turned to me and said, "OK! I am inspired!" which made me think that this is the whole idea behind the Visiting Artists program. What more can I ask than to have a student be inspired to create, to make, to wonder, and feel the spirit that makes us want to jump up and paint, draw, and sculpt!*

**Katrina Alexy,**  
Elementary Art Teacher and Art Dept. Chair



ate a set for a theatrical production. The students brainstormed and sketched ideas out for the annual All School Musical, inspired by the art installations that Mr. Beas had shared with them. He helped the students build the wooden flats used in the show and was a tremendous help bringing their designs to life.

First graders worked with the first visiting artist of the year, McLean Fahnestock. McLean is a video artist whose recent work involves images of rocket launches and NASA footage. She shared her videos, and created an original video project with the first graders exploring color. McLean encourages exploration and creativity and enjoys blurring the lines of art and science.

The fourth graders, who were studying the human figure in art class, had the pleasure of working with guest artist Farrah Karapetian for two weeks. Ms. Karapetian is an experienced artist who mixes photography with installation art. She shared her knowledge of the cyanotype process and then had each student experiment with full body solar prints out on the big yard. The students laid down on special photosensitive paper creating a “photograph” of their bodies using the sun.

Kathleen Klein Wakefield, our ceramics artist in residence for the year, worked with every single elementary student creating one-of-a-kind ceramic pieces.

Helen Lessick, an environmentalist/conceptual artist, spent time this year with secondary students creating sculptures based on the concept of “migratory trees.” The students created tree sculptures as a personal symbol representing their uniqueness in the world.

Eric Johnson, worked with the second graders, and his sheer joy of creating and his energetic presence were felt by all as he shared his paintings of boats, zoo animals, towns and villages, all in bright colors and bold styles. The students were thrilled with his stories crouched around his paintings to get an up close look. Eric encouraged them to look closely and even touch the artwork. The students were equally excited after Eric explained he would be helping them build the set and backdrops for their pup-



"A Migratory Tree."

### Student Quotes

*“ To me, art is a gift. It has a lot of meaning beyond just ‘art-work.’ Art always gives me a tremendous amount of pleasure every time I do it. It is not an essential thing to live with, but I cannot imagine life without art. ”*

Michelle Song, '13

pet show in April.

Echo Park Film worked with secondary students sharing techniques on how to make dynamic, yet personal documentary on a subject that had deep meaning to them.

Rogue Artists Ensemble is a troupe of exploratory puppeteers dedicated to bringing the fine art of puppeteering to a greater audience. A theatre space was donated downtown for the day for a special program just for Pilgrim students, but Pilgrim shared the day by inviting Para Los Ninos to join us for the show.



Cyanotype.

Karen Merchant Yates, an artist and art educator with a deep understanding of child creativity, shared her mixed media paintings with the kindergarteners and discussed all the items she uses in her work. The students were very interested in her assorted collections of pennies, shells, toy birds, etc. The kindergarteners were studying the ocean in their classrooms, so each student created a one of a kind accordion book full of fish, seaweed, and ocean wonders, employing various techniques like collage and blowing watercolor paint through straws.



# Fundraising Events



*Jog-a-thon!*

**P**ilgrim brought back three popular events for a second year: Pilgrim at the Pier and the Pilgrim Party Book, held in the fall; a Jog-a-Thon in the spring; and a Garden Party and silent auction in the spring.

## **Pilgrim At the Pier**

In September, families, faculty, and friends met at the Santa Monica Pier for the second annual Pilgrim at the Pier, a day of rides, live music, and fun. The second annual Pilgrim Party Book was available for sign-ups and par-

ents stood in line to have a chance to attend the always first to sell out dinner party, Corks and Forks, hosted by the Afflallos.

Some of the parties included a screening of "Revenge of the Nerds" at the home of Curtis Armstrong and Elaine Aronson; Jewelry Making with Katrina Alexy, and back by popular demand, the Ice Cream Social for students, hosted by Mark Brooks. Sincere thanks to each of our Party Book hosts, who are listed under Restricted Donations in this report.

## **Jog-A-Thon**

Parents Karla Ravandi and Tom Yood-Howard served as Co-Chairs of the second annual Jog-



*A preschooler enjoying the Jog-a-thon.*





A garden pathway.

a-Thon, in which students from preschool through high school gathered pledges from friends and family. The day was a whirlwind of running students from preschoolers on their own smaller course, to high school students who looked like they were “going for the gold” as they ran; teacher and parent volunteers who kept track of the number of laps students ran; and of course rooting students on! Funds raised were used, appropriately enough, for the Pilgrim School sports program.

