

# THE HONOR ROLL

VOL. 1 ISSUE 4

ST. MARTIN DE PORRES ACADEMY

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Thank You



### A Message from the President



Through mid-July, our Extended Year Program continues to provide academic and enrichment experiences for our students. Beyond this time some students will also be attending overnight camps on full scholarships. It is all part of our mission to develop well-rounded students who are becoming their “best selves” and who are prepared for their next step in their educational journey – acceptance at private, college prep high schools.

It has been an empowering and fulfilling 6th year at SMPA. Our final few months have been a whirlwind of academic achievement, educational experiences, fun activities, and celebrations of who we are as a school family. In this Newsletter we will share some of the highlights of the year end through pictures. Enjoy!

*Allison Rivera*

## “We Are Not a Class, But a Family”

### Graduation of the Class of 2019

The events leading up to the graduation of the Class of 2019 were an emotional roller coaster of reminiscing, celebrating achievements, spiritual grounding, and just plain having fun! At the 8th Grade Prayer Service and Awards Ceremony each graduate is required to deliver a speech and the recurring quote was “we are not a class but a family”. That thought permeated all the events that followed - from their end of the year Retreat at Killam’s Point in Branford, to their exciting three-day trip to Washington D.C., to their Class Night Celebration with family members and friends.

Graduation on June 25th at Sacred Heart Academy climaxed the celebration in a very powerful and inspiring way. The graduates were privileged to have Michael Van Leesten, the Director of Breakthrough New Haven at Hopkins School, as their commencement speaker. He has worked

with six members of the Class of 2019 in the Breakthrough Program at Hopkins and has been a dedicated counselor and advocate for our students. His message was based on several “words of advice” that he had been given as a young man and they were still so very pertinent to our graduates. As always, one of the highlights of the Ceremony was the opportunity for each student to present a rose to three different people who have had an impact on their lives. It was a profound experience of love, gratitude, and admiration for the rose recipients who helped shape these young people and make their Graduation Day possible.

We are so very grateful to Mr. Van Leesten, the Administration of Sacred Heart Academy, our Class of 2019 parent leader, Mrs. Gant, and the scores of other people who helped shape this celebration. We truly are all part of the SMPA Family! ♦



1. Clare and Patrick Robert presented the Nathaneal Robert Music Scholarships, in memory of their son, to three of our graduates, Carissa D'Agostino, Lennix Cuffy, and Alisha Brabham, to continue their music study in high school. All three will be attending Sacred Heart Academy.

2. In their 2nd year of existence, our

Girls Lacrosse Team played in their first tournament in June. What a great experience for our young players!

3. 7th Grader, C.J. Perez, conducting a DNA experiment at Harvard Medical School as part of his class trip to Boston. A former Teaching Fellow, Jason Zhang, is currently studying medicine at Harvard

and facilitated an entire morning of medical science for our students.

4. Our Advanced Band performs at our Spring Concert on June 16th. Music remains a core component of our holistic educational model.

5. Our 8th graders before the U.S. Capitol on their recent trip to Washington, D.C. A

visit to the White House was part of this rewarding experience.

6. Our 6th graders and teachers in front of the Brooklyn Bridge during their trip to New York City. Thanks to Board member John Farrell and his wife, Deborah, for being Big Apple tour guides.

7. Principal Kelly O'Leary was awarded



the **Elizabeth Abernathy Hull Award** by the **Garden Club of America** for her environmental awareness work with our SMPA students.

8. Board Chair, **Mike Dowley**, presented the 8th grade members of the **SMPA Fix-It Club** that he facilitates with complete tool boxes at the 8th Grade Awards Ceremony.

Pictured are master handymen **Malik Joyner, Chris Coriano, Juan Figueroa, Nico Clarke, Chase Hart** and **Anthony Rivera**.

9. Our new class of 5th graders spent a week on Long Island interning at the **North Shore Animal League America** as part of a social/emotional learning program called

Mutt-i-grees.

10. Our 8th graders all dressed up for **Class Night**. Wow! Look what happened to those little 5th graders of four years ago!

11. The annual tug of war at our early July **Field Day at Hammonasset State Park**. The boys look good here but the girls actually won. Go women!!

12. We were blessed to have 3rd District **Congresswoman Rosa DeLauro** visit SMPA on June 26 to speak to our students about her life and her work. Her high energy talk about public service was inspiring to our students! ♦

## Upcoming Events

August 31, 2011  
First Day of School!

September 14, 2011  
Open House - 10:00 am

October 20, 2011  
Open House - 10:00 am



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



## Litany of Giving

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

- **Notre Dame H.S.** and **Lauralton Hall** for once again hosting a rewarding Extended Year academic enrichment for our students.
- **Albertus Magnus College** and **Saylor Heidmann** for once again providing a reading/language arts program for our students at the College in early July.
- The **Catholic Charity League** for its ongoing generosity.
- **SAFT America** and **V.P. Dave Cox** for the donation of office furniture.
- **Camp Farnam** for 4 days of enriching activities for our students and **Pat Bender** for helping initiate the program.
- **Jim Grundy** for the enormous gift of musical instruments.
- High school student, **Anthony Iorio**, for giving us so much of his time this summer.
- **Lynda Hammond** of Rotary International for initiating programs like the Interact Service Club with our students.
- News anchor **Al Terzi** and Attorney **Will Colwell** for speaking to our students about their lives and their careers.

## How Can We Thank You Enough?

As we end our 6th year at the Academy, we are also profoundly grateful to the literally hundreds of people and organizations who, through your generosity of time and money, give us the means to sustain our mission. We are oftentimes reminded of the saying that “it takes a village to raise a child.” In the case of St. Martin’s, that is certainly true. We rely on the care and concern of all of you who share in our work of transforming the lives of our deserving students. Thank you for being part of our SMPA family.

Having just completed our 6th annual Golf fore Kids fundraiser in late June, we are thankfully aware of our primary sponsor for that event each year, Webster Bank. Through the tireless efforts of Jim O’Meara, Gail Cerrone, Rachael Austin and other Webster Bank staff, this year’s tournament was once again a financial success as well as a great day of golf. We are also so very grateful to our dedicated friends, Nancy



At this year’s Golf fore Kids (L to R): Mike Coppola, Ed Harold, Dick Simone, Nick Fenney. Photo by Ed Dubord.

and Ed Harold, who have been at the core of this event for years and who have also been responsible for developing our First Tee student golf program.

By the time you receive this newsletter, we will be close to the start of a new academic year. Our faculty returns mid-August and students arrive two weeks later. We anticipate this year with great hope for our kids and a great trust in the continued collaboration with all of our SMPA extended family. ♦