

# MIDLAND SCHOOL

1932



2007

*THINKING AHEAD FOR 75 YEARS*

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **MIDLAND SCHOOL CELEBRATES ITS 75-YEAR HISTORY**



**Midland Student Alexie Phillips '10 Displays Midland's 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Banner**

**Los Olivos, CA**— Midland School, in the hills behind Santa Barbara, California, is celebrating 75 years of embracing and living a mission of preparing students for college and beyond with rigorous academics, educating students about responsibility to community and environment, distinguishing between needs and wants, entrusting students with authentic leadership roles, and appreciating life's fundamental joys and challenges. Midland, a small coeducational college preparatory boarding and day school that's set on 2,860 acres on Figueroa Mountain Road in Los Olivos, opened the academic year on September 10<sup>th</sup> with 92 students from as far away as Virginia, Georgia, China and Korea, and as close to campus as Los Olivos. Although all students are encouraged to board in order to get the full Midland experience, the school reserves a few spots each year for entering ninth grade day students who make a commitment to boarding during their senior year.

The school has just completed its first six-week term and is currently on Fall Break (October 20-28). Upon arrival for the first term, new students and their families experienced a day of orientation, meeting advisors, participating in “ice breakers” led by senior prefects. Many also enjoyed Midland’s Third Annual Round-Up weekend for families October 6-7. The school held a gathering for alumni/ae, families and friends at the Jonathan Club at the Beach in Santa Monica, CA, on Friday, October 12<sup>th</sup>. There are many events throughout the year at which the school will celebrate its 75 years. Here is a list of celebration events:

Annual Round-Up for Current Families

October 6-7, 2007

Los Angeles Gathering

October 12, 2007

Thanksgiving at Midland

November 22-23, 2007

San Francisco Gathering

February 8, 2008

San Diego Gathering

March 14, 2008

Alumni/ae, Parents & Friends Weekend at Midland

April 26-27, 2008

Alumni/ae Homecoming at Midland

June 6-8, 2008

**From Past to Present:**

Founded in 1932 at the height of the Depression by Paul and Louise Squibb, Midland is a community in which the ethics of “using up, wearing out, making do, or doing without” have remained a daily practice. The Squibbs believed in the educational value of students working to meet their basic needs and localizing the impacts, for this will set up lifetime habits rooted in knowing what it takes to heat water or produce food and electricity.

If ever our culture needs an example of uncluttered simplicity that is lived rather than just quaintly spoken of, now is the time. Midland students and staff maintain a 7-acre organic garden as well as pastures for grass-fed cattle. Local harvests travel a short path to the kitchen, where underclassmen are trained by 12th graders to serve the food, wash the dishes, and clean the kitchen. There is no housekeeping or maintenance staff; rather students who have worked through the ranks of kitchen

opportunities move on to daily chores in trash and recycling or cleaning classrooms, bathrooms, or the library.

In this age of increasing concern about our environment, Midland students learn, through academic education and everyday example, to be good stewards of the earth. Since a pilot solar project in 2003-04, sophomore classes have helped install a grid-tied solar photovoltaic system every year that helps meet the campus's electricity needs, with the goal of having most of the campus powered by the sun. Midland also conducts an annual native valley oak restoration project.

Midland students have access to high-speed wireless internet necessary for modern-day education in academic areas and faculty homes. Their personal cabins remain relatively unplugged from cell phones, television, and the internet. While challenged to consider their carbon footprint, Midlanders still find time to sing, dance, act, throw pottery, paint, create metal sculptures, hike, camp, and play sports at high levels. Last spring the Boys Lacrosse team celebrated an undefeated season.

When they leave Midland, alumni/ae attend colleges and universities across the country. Recent graduates have been studying at: Princeton, Stanford, UCLA, Cal Poly SLO, CA College of the Arts, CSU Humboldt, CSU San Francisco, Linfield, Ohio Wesleyan, OTIS, Whitman, Yale, Amherst, Boston College, Brown, Bryn Mawr, Case Western, Colby College, and Swarthmore.

Local families who are interested in the Midland School mission and philosophy, and who are looking for a rigorous academic environment whether boarding or day, are invited to apply.

### **About Midland School**

Founded in 1932, Midland School is a coeducational, college preparatory boarding and day school for grades 9-12. It is located in the Santa Ynez Valley on a 2,860-acre working ranch. The school combines rigorous academics with intensive immersion in the environment, and maintains a philosophical commitment to authentic student leadership, simplicity, self-reliance and environmental stewardship. Midland currently enrolls 92 students and employs 20 teachers, all of whom live on campus.

**MISSION:** Midland School strives to provide a unique college preparatory boarding school experience to a diverse student body at relatively low cost. Through study and work, it teaches the value of a lifetime of learning, self-reliance, simplicity, responsibility to community and the environment, and love for the outdoors.

**PHILOSOPHY:** Midland School is a community of students, teachers, and families in pursuit of academic excellence and moral lives.

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Online Admission Application: <http://www.midland-school.org/admis.html>

**For more information about Midland School, please visit [www.midland-school.org](http://www.midland-school.org).**

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