### Afternoon In the Garden

Our second annual Afternoon in the Garden was truly picture perfect.



Joan Quinn and hostess Clara Yust enjoying an “Afternoon in the Garden”.



The band rocks at Pilgrim at the Pier.

Pilgrim parents and friends were invited to gather in the historic Yust-Davis Gardens to sample wines, enjoy hors d’oeuvres and live music, and bid on silent auction items ranging from fine art to fine jewelry.

Proud Pilgrim parent David Ravandi, owner of 1,2,3 Tequila, set up a tasting in one of the gardens, educating guests on the nuances of fine tequila.

We want to extend our sincere gratitude to hosts (and Pilgrim grandparents) Clara and Larry Yust, who so generously opened up their home for a successful and beautiful event, and to our co-hosts Allegra Yust Woods and Douglas Woods.

**Student Quotes**

*“ I feel like the world is at our fingertips. We can be anything we want to be. We won't have all these opportunities in the future. ”*

Gabe Garza, '13

Garden Committee members included parents Natalie Bergman (Chair), Patricia Arakaki, Marcie Bronkar, Brenda Creightney, Linda Sallas and Erick Weiss.

Special thanks again to Linda Myerson Dean of Wine Warehouse and the Larchmont Village Wine and Cheese Shop, who were instrumental in making this event so enjoyable.

Please see the Restricted Donations section for sponsors and donors to the Silent Auction.

Funds raised will be used for the Pilgrim Elementary Science Program and Scholarship Program.



# Class of 2012



2012 Graduating Class.

## A Letter from ASB Co-Presidents

*With the Pilgrim class of 2012 heading off to college, looking back on what we accomplished brings us pride and excitement about what we can do in the future. As the ASB (Associated Student Body Government) Co-Presidents, we were able to raise money, as well as create fun memories for the high school. We threw a successful prom and spirit days, helped introduce the new Pilgrim boarding school, and addressed the changes our peers requested. While starting a new chapter of our lives, with Chloe attending UC Santa Barbara and Dustin attending University of Michigan, is exciting and a little bit scary, there are many aspects of Pilgrim, such as the awesome students, caring teachers, and amazing atmosphere, that will be missed. But we know that ASB 2012-13 Co-Presidents Isabella Chambers and Krystal Von Seyfried and Vice Presidents Olana Himmel and Alec Palchikoff will do a great job next year. Thank you for everything, Pilgrim! We are proud to be alums!*

*-Chloe Chais '12 and Dustin Park '12*

## Commencement 2012

Cosmo Kelly, class Salutatorian, addressed the parents, faculty, peers and parents, and spoke of the bonds formed by students and teachers both in and out of the classroom. He said that Head of School Dr. Brooks was the shining example that set the bar for those relationships. "He has given many members of this graduating class second chances academically, and advice that will last us the rest of our lives."

Evelyn Kim, class Valedictorian, spoke about "the strongest aspect of our lives at Pilgrim School, community. It is one of the most important gifts I or anyone else at Pilgrim has received." She elaborated on the many special skills her fellow students brought into the classroom, including leadership skills and a keen fashion sense.

When the guest speaker took the podium, the younger in the audience saw Puss in Boots, but to most, Zorro was standing before them. Then he spoke, and everyone in the Sanctuary was riveted as Antonio Banderas, the gracious and thoughtful man, uncle of one of the graduating seniors, spoke about his personal experience with the power of



Antonio Banderas speaks to us all.

dreams, and how the soul is nurtured by the capacity to dream. Mr. Banderas's poetic and eloquent speech to the graduating class inspired all in the Sanctuary.

Here are a few excerpts:

If I could recognize what was that thing that allowed me to jump over obstacles, to stand back up after I fell and keep going, that thing that healed the wounds of my heart and soul... If I had to choose one of those things, only one of those forces that shaped me and gave me



the right sense as a human being, well, then I would say that that thing was the CAPACITY TO DREAM.

To dream is a very courageous act in which you have to get rid of one of the most powerful fears of all, the fear of not being able to fulfill your dreams. Cynics don't dream because they are afraid of a failure. They might say to themselves, "if I don't risk, I don't lose," but they will always live with the bitter taste experienced by those who never try anything out of the box. Believe me, you don't want to live with that bad taste in your souls.

It is time for you to open the door and walk toward your future, and please, don't get me wrong, to build that future you will have to confront yourself, you will have to have the ability to recognize what is right and wrong, you will have to fight, embrace the times of sacrifice, the moments of hard work. You will have to accept that every human being, as yourself, travels through life with a backpack filled with greatnesses and miseries. Give yourself permission to forgive your own and others' mistakes. Be generous, think big, be curious, love every speck of the way toward your dream. Don't forget the faces, eyes, souls of those who once shared with you a big piece of life among the walls of Pilgrim. Life is now calling you, answer that call with joy, and an open heart, and we all will thank you for doing so.

