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A Message from the President



At SMPA, we believe in the adage that it takes a village to raise a child. For us, it all begins with building a collaborative community of teachers and staff. Our community dedicates themselves to instilling in our students a belief in who they are and what they can accomplish. This belief is based on the challenge that “Together Everyone Achieves More”, our theme for this year. The concept of ‘T.E.A.M.’ extends beyond our walls to the people who assist us in making our mission a reality and transforming the lives of the children we serve. We are so very grateful to all of you who play a vital role in “educating one precious child at a time”. We are inspired by the incredible achievements of our kids and by all of you who share in their successes.

Allison Rivera

The New Graduate Support Center

Provides continued support for our graduates

As we begin our seventh year, we can proudly say that we now have 49 of our graduates in high school – 40 of them in 10 different private prep schools in Connecticut and Massachusetts and 7 of them in 7 public, technical and magnet high schools in the greater New Haven area. As a vital part of our mission, we are committed to continuing to support advocate for, mentor, and in many cases, financially support our students after they have graduated from the Academy.

Due to the growing number of graduates and the challenge of responding to their needs, we have created the Philomena Klesper Graduate Support Center, named after a half-century employee of the Town Fair Tire Inc., the very generous company that funded the startup of the Center as well as the position of our first Graduate Support Director. The naming of the Center was very appropriate in that Mrs. Klesper was a woman who always gave to others and, as the dedication plaque states, her philosophy in life was “to treat everyone as a gift from God to be treasured”, words that mirror our own Academy mission statement.

On September 8th, members of the Town Fair Tire staff joined several high school administrators and

staff, SMPA Board members, faculty, High School Scholarship Club members, and tutors to celebrate the opening of this hub of our multi-faceted graduate support activities. Our new Director, Bill Dennett, was introduced and welcomed by President Allison Rivera. Bill comes to us with career-long experience in private school administration and admissions.



Pictured (left to right): Eighth grader Joseph Andino, SMPA President Allison Rivera, Caroly Garofoli (Mercy High School), Sr. Mary McCarthy (Mercy High School), Eighth grader Kyle Torres, Kathy Tutino (Town Fair Tire), Debby Marena (Town Fair Tire), Gloria Tallcouch (Town Fair Tire), Correne Wahler (Town Fair Tire).

The Center will be the focal point for tutoring, mentoring, SAT prep, financial aid counseling with families, and now the start of the college search for our 18 high school juniors. In addition, Mr. Dennett

and his GSP Associate, Dan Chapman, are presently working with our 8th graders on the very vital process of selecting potential private high schools for next year.

With 10-20 high school students returning for tutoring each afternoon and 16 eighth graders looking at high schools, the Center is already a very active and significant aspect of our mission to stay with our students throughout their years of formal education. We are grateful to Town Fair Tire, our many supportive high schools, and our dedicated tutors for the opportunities they are providing for our students. ♦



Regional Band

Thirteen students have been selected to participate in CT Future Musicians Regional Band this fall. These students will join other Catholic school students in a series of rehearsals, culminating in a concert on Saturday, October 22 at 1:30 pm at St. Stephen School in Hamden.

SMPA at the Shubert Theater

Students will attend the musical 'FELA!' at the Shubert Theater on October 20. Tickets are courtesy of the Shubert Theater's SNAP Program.

Soccer-Scrabble Jamboree

The 4th Annual Soccer-Scrabble Jamboree hosted by Covenant Prep, a NativityMiguel Network School in Hartford, will be Saturday, October 22. Students will compete against other Network schools in soccer matches and a scrabble tournament.

Student Retreats

Every fall our 6th - 8th grade classes and our Peer Ministry Team each spend a day away from school on retreat. It is a day to reflect on the progress of their lives and their relationship with God. This year they will be held at the Caritas Christi Center at Sacred Heart Academy in Hamden.

NHSO's Back to School Night

Students will attend the New Haven Symphony Orchestra's Back to School Night Concert on October 13. Students will listen to clarinet concertos by Mozart.

Transforming Spaces

Transforming lives begins with transformed space

St. Martin de Porres Academy resides in a 117 year old building. Built in 1894, the building was home to Sacred Heart School and then Sacred Heart/St. Peter School. Like any older building, our home has its issues.

In our continuous effort to transform the building into a warm and welcoming environment, the floors of our building underwent a re-tiling. The entire third floor Gathering Space as well as our Dining Room were totally retiled. Gone are the speckled, light green tiles of yore. In its place, a deep, rich green surface. There are probably few people alive today who remember when those rooms were last resurfaced. It is amazing what a difference it has made in both areas.

In addition to new floors, our Music Room received a total make-over. Located on the second floor, the Music Room was an empty, echoing room – probably not best fit as a music room. But thanks to a grant from the Thomas and Agnes Carvel Foundation, we were able to completely renovate the room - a new carpet, a new coat of paint, window shades, risers, and instrument lockers. It has converted a quasi functional space into an atmosphere worthy of our high quality instrumental music program.



