

MIDLAND SCHOOL



THINKING AHEAD FOR 75 YEARS

William L. Graham
Head of School

October 1, 2007

Dear Alumni, Alumnae, Friends, and Families:

I am pleased to invite you to Midland's traditional Thanksgiving as we continue to celebrate Midland's 75th anniversary on November 22, 2007.

Thanksgiving on campus is a wonderful time when all of us connected to Midland School are grateful. We are endowed with a spectacular campus setting on 2,860 acres. The climate for teaching and learning is maintained by a faculty that believes in the simple notion of "a student, a teacher, and an idea." We are blessed to have an outstanding senior class preparing for competitive colleges and leading a student body of 90 boarding students and 2 ninth grade day students.

Midland students learn to distinguish between needs and wants, and authentic lessons of self reliance are demonstrated through prefect leadership and the job system. Much of the food we eat is produced in our own garden. Students on foot "truck" carrots, garlic, potatoes, beans, watermelon, cilantro, jalapeños, peaches, peppers, strawberries, beets, cucumbers, lettuce, onions, grapes, squash, pumpkins, and apples to Stillman Hall where our own grass fed beef is also served. On the way to Stillman they pass student installed solar panels that meet 10% of the school's electricity needs. Midland students continue to explore the value of living simply. They learn what it takes to make a hot shower or dry clothes on a line. They understand that fruits and vegetables are seasonal, and electricity is not to be wasted. We continue to explore the notion of what sustainability really means; it is clear that Midland has been thinking ahead for 75 years.

Likewise, Midland continues to plan for the next seventy five years by laying the foundation for a sustainable operation. The financial future is grounded on the successful completion of the five million dollar Kimpton-Schuyler Endowment for Scholarship Fund. Over 42% of our students currently receive financial aid as we strive to keep a Midland education affordable.

As the Board of Trustees thinks ahead, they are currently taking a major step forward to ensure that the undeveloped portion of Midland's 2,860 acre footprint will be permanently protected from future development. Midland has entered into an Environmental Easement Agreement with the Trust for Public Land that will preserve valuable watershed and oak habitat as well as protect rare and endangered species of flora and fauna. Midland will continue to use the property for cattle grazing, and the property will always be available as an outdoor classroom. Future generations of students will be able to explore the property and learn to love and appreciate this environment which remains central to the educational experience at Midland. The Trust for Public Land was recommended by Midland's Barry Schuyler '41 and chosen for its long and distinguished record of protecting thousands of acres of land in Santa Barbara County and throughout the United States. Creating and establishing the terms of the easement is an ongoing process with completion slated for the fall of 2009.

This year, Thanksgiving will closely resemble the format of previous years; however, I am pleased to announce that former Heads of School Dan Kunkle and David Lourie will join us on this special day. Dan and David will be sharing their thoughts on the Midland experience at the all school assembly in the Midland Amphitheater at 11:00AM.

Other 75th celebratory events are scheduled throughout the year, and I would like to draw your attention to the final event. Midland invites Alumni/ae and their families for "Homecoming Weekend" at Midland, June 6-8, 2008. This is an opportunity for Midland graduates to return to the yards, to sleep in a cabin, and to run to assembly when the bell rings. There will be lots of activities planned, and there will be plenty of time to hang out with old friends. I am sure there will also be a few dishes to wash and a few work projects to complete before departing on Sunday.

Please keep in touch; send us your news, and shake three hands for Midland as we spread the good word!

Sincerely,

William L. Graham

Head of School

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