



San Pasqual Academy

Bulletin

As of June 30th, 126 youth are living and studying at the Academy.

School Days...

- ◆ The Third Quarter Academic Awards Ceremony was held on May 25th. Seven students received a 4.0 grade point average and eight students had perfect attendance, including one student who has not missed a day all year. Terrific! Additionally, **James M.** And **Ortrisha J.** were named “Students of the Quarter.” Awesome!
- ◆ **Aaron A.** and **Samantha M.** were recognized at the San Diego County Office of Education (SDCOE) board meeting as “Winner’s Circle” recipients. This prestigious award recognizes outstanding students in the district. What an honor!
- ◆ **Aaron A.** was also chosen as the one student to represent Juvenile Court & Community Schools (JCCS) at the annual Innovative Video in Education (IVIE) awards, where he participated as the host for this event.
- ◆ The San Diego Chargers awarded a \$75,000 grant to the Academy to improve the sports programs at the school. The monies will go toward renovating the football field, adding bleachers and bringing needed equipment to the athletic program. Academy junior, **Juan M.**, was presented with a \$7,000 scholarship and a laptop computer for his academic achievement and community involvement.

For more information about how you can help the Academy with donations or volunteer opportunities, please call Debby Syverson at (619) 435-4557.

WHAT'S NEW

San Pasqual Academy is the proud recipient of a Congressionally-directed grant of \$119,040 from the Department of Education to enhance the information technology infrastructure and equipment on campus. The funding is being used in the Qualcomm Technology and Career Information Center to modify classroom environments, expand multipurpose functionality, add a fully equipped theater for presentations and acquire additional equipment for the lab and multi-media studio. Great things are happening at the Tech Center!

- ◆ The improvisation team competed in an improvisation tournament at the National Comedy Theatre, in San Diego. They won an award for the perfect execution of a routine.
- ◆ The Academy's prom was held in the Carousel Room at the Hotel del Coronado on June 10th. The event, which was sponsored by the Friends of San Pasqual Academy, was well attended by 90 students and their guests. Students indulged in a five-course dinner and then danced the night away!
- ◆ On June 24th, 22 students graduated from the Academy. Over 300 guests attended the commencement exercises in the Academy gym. The graduates were cheered on by their family, friends, and Academy staff, as well as County Supervisor **Greg Cox**, retired Juvenile Court Presiding Judge **James Milliken** and San Diego County Office of Education Board President **Robert J. Watkins**. Others from the County applauding the graduates' success were **Helen Robbins-Meyer**, Assistant Chief Administrative Officer, **Jean Shepard**, HHSA Director and **Joan Zinser**, Interim Child Welfare Services Director.
- ◆ The Class of 2005 graduates have the following plans in place, as they begin the next step of their life journey: four will attend four-year colleges, two will attend technical/trade schools, 10 will attend community colleges, one has enlisted in the U.S. Navy, and five will seek employment. Approximately \$200,000 in scholarships were awarded to the 22 graduates to support them in their future endeavors!
- ◆ One of the seniors on campus graduated from Orange Glen High School, and was cheered on by housemates and house parents.
- ◆ Six weeks of summer school began on June 20th. Both core classes (English, Math, and U.S. History) and elective classes (Driver's Education, Advanced Technology, Powerpoint, Horticulture, Woodshop and ASB) are being offered. An intensive reading acceleration program, UROK, is also being offered in partnership with New Alternatives, Inc.
- ◆ On the sports front, the Girls softball team finished the season with a win against Lutheran. **Ortrisha J.** Made Second Team All Citrus League, and **CeCe B.** received an honorable mention. Spring football has been successful this year with over 30 students involved in the after school program. The Dragons look promising for another fantastic season! Stay tuned for their fall game schedule.

Residential Information...

- ◆ On Monday, May 2nd, Chargers football star, **Donnie Edwards** toured the Academy. While viewing the school, he stopped several times to toss the football around with students and elaborate on the importance of education and physical fitness.
- ◆ The "Independent Living Skills Youth Contract" was officially rolled out at the Academy on May 4th. The Youth Contract is a program to promote independent living skills in youth and is reviewed and signed by the Juvenile Court judge and youth at each review hearing.
- ◆ Students danced the night away at San Diego State University on May 7th. Everyone had a fantastic time!
- ◆ One lucky student, **Brian D.**, got to attend a magic show at Kit Carson Park on May 7th. He was dazzled by the tricks, but could not figure out how any of the tricks were accomplished!
- ◆ "From the Ghett Go" was a dance performance several students attended on May 7th. Everyone absolutely loved it and cannot wait to go again!
- ◆ "Soak City" was the destination for a group of students to enjoy a day of fun in the sun. On May 22nd, they slid down the water slides and thoroughly enjoyed each other's company.