At SMPA we are family, and it is so important for us to provide a home-like atmosphere in which our students can grow and be enriched. Through the support and effort of scores of staff, donors, and volunteers - especially those from Wellpoint's Day of Service - that is fast becoming a reality! ♦

Golf for Kids Event a Success

Webster Bank and SMPA raise over \$54,000

For the sixth straight year, the Golf for Kids event was a swinging success. On June 27, supporters of St. Martin de Porres Academy gathered together at The Farms Country Club in Wallingford to play a round of golf and celebrate our school. With Webster Bank once again being our primary sponsor, participants were treated to eighteen scenic and challenging holes on a bright, sunny day. Afterwards, participants had dinner and listened to the passionate speeches of our students. Thanks to the kindness and generosity of the community, the event raised over \$54,000.



Pictured (left to right): Seventh grader Manny Brito, SMPA President Allison Rivera, Gail Cerrone (Webster Bank), Jim O'Meara (Webster Bank), Eighth grader Ebony Griffith, Golf Program Supporters Nancy and Ed Harold.

Library Gets a Facelift!

Reflects changes in English/Language Arts curriculum



St. Martin de Porres Academy is dedicated to providing a holistic education for our students from the time they come to us in 5th grade until they graduate from college. As they now leave the Academy and move on to high school, we remain invested in their future. That commitment involves tuition support where necessary, advocacy for their social well-being, and most importantly, the ongoing nurturing of their academic success. Fundamental to that academic achievement is the need to significantly improve our students' skill levels in and enthusiasm for reading and writing. Many of our students come to us well below grade level in these particular areas and as part of our ongoing effort to improve student achievement, we have implemented a new English/Language Arts curriculum.

The new, multi-faceted curriculum is committed to instilling in our students a love for reading that will continue into their adult lives. One aspect of the program has been to create a welcoming space that would encourage reading. With the assistance of volunteer interior designer, Jeanne Millet, our library has undergone a complete transformation. Bookshelves were re-arranged to provide a more open space. Cushioned chairs and couches were brought in to give students a comfortable and inviting place to read. The walls were painted vibrant colors to stimulate energy levels. Our students have already found it a relaxing place to be. We believe it will also be a vital component in our goal to stimulate their desire to read and write.

Transforming the space was truly a community effort. Several of our students spent part of their six week summer break back at school scraping, painting, and moving around books, shelving, and furniture. Many of our administrators and staff also spent part of their summer cleaning, painting, and reorganizing the space. In addition we were blessed to have Board member, John Skelly, and a team of staffers from Yale-New Haven Hospital who regularly volunteer their skills at the Academy, contribute to this painting project.

The result of all this hard work is a space that is bright and comfortable with new tile flooring, rugs, couches, shelves, new books, and multi-colored walls that create an inviting place to read and do school work. It is a tangible example of an SMPA collaborative effort and one that we believe will have a lasting impact on our students. ♦

A Litany of Giving

We continue to thank some more of the “angels” who help us fulfill our mission in so many ways:

- **Julie and Ginny Friese** for arranging to have four of our students attend Camp Hazen once again this summer.
- **Board Member Liz Fisher** for connecting the school with **Beam Camp** which provided an exciting camp opportunity for one of our students.
- **Mary Pepe** who facilitated a sexual harassment training workshop for the entire SMPA staff.
- **Morgan Stanley Smith Barney** for their donation of office furniture.
- **Morgan Brennan and the Daniel Hand High School Field Hockey Team** for their donation of field hockey equipment.
- **Sacred Heart Academy** for the use of the Caritas Christi Center for our student retreats.

And there are many more yet unnamed until our next issue!

St. Hilda’s House Partnership

Program participants help staff the Academy

At SMPA, we continue to rely on the generous support and help of people and organizations in the community. For the second year now, St. Hilda’s House is providing the Academy staff support through members of its program.

St. Hilda’s House is a ten-month residential young adult discernment program devoted to spiritual formation and urban ministry while living in community. It is based at Christ Church New Haven in partnership with Berkeley Divinity School at Yale University. St. Hilda’s House interns deepen their understanding of themselves, their work, their faith, and their ministry by participating in mutual support, communal formation, and intentional worship and prayer.

This year, we are fortunate to have with us Daniel Chapman, Alan Rimmer, and Jessa Fowler. Daniel is a graduate of Louisiana State University with a concentration in Communication Studies. His role at the Academy is as the Graduate Support Assistant. His responsibilities include coordinating the Evening Study program for graduates as well as aiding Graduate Support Director Bill Dennett with preparing the 8th graders in applying to high schools.

