



San Pasqual Academy

Home of the Mighty Dragons!

Bulletin

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Facts-At-A-Glance

As of this writing...

- 127 youth were living at the Academy.
- 30 students were working on- and off-campus in internships and paid employment.
- 18 graduates were residing in the Alumni Housing Program