

# STEVENSON

---

Dear Pirates,

I write to you at the close of an energetic first week of school. To help families stay more connected to the happenings on campus, I plan to write a quick note each Friday and share something that has caught my attention on campus. Monday Minutes will continue to be your source for upcoming events and logistics, but hopefully you'll also enjoy a more personal note that gives you a glimpse of our days here on the Pebble Beach campus.

This week struck me as a wonderful blend of tried and true traditions—our convocation ceremony in the chapel for new students, seniors managing to rouse themselves from bed at 5:00 a.m. on Wednesday for “Senior Sunrise” at the beach to mark the first day of school (both pictured below)—and new traditions, like our first [all-school assembly](#) Wednesday morning where we had the opportunity to pack the amphitheater and launch the school year as a full PK-12 Stevenson community. We appreciated seeing so many parent faces in the crowd!

On Thursday, we devoted our community time slot to an upper division-only assembly, and students were introduced to our new teachers and heard an array of announcements from students and faculty. One moment that stood out was the introduction of our Japanese exchange student. Stevenson has maintained a cultural exchange program with Komaba-Toho School in Tokyo, Japan since 1983, and this summer, junior Diego Doust spent six weeks in Tokyo, residing with a Japanese family, attending Komaba-Toho High School, and immersing himself in the life of a Japanese student. In return, his exchange partner, Rimei Yan, is staying with Diego and his family and participating in classes at Stevenson during September and October. Diego introduced Rimei, who bravely spoke to our students, and it was the reception that our students gave to Rimei when he lifted his arms and said his wish was to make *many* new friends at Stevenson that particularly warmed my heart. While invariably new—and returning students—are at varying stages of settling into life on campus, I hope all heard the enthusiastic applause for Rimei and felt it as I did: the palpable, hopeful sense of new friendship for all in the coming year.

Warmly,

Mrs. Aimée Bates  
Head of Upper Division



*Senior Sunrise 2023*



*Convocation for new students*