Thank you, Mr. Banderas. And congratulations, Class of 2012!

**Senior Awards**

**THE CITIZENSHIP AWARD**

*Dustin Park*

**THE LEADERSHIP AWARD**

*Chloe Chais And Dustin Park*

**THE COVENANT AWARD**

*Dustin Park*

**THE PILGRIM ACADEMIC HALL OF FAME**

*Audrey Dalton And Cosmo Kelly*

**THE CLIFFORD WEINING SCHOLARSHIP**

*Dustin Park And Delina Yemane*

**THE DONALD B. WARD SCHOLARSHIP**

*Samuel Kim*



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# Class of 2012

## Visiting Graduates

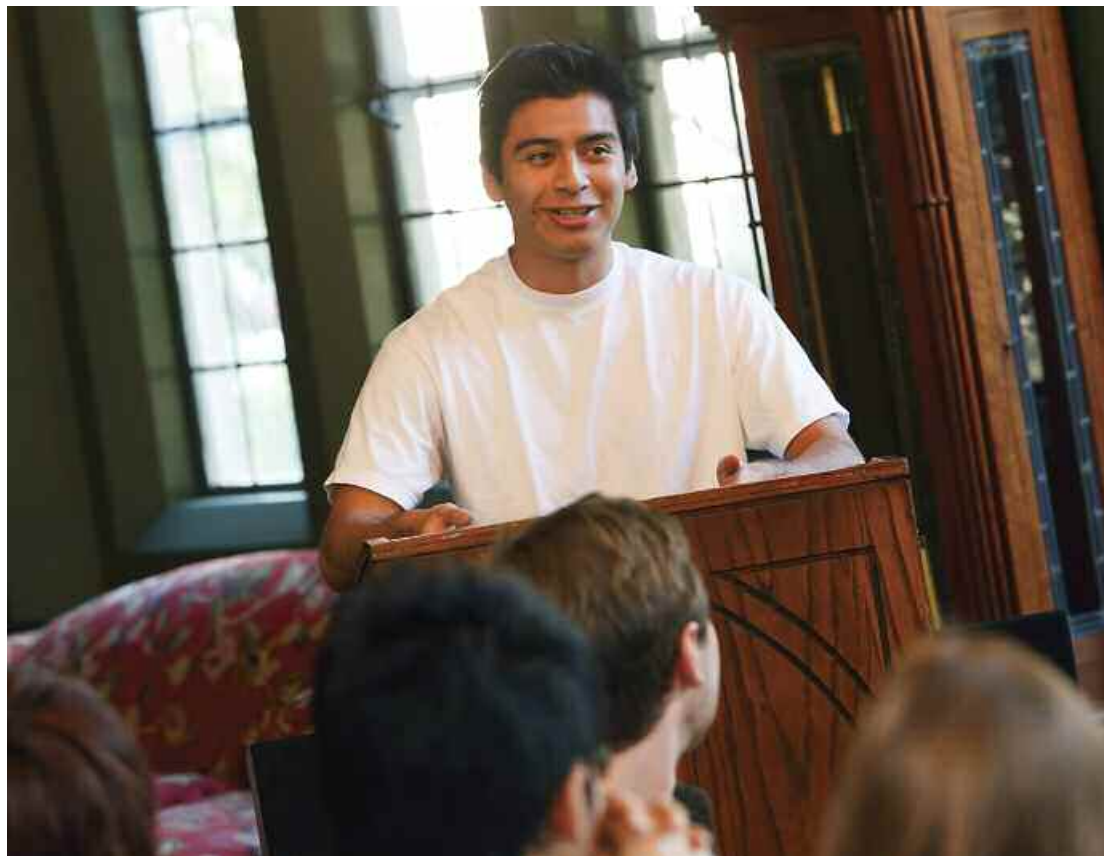
Pilgrim seniors started the new year of 2012 with a wonderful visit from old friends. Alums Hadassah Heard (Evergreen College, Washington), Jack Gallagher (Loyola University, New Orleans), Nkechi Ampah (Bryn Mawr, Pennsylvania), and Manuel Perez (Cal Lutheran), all came to our Senior Luncheon to share their college experiences with our current seniors. They gave some great information from the academic frontline: just deal with it when you're sick and go to class, your mom can't talk to the teacher and get your work for you; get to know your RA (they needed to have this mysterious term explained) as they can be really helpful; call home at least once a week; and before you go to a radically different climate, be sure you know what you're getting into. Everyone had lots of fun. The room was filled with lively chatter, and the alums loved their City Cuisine meal: quesadillas, tacos, etc., and chocolate chip cookies. Several noted that the college food was not nearly as good!



