

# Marymount's "Cabo at the Coral" Fiesta is a Huge Success

By Kim Blankenhorn / Special to CASA

**A** MIDST SWAYING PALMS ON A SPECTACULARLY BALMY EVENING, Marymount of Santa Barbara celebrated its 35th Annual Benefit Auction, "Cabo at the Coral."

Guests donned their most fabulous resort attire and mingled oceanfront at the Coral Casino with fresh margaritas, a nine-piece mariachi band, and plenty of good cheer. And, why not? The School has much to celebrate.

Marymount is reveling in an extremely productive five-year stretch with beloved and out-going Head of School, Deborah David. Under David's leadership, the School has experienced unprecedented academic achievement across all areas of



Chip Seigel and Deborah David



Event Co-Chairs Kim Blankenhorn and Sandy Shields

its curriculum landing students in the highest categories of the ERB standardized tests. Currently, 53 percent of students in grades 4 through 8 have qualify for programs at the Johns Hopkins Center for Talented Youth.

Co-chaired by parents, Kim Blankenhorn and Sandy Shields, the benefit auction was a smashing success exceeding the committee's goal. Over \$300,000 was raised

to benefit the children and programs at Marymount.

"We chose this fiesta theme as it seemed the perfect reflection of the School's celebratory nature," said Sandy Shields, auction co-chair.

Two heartfelt videos were a highlight of the evening. The first featured the children and faculty in action at Marymount. The second video was a special tribute to Head of School David.

Other highlights included the paddle raise that brought in over \$75,000 for the teacher endowment and the equally successful live auction led by auctioneer, Todd Ventura. The live auction included trips to Cabo San Lucas, Fiji, Sun Valley, San Francisco, and Aspen. An adorable

8-week old English Cream Retriever puppy was also auctioned to the highest bidder. A surprise second puppy from the same litter was brought out and sold for double the fun.

In addition to the live auction there was a star silent auction, two raffles, and a special section of students' art projects. Silent auction items were also available for bidding online.

More than 40 parents served on the auction committee, but the key players included Kamala Parris (live auction), Linda

Vannier and Pam Sanchez (silent auction), Jan Gomez (sponsorship), Nikki Greene (party book), Nina Gustason (invitations and publicity), Debbie Bettencourt (program), and Kim Curtis of Toast. Marymount's



Ralph and Melissa Iannelli with Kay and Keith Schofield

Photos by iChick

development staff- Andrea McFarling and Heidi Frost- also worked hard to make the event a success.

Top sponsors included Ralph and

Melissa Iannelli, Sandy and Mike Shields, Ben and Cheryl Trosky, Kim and Chip Blankenhorn, Patricia and Brian Kelly, First Republic Bank, Helistrand, Mammel Foundation, and Marborg Industries.

For more information call 569-1811 or visit [www.marymountsb.org](http://www.marymountsb.org).



Kristin Linehan and Hilary Doubleday



Nicole Tetherow '08 and Alexa Loser



Andrew Fuller, Tom Brennan, Chip Blankenhorn, Ned Doubleday, and Jeff Giller