Alan is a recent graduate of Oxford University in England. He hopes to be ordained to the Anglican priesthood. He is



here in the states for a year to explore the wider Anglican Communion, living at Christ Church in downtown New Haven, and to get experience of the holistic, faith-based education offered at St Martin’s. Alan is the Activities Coordinator and a member of the school’s Ministry Team.

Jessa Fowler is a graduate of Willamette University majoring in Archeology and Chemistry. She will be assisting our 5th grade teacher as well as teaching Religion.

Daniel, Alan, and Jessa all expect a challenge working at SMPA and balancing their SMPA and St. Hilda’s House commitments. However, they expect to gain a new perspective on education as well as experience the great feeling that comes when you’re part of a team working for a common goal. We are excited to have them as part of the SMPA Team this year! ♦

Community Foundation to Boost Local Giving

giveGreater.org helps SMPA reach out to the community

To encourage more local giving, The Community Foundation for Greater New Haven is launching a two-phase, online giving campaign known as *I Give It Forward* on giveGreater.org®.

During Phase I of *I Give It Forward*, giveGreater.org donors and friends of The Community Foundation who reside in The Community Foundation’s twenty-towns will receive two giveGreater.org cards via email: one for their use, and the other to share with someone who is passionate about greater New

Haven. Both cards can be used for a \$50 match when accompanied by a donation of \$50 or more to any organization on giveGreater.org. In Phase I, \$200,000 is available to match gifts starting on October 13 and ending on October 31, 2011, or earlier if the \$200,000 match pool is spent.

Phase II of *I Give It Forward* begins November 7, 2011, coinciding with The Community Foundation’s Annual Meeting. At that time, giveGreater.org cards will be available to the public for gift giving. Here’s



how it works: people obtain a card by making a gift through giveGreater.org. Then, give it forward by passing the card(s) as gifts to their friends, neighbors and colleagues. **Friends, neighbors and colleagues can designate the gift to St. Martin de Porres Academy!** We hope you will do so - it is a great opportunity for us! ♦

Pilot Literacy Program Receives Funding

Ronald McDonald House Charities provides grant

St. Martin de Porres Academy was awarded a \$7,630 grant from the Ronald McDonald House Charities of Connecticut and Western Massachusetts to fund the Book Match Program at the Academy.

“We are thrilled to be partnering again with Ronald McDonald House Charities of Connecticut and Western Massachusetts,” said Kelly O’Leary, SMPA Principal. “This pilot program will provide a broad reading experience for our students. We want to foster a student’s desire to read by providing them with high-interest, student-selected texts.”

The Book Match Program is the creative idea of our teacher, Kameron Isaacs, and is now a component of the English and Languages Arts curriculum at St. Martin de Porres Academy. This unique program will pair students with books that are self-identified as being of interest as opposed to pre-determined

and designated texts. Students will feel a sense of ownership as they research and purchase books online. Additionally, as the program progresses, purchased books will be added to classroom libraries providing a wide selection of books in an easily accessible location. By providing a broad reading experience to our students, they will inherently perform well on standardized tests. ♦



Wish List

Reading Resources

- Text Sets for Reading \$50
- Selected Library Books \$7-\$18
- Teacher Resource Books \$50

Student Needs

- Winter Uniforms \$125
- One-day Class Field Trip \$400

Music

- Wind/Brass Instruments \$200-900
- Reeds, Cork Grease, Swabs \$400

Supplies

- Classroom Art Supplies \$300/sem
- Teacher/Office Supplies \$50+
- Picture Framing Service \$75-\$200
- Photo Printing Service \$500

Technology and Communication

- Printer Ink Cartridges \$50+
- Stage Sound System \$1,500
- Digital Camera Memory Card \$10

Programs and Athletics

- Athletic Uniforms \$50 each
- 25 Soccer Shinguards \$20 each
- 15 Yoga Mats \$15 each

Kitchen Supplies

- Industrial Blender
- Industrial Can Opener
- Ice Maker

For more information or to fulfill a wishlist item, please contact the Academy.

Get Connected to SMPA Online!

St. Martin de Porres Academy is online! Keep up on the Academy’s latest news and events!

@stmartinacademy

www.facebook.com/saintmartinacademy

DO WE HAVE YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS?

Help us update our database! By updating your email, you will:

- receive up to date news about the Academy
- hear special stories from the students
- be entered in a drawing for an SMPA shirt!

You can easily forward and invite your friends to learn about SMPA. You can also opt out whenever you like.

Just fill out this section and mail it back to us! Or go online to saintmartinacademy.org and sign up for our emails!

First Name: _____

Last Name: _____

Email: _____

Thank you!

