

# Parent Times

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# Helping our Youngest Learners Become Innovators of Today and Leaders of Tomorrow



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**T**oday we are teaching a generation unlike any other — a generation where students have solutions at their fingertips as well as the confidence and tools to unlock great power. As educators, it is important we allow our students to explore and unlock this potential. Jaime Casap, Chief Education Evangelist at Google, often speaks about the mindset of the next generation who is influenced by the rapid change in technology and the potential and power the web has in today's society. Casap shares, "Instead of asking students what they want to be when they grow up, I ask them what problem do they want to solve?" At **All Saints' Episcopal Day School**, our goal is to provide students with the tools, the confidence, and the expertise to change and influence the world not only today but in the future.

Two years ago, All Saints' decided to take a chance and try something new—something progressive and different from what you will find in most Independent schools in Arizona. We decided to create a space for makers—our **DREAMlab**. This space is where students take the Design Thinking process, a framework introduced by the d.school

at Stanford, and use it to solve problems, collaborate, and learn 21st-century skills. What started out as a new curriculum program for the Middle School has developed into a K–8 program for innovators, builders, and thinkers. With students coding; creating 3D designs; learning circuitry; building with LEGOS; programming robots; filming green screen creations and more, there truly is a mindset that these students can and will one day do anything.

There are five steps in the Design Thinking process: empathize, define, ideate, prototype, and test. This process enables students in the Lower School DREAMlab to explore technology well beyond keyboarding and PowerPoint.

One prime example of this is through our partnership with **Level Up Village (LUV)**. LUV partners schools like All Saints' with schools in developing countries which often lack reliable access to electricity. Through the partnership, students learn about the power of 3D printing to engineer solutions to real-world issues. They collaborate with their global partners in India using Computer Aided Design

(CAD) software to create and modify a series of designs, ultimately creating a solar-powered light source. Throughout the project, the students exchange video messages about their projects and daily life in each of their countries. Students become digital pen pals as well as collaborators in a community service project. The students in India keep the solar light box for their community, and our students donate their solar boxes to our sister school in Haiti.



Not only does this partnership demonstrate the skills 21st-century learners are being introduced to in elementary school, but it also gives the students at All Saints' a chance to dive into the design thinking process. Students empathize with their partners in India, and to work together to think of real-world solutions for real-world problems. We learned that our students take away more from this one project than could ever be taught from a textbook. So, we have committed to a partnership with LUV throughout the 2017-18 school year. The students at All Saints' Episcopal Day School are figuring out solutions every day to problems they never thought they could solve. They are doing it by learning from their mistakes, by helping others, by discovering what it means to empathize, all while playing, laughing, and creating in their DREAMlab.



## New Arrivals



### Magnolia Louise Gail Garvey

June 9, 2017



8 lbs, 3.4 oz, 19.2 inches

Welcomed by Megan & Sean Garvey,  
and Big Brother Anderson



### Emma Grace Kennedy

August 31, 2017



6lbs, 19 1/2 inches

Welcomed by Rusty and Alyson Kennedy,  
and Big Sister Avery



### Clyde Feinstein

September 20, 2017



7 lbs, 9 oz, 21 inches

Welcomed by Ara & Iris Feinstein,  
and Big Brother Eli