- ◆ “Family Day” was an enjoyable event held on May 28th. This fabulous picnic featured a talent show, bingo tournament and a softball game. Residents had the opportunity to invite all their family members to the Academy for a day filled with fun and games.
- ◆ Academy students were especially busy in June with the regular school year coming to a close. On June 7th, five junior high students enjoyed a trip to Magic Mountain with their school, San Pasqual Union Middle. Fifteen seniors and three staff enjoyed Grad Night at Disneyland on June 17th.
- ◆ The Friends of San Pasqual Academy hosted a mini florist shop in the campus auditorium on June 9th to help students make beautiful corsages and boutonnieres for prom. **Ken Coley** of San Diego Catering Concepts generously donated all the flowers.
- ◆ On June 23rd, the Friends of San Pasqual Academy sponsored a senior brunch, and presented the seniors with duffel bags and laundry baskets filled with essential items for college and transitional living. The duffel bags, laundry baskets, and their contents were provided courtesy of the Assistance League. In addition, the top five academic seniors received digital cameras from Sony, and each graduate received a watch from the Nice Guys of San Diego, Inc., a philanthropic organization.
- ◆ Nineteen students and five staff enjoyed box seats at Petco Park to see the Padres take on the Cleveland Indians on June 7th. Despite the Padres 2-0 loss, the students had a terrific time. A big thank you to **John Moores**, Owner of the San Diego Padres organization, for providing the awesome seats and refreshments!
- ◆ Several groups of students attended the San Diego County Fair throughout the month of June. The students enjoyed the rides, food, and exhibits.

Work Readiness and Self-Sufficiency...

- ◆ The YES! Program, a partnership between the San Diego Workforce Partnership, ACCESS, Inc., and Casey Family Program, sponsored a “Youth Advisory Board” on May 4th. Two Academy students participated and made recommendations to the Board on youth issues.
- ◆ Opportunity Passport Training, Part 1, was held on May 9th. This program is funded through the Jim Casey Youth Opportunity Initiative (JCYOI). The goal is to help youth in foster care make successful transitions into adulthood by assisting students with financial planning and setting savings goals. The program targets high school seniors and alumni to participate.
- ◆ Opportunity Passport covers topics such as building assets, savings and investing, creating financial plans, money and banking, resources and credit. After completing the financial literacy training, any money students put into their savings account is matched dollar for dollar, up to \$1,000 per year. They earn \$100 for completing the training and will open checking and savings accounts at Union Bank of California.
- ◆ Opportunity Passport Training, Part 2, was held on May 10th. Ten students attended this training and have enrolled in the program. There will be additional trainings in June and throughout the summer until the 22 slots allocated for the Academy have been filled.
- ◆ On May 18th, the YES! Program organized a North County Times tour. Students from the Career and Life Planning classes visited the newspaper, located in Escondido. The students were able to follow a news story through the production process and saw the various careers related to producing a newspaper.
- ◆ The Workforce Investment Board meeting was held on May 23rd. Two students participated in the meeting and were able to provide the Board with feedback on their activities at the Academy.

- ◆ Nine 13- and 14-year old students participated in the Pre-Employment Traineeship (PET) training held on May 26th. This training is a requirement for students hoping to obtain a traineeship over the summer. These students will participate in their first job experience and will be rated by their supervisor every day on appearance, attitude, timeliness, honesty and productivity. Rather than receiving an hourly wage, the students earn incentive money every day based on ratings by the employer. They can then earn up to \$100 at the end of the four-week program.
- ◆ On June 2nd, Reporter **Kenny Goldberg** of KPBS Radio, discussed careers in journalism with Career and Life Planning students on campus.
- ◆ Another Opportunity Passport Training, Part 2, was held on June 17th in the Tech Center with 12 students participating. To date, six students have successfully opened bank accounts and are beginning to build their savings for matching funds.
- ◆ On June 17th, **Kenny Goldberg** of KPBS returned to campus to interview the Opportunity Passport instructor, **Brett Litoff**, and one Opportunity Passport student, Alumni **Terri H.** The program was entitled, “New Program Teaches Foster Kids Money Management,” and it aired on June 29th.
- ◆ On June 29th, eight students attended the “College Connection: Making College a Reality Day” at Miramar College and San Diego State University (SDSU). Students received an overview of the student support systems available at community colleges and SDSU, and had a chance to tour Miramar College. The students attended presentations around the campus from the Aquatics Center, Career Center, SDSU Housing, Bio-Tech, Auto Tech, and the Police Academy. A final presentation by a SDSU representative provided information on entering SDSU as a freshman versus enrolling as a transfer student from the community college system.
- ◆ Over 20 students are currently employed on campus or at local businesses such as the Escondido Center for the Arts, Target, and Foot Locker. The San Diego Wild Animal Park continues to be a wonderful community partner, employing a dozen Academy students!

