WELCOME

Viewpoint School is excited to introduce Viewpoint Connect, a newsletter that connects Viewpoint School with our local communities. We are proud to be a part of the City of Calabasas and grateful for the many relationships we have across the City.

As we reflect on this school year, our theme of Excellence through Connection seems especially fitting. Beginning with our Kindergartners, we work to develop habits of responsibility to others. We are excited to share some of the ways our students have made these connections – with our community partners, the environment, and the arts. In addition, we welcome you to connect with our students, our faculty, and our campus through some of our upcoming events in the fall.

This past year was a poignant reminder that our Viewpoint community extends far and wide in support of our school and our families. The Woolsey Fire and the Borderline Bar shooting were unprecedented events. These tragedies challenged us all and provided countless life lessons in grace, caring, service, and what matters most. In addition, they reinforced our strong sense of gratitude for our partnership with the City of Calabasas, a leader in emergency preparedness in California. Thank you also to our heroic firefighters and first responders for their tireless service and efforts to mitigate the extent of the Woolsey Fire.
For more than 50 years, Viewpoint has been nestled along Mulholland Highway at the foot of the Santa Monica Mountains. We cherish our beautiful canyon where hawks soar and a creek flows through our oak tree-studded landscape. Our natural setting reinforces our commitment to both the environment and to the City of Calabasas, creating opportunities for our educational programs and rich partnerships in our local community. Calabasas is an integral part of Viewpoint’s identity, and we are excited to celebrate that with Viewpoint Connect – an invitation to open new lines of communication between Viewpoint and our neighbors in Calabasas and new opportunities to welcome you to our campus.

I am fortunate to work with colleagues at Viewpoint, our parent volunteers, and local leaders to build community and connection. We are always looking for avenues for Viewpoint to engage in our local community to build friendships and to strengthen our community. We are honored to be one of the screening locations for the Calabasas Film Festival each year and to be a part of the Calabasas Pumpkin Festival.

If you are interested in a partnership with Viewpoint or have questions about community relations, please contact me: 818-591-4474, amy.maentz@viewpoint.org.

Middle School Jazz Lab performs at the Calabasas Senior Center

On an evening in May, 17 of our students in the Middle School Jazz Lab performed an array of music for an appreciative group of Calabasas seniors in Founders Hall, next to the City’s Library and Senior Center. Mr. Nathaniel Coyne was delighted for his students to have the opportunity to play in the Calabasas community. “One of the most valuable benefits of music and performance is confidence. Confidence is not only cultivated in our students as individuals, but within a group as well. This confidence building helps to bring them to their next level every day. Thank you to Kimberly Post, the Facilities Coordinator at the Calabasas Senior Center, for giving our students this opportunity.”

Environmental Sustainability Council

Student leaders in the Environmental Sustainability Council (ESC) are involved with real world problem solving to address environmental challenges. The ESC succeeded in removing plastic straws on campus, an initiative that followed the citywide ban in Malibu. Shortly thereafter, the City of Calabasas followed with its own initiative. The students also persuaded the School to eliminate single-use plastic water bottles sold on campus, a change that helped reduce plastic consumption by 40,000 water bottles over the school year.

ESC aims to be a leader in helping Viewpoint and other schools to become more environmentally sustainable. These students have challenged Viewpoint and its Board of Trustees to work toward significant reductions in the School’s carbon footprint, water consumption, and landfill waste. In addition, ESC is invested in partnerships close to home through two organizations, Mountains Restoration Trust (MRT) and Heal the Bay. They are hoping to help MRT fill their new greenhouse with native plants once it is constructed. Next year, students will work with Heal the Bay through a new Middle School club.
Community Emergency Response Team Training

Viewpoint School recently hosted a three-day training program designed by the Los Angeles Fire Department to provide Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) training for local community members. This free program is open to the public and teaches citizens how to prepare and respond in the event of a major disaster, based on the premise that police, fire, and medical professionals may not be able to meet the demand for emergency medical attention. Viewpoint is planning to host another session in the fall. If you are interested, please email neighbors@viewpoint.org.

In addition, Viewpoint now has a Student Emergency Response Team. Over a weekend in May, 17 Upper School students worked with our Campus Safety Team and learned about all of the emergency equipment on campus, in addition to basic first aid for splints, tourniquets, and bleeding control.

COMMUNITY PARTNER SPOTLIGHT

“EMPTY BOWLS” Event Raises Funds for the West Valley Food Pantry

Take handmade pottery, add some soup and cornbread, and sprinkle in caring students, faculty, and staff. On March 21, an event called “Empty Bowls” raised funds for the West Valley Food Pantry, which provides thousands of meals and services to unemployed residents, the working poor, the homeless, and those living on fixed incomes. In February, students, faculty, and staff created bowls in the pottery studio, which were then filled with soup and sold at the event, along with cornbread and a drink.

This zero-waste event was hosted by Ceramics Teacher Nell Yates, Coordinator of Service Learning Pam Oseransky, Science Teacher Adam Yates, and many of their students.

Empty Bowls is an international grassroots effort to fight hunger, created by The Imagine Render Group in the early 1990s. The basic premise is simple: Artists, educators, and others work with the community to create handcrafted bowls, which are then sold and filled in order to raise money to fight hunger and homelessness.

DID YOU KNOW?

Walk outside any classroom, and close your eyes. You hear the sounds of horses and birds and the rustling of lizards and squirrels. Middle School Science Teacher Blake Mattern teaches a Bird Unit in Sixth Grade, where students observe birds such as the Western Scrub, the California Quail, and the Lesser Goldfinch on campus, just as if they were hiking in the mountains. Mr. Mattern teaches this class in our ECOLET (Ecology Curriculum for Outdoor Learning with Experimentation and Technology), an outdoor classroom that provides an opportunity for our students to immerse themselves in nature as they search through trees to find all 35 species of birds.

Viewpoint has MORE THAN 35 BIRD SPECIES nestled in our 40-acre campus

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From time to time, Viewpoint School may want to share important announcements or news with our neighbors. To receive these emails, please email neighbors@viewpoint.org. You may rest assured that Viewpoint School will never share your information with a third party and will only use your contact information for this purpose.

You are invited!

**October 19**
Admission Open House  
8:30 a.m. Elementary  
1:00 p.m. Middle & Upper  

Clash in the Canyon: Viewpoint Robotics Tournament  
7:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m.  

**November 8-9**
Middle School Musical  
7:00 p.m.  

**November 22-23**
Upper School Drama Performance  
7:00 p.m.  

**December 3**
Middle and Upper School Choral Concert  
7:00 p.m.  

**December 10**
Middle and Upper School Strings Concert  
7:00 p.m.  

**December 11**
Middle and Upper School Band Concert  
7:00 p.m.  

**May 2, 2020**
Viewpoint Arts Festival  
2:00-6:00 p.m.