*Recent grads and seniors.*

## Community Support

As with all other independent schools, Pilgrim relies upon the generosity of community members to provide financial support. We are grateful to the many individuals, businesses and foundations that have provided funding for our many needs.



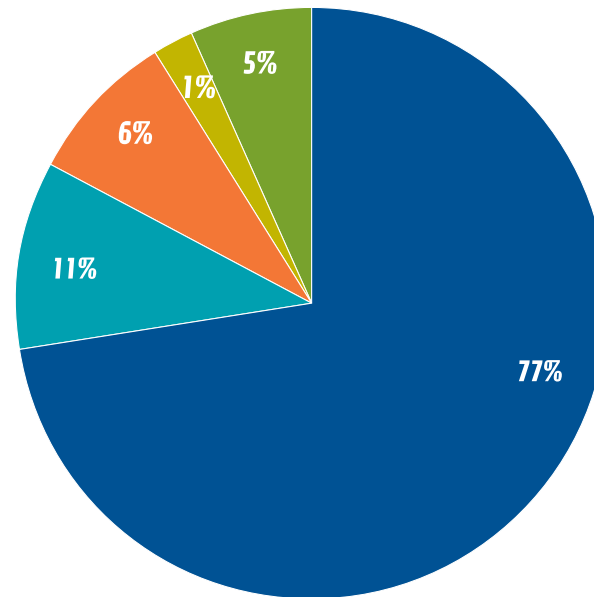
*Manny Perez, Class of 2010, offers advice to seniors.*



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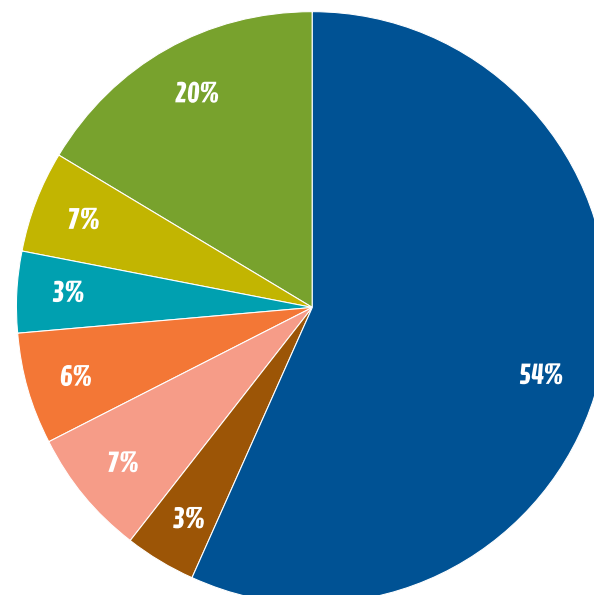
## Revenues

- Tuition: 77%**
- Fees and other income: 11%**
- Donations: 6%**
- Investment income: 1%**
- Auxiliary income: 5%**



## Expenses

- Salaries, benefits, and professional development: 54%**
- Auxiliary services: 3%**
- Student grants and support: 7%**
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*Melinda Taylor Landscape Design  
The Women's Association of the First Congregational Church of Los Angeles  
First Congregational Church of Los Angeles*

## **In Memory of Dr. Betsy MacCracken**

*Dr. MacCracken had a passion for the school and remained most proud of its calling and progress throughout her long and fruitful life.*

*Glenn Richardson  
Ned Sutro '61  
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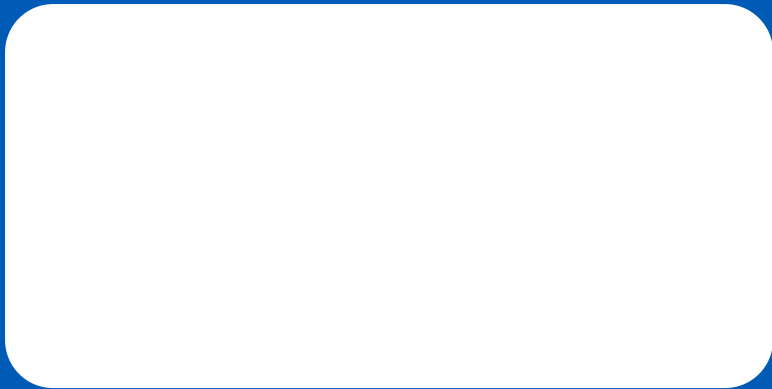
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