Health and Wellness Center...

- ◆ On May 18th, the Health and Wellness Center held their first Nutrition Center event. A UCSD representative, educating the students about nutritional foods, presented the seminar. During the question and answer period, the students had the opportunity to inquire about various aspects of living a healthy lifestyle.
- ◆ The San Diego Dance Theater was on campus May 23rd. They performed “Dance of Myumbani,” a dance promoting AIDS awareness.
- ◆ On May 26th, seven students helped fill goody bags for the Coca-Cola Zero Rock’n’Roll Marathon in San Diego. This community service activity seems to have sparked an interest in the students to start a running/walking group on campus. The new Health and Wellness Center Coordinator, **Katie McHugh**, will lead the group in learning about strength, endurance, teamwork, and commitment in hopes of participating in future road races.
- ◆ On May 31st and June 1st, 50 students attended training on community hygiene by **Dr. Jennifer Jacobs** from UCSD pediatrics.
- ◆ On June 7th, San Pasqual Academy Neighbor, **Grandma Jackie**, hosted a Healthy Cooking class. Seventeen students participated in the class, preparing homemade pizza and strawberry shortcake. Sounds delicious!
- ◆ A “Teen Topics” curriculum has been developed to address issues faced by adolescents. In June, each of the individual student homes participated in a three-week training on bullying.

Alumni Housing Program...

- ◆ Sixteen Academy graduates, including 13 from the Class of 2005, are currently living in the Alumni Housing Program on campus.
- ◆ Funding from the Friends of San Pasqual Academy and other groups continue to make the development of housing a success. Homes have been painted, received new carpeting and yards have been mowed and planted with flowers.
- ◆ Alumni housing continues to search for Resident Advisors to be mentors for alumni within homes, as well as supportive solutions to the issues of transportation to and from work.
- ◆ The first weekend in June was filled with large-scale moving, cleaning, grocery shopping, cooking, and building fellowship among the residents in the program.
- ◆ The first monthly dinner meeting was held to welcome new residents, and to share with them the program's expectations, as well as support services.
- ◆ Several of the Alumni residents benefit from the collaborative relationship with the San Diego Wild Animal Park and the Academy's Career Center. Both resources have led to employment opportunities for the residents.
- ◆ Recent graduates living in the on-campus Alumni Housing are attending summer bridge programs to prepare for the upcoming fall semester.

San Pasqual Academy Neighbors (An Intergenerational Mentoring Program)

- ◆ Each of the grandparents continues to work diligently with the Academy youth. **Grandpa Bob** has affected almost every student by opening up the Boys' recreation center each evening. The kids really look forward to this opportunity, and more than 30 students come to the center on any given evening.
- ◆ **Grandma Jean** continues her poetry slams one evening each week. This includes reading poetry from published artists, as well as compositions written by the kids. She showed the musical video, "Three Tenors Mo", which features a delightful array of musical genre. The group currently has between four to six kids participating, with the goal of having this fun group grow in size.
- ◆ **Grandma Joan** continued her popular pillow-making activities, as well as baking delicious cheesecakes, carrot cake, chocolate covered strawberries, strawberry shortcake and wontons with sweet and sour sauce. **Grandmas Donna** and **Kellie** delighted Girls #8 with a delicious Hawaiian chicken dish and continued treating the residents to their specialty, homemade brownies. Yum!
- ◆ **John Scholte**, SPAN Program Director, continues to have dinner once a month with the grandparents to discuss how things are going in the program, to talk about concerns, share ideas and encourage one another. It is a casual time, yet constructive and fun.
- ◆ The Community Mentors Program continues to grow, as three students were paired with a mentor in May and June. This one-on-one mentoring is truly important and really makes a difference in the lives of both mentor and student.
- ◆ **Grandmas Joan, Jean** and **Jane** assisted the Academy girls with alterations on their prom dresses. **Grandma Jean** also took pictures of the students in their finest attire, and later gave them the pictures as a keepsake.
- ◆ Graduation was well attended by the grandparents, who showed their support for the seniors. The grandparents also had a great time catching up with the returning alumni.
- ◆ **Grandmas Donna** and **Kellie** started the tradition of monthly birthday cookouts for the students. Each month the grandparents invite those students who have birthdays that month to join them for a special birthday barbeque.

