

MIDLAND SCHOOL



William L. Graham
Head of School

April 17, 2008

Dear Friends:

“You cannot stay on the summit forever; you have to come down again. So why bother in the first place? Just this: what is above knows what is below, but what is below does not know what is above. One climbs one sees. One descends, one sees no longer, but one has seen. There is an art of conducting oneself in the lower regions when one can no longer see, one can at least know.”- Rene Dumas

On Monday April 14th, “Grass Mountain Day” was announced at breakfast; bag lunches were packed, water bottles filled, and we were moving in one long line by 8:30 AM. Fog hovered over the coastal horizon; the temperature hovered in the eighties as a slight breeze blew throughout the day. Naia Cobb ’08 reports that the “hills were alive” with purple sage, owl’s clover, poppies, paint brushes, blue dicks, buttercups, lupine, bush poppies, Chinese houses, hummingbird sage, and mariposa lilies. It is clear that Naia paid attention to Ben ’79 and Laurie in Midland 101. After having assembly and lunch at the top, many students descended towards the reservoir for a “rez test” and a cool dip before heading back to campus for a classic BG Kresse ’68 barbecue at the soccer field. Derek Svennungsen posted several pictures on the Midland web site, and you can see how fortunate we are to be living on this 2,860 acre campus.

One could argue that we have traveled well together for the past seventy five years, and maybe every day is a “mountain day” at Midland School. This year we have several summits yet to climb before we end up at graduation and descend to the “lower regions” of the summer months where we can no longer see, but we can still hold the knowledge of this good school year.

With the end in sight, I am also sending along a few yearly reminders and important directions which will insure that we all finish the year in good shape.

Senior Banquet and Awards Night on May 30th: Midland honors a number of its students with end-of-the-year awards. All families are invited, and all students are required to attend. This awards evening will be held Friday, May 30th in the Pole Barn at 6:00 PM and will include Midland’s traditional spaghetti dinner. ***Attendance at the Senior Banquet and Awards Ceremony is required, and all students, including seniors, may not go off campus on that evening.***

Graduation on May 31st, 2008: Commencement exercises for Midland’s Class of 2008 will be held at 12:00 PM. All families are invited, and ***all students are required to attend***. No students may leave campus before graduation ends, which is usually by 1:00 PM.

Travel Plans: Please contact Jill Brady with your travel plans as soon as possible so we may begin planning for drop-offs on May 31st. ***Please note that every student is required to attend graduation, so travel plans must be made accordingly.*** If you have questions, you may contact Jill at 805-688-5114 or jbrady@midland-school.org.

Departure Procedures on May 31st, 2008: Students must depart campus by 4:00 PM. Before leaving, each student must check out with the Faculty in Charge, who will inspect each cabin for cleanliness. Please note that families will be charged for dirty or damaged cabins or furniture, so making repairs and cleaning before departure can help eliminate these costs.

Storage: Each student has a room set aside for summer storage. Students may store large items: desk chairs, bureaus, lamps, bicycles. Binders and books may be stored in a bureau. ***Soft bedding towels or clothing that would attract small rodents may not be left in storage.***

Post-Graduation Parties: The topic of post graduation parties for high school students continues to be national in scope and the conversation needs to be ongoing. We know that in the past Midland students have attended parties after the school year has ended. These parties stand in contrast to the Midland Student Contract, our values, and our standards for behavior. Please be aware that these parties are not always chaperoned and may provide access to alcohol and other drugs. If your child asks to attend one of these non school-sponsored parties, I suggest that you speak directly to the host parent(s) and discuss the circumstances of the party. We hope that you will communicate with other parents about these events so that students may celebrate safely and with appropriate adult supervision. Please understand that these are not school-sponsored events and that Midland accepts no responsibility for what occurs after your child leaves campus on May 31st.

Advisor Letters and Transcripts: Final advisor letters and semester grades will be mailed by June 4th. ***Senior's final transcripts will be sent to colleges immediately after graduation.***

If you have any questions about the closing weeks, please do not hesitate to call one of us for more details. Thank you for all your support; we look forward to seeing you soon, and we anticipate a strong finish in the weeks to come.

Sincerely,

William L. Graham
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