SAVE THE DATE

ST. MARTIN DE PORRES ACADEMY

7TH ANNUAL SPRING FLING

SATURDAY, MARCH 3, 2012

ANTHONY'S OCEAN VIEW

NEW HAVEN, CT



SAVE THE DATE! June 25, 2012

Bring your friends and enjoy a great day outdoors at the

Seventh Annual Golf fore Kids

supporting St. Martin de Porres Academy.

Sponsored by Webster Bank

St. Martin de Porres Academy
208 Columbus Avenue
New Haven, CT 06519

Don't
Forget
A
Stamp!

Camp Hazen Summer Camp

Opportunities beyond the school year

A significant element of our mission is to provide our students with opportunities that will broaden their horizons, increase their social consciousness, and open them to new learning experiences. Our ability to provide these opportunities happens throughout the school year as well as during our off-time in the summer. For many of our kids, due to the circumstances of their lives, that six-week period from mid-July to late August is not necessarily fun. If the resources were available to us, we would love to have all of our kids have experiences like residential camps and other summer programs for young people.

Sometimes through the generosity of members of our SMPA extended community, we are able to provide such opportunities. For the 4th year in a row, Julie and Ginny Friese provided the means to send some of our



students to Camp Hazen in Chester, CT. It is a place that provides a positive youth camping experience for children from throughout the state and is committed to helping youth develop valuable life skills through camping experiences that build healthy bodies, open minds and awakened spirits.

In the previous three years, we had two students each summer have a two-week residence at the Camp. This past summer, thanks to the Frieses, we were able to send two additional kids for one week. Each year these first-time campers come back excited and enriched by all that they experienced. Thank you, Julie and Ginny Friese! ♦

Eighth Grader Goes to Beam Camp

Learns through experiences in creative problem-solving

This summer, one of our students was fortunate enough to spend a month experiencing creative problem-solving through working with his hands and actively working with others. Eighth grader Kyle Torres spent his summer in New Hampshire at Beam Camp. It is a summer camp where kids “develop capacity for craft, collaboration and compassion through the practice of fine and manual arts, innovative thinking, design, creative process, storytelling, building, and engineering.”



At Beam Camp, Kyle shared a cabin with 12 other kids from around the country. Most of Kyle’s cabin mates were from New York. Their first project was to create a game to teach and share with the rest of the camp. At the end of the week, each cabin had the chance to learn and play the games that the other cabins had created.

The big project of the camp was to create human-sized interpretations of animal habitats. Kyle and his fellow campers worked with camp staff to design and build animals and dwellings from wood. This project allowed Kyle to learn how to use tools he had

never used or even heard of before.

Beam Camp also provided other new experiences for Kyle. Before going to Beam Camp, he didn’t know how to swim. By the end of camp, Kyle was able to fly through the water through the coaching of his camp guides.

The opportunity for Kyle to go to Beam Camp was made possible by the researching of Board member Liz Fisher and a scholarship from the camp. We are grateful to Liz and to Beam Camp Director Brian Cohen. ♦

The Honor Roll

The Honor Roll is a quarterly publication by St. Martin de Porres Academy.

Staff

Allison Rivera, President
Kelly O’Leary, Principal
Jay Bowes, Founder

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About the Academy

Founded in 2005, St. Martin de Porres Academy is a tuition-free, faith-based middle school that empowers children from low-income families to reach their full potential. The Academy’s mission is to prepare each student for a quality high school and college education.

SMPA is a nonprofit organization established in accordance with section 501(c)(3) of the IRS Code and is incorporated in the State of Connecticut (EIN#81-0666655). Funds raised go directly to supporting the efforts of the Academy. Please consider making an online donation through our Web site or send a donation to the address below.

St. Martin de Porres Academy
208 Columbus Avenue
New Haven, CT 06519
Tel. 203.772.2424
www.saintmartinacademy.org

“Together Everyone Achieves More”

Upcoming Events

Open Houses

October 20 - 10:00 am
November 15 - 10:00 am
December 14 - 10:00 am

November 18, 2011
Thanksgiving Dinner
5:00 pm

December 15, 2011
Christmas Concert
5:30 pm



St. Martin de Porres Academy
208 Columbus Avenue
New Haven, CT 06519



Help Us Name Our New Minibuses!

With the loss of our free bus and van usage that we gratefully had for several years, the Academy needed to find a new way to transport our students to and from the many activities in which they participate.

Through the kind and generous support of people like you, we were able to finance the purchase two new minibuses!

We now need your help once again. Our minibuses need names! Submit your name suggestion by going to www.saintmartinacademy.org/minibus. Names should be submitted as a pair e.g. ‘Jack and Jill’ or ‘Click and Clack’. The students will then vote on the names. The winner will receive an SMPA polo shirt, special recognition in the next newsletter, and a chance to take a picture with students and the minibuses.



Help us name our minibuses!

Submit your suggestions to us before October 31!

Visit www.saintmartinacademy.org/minibus to submit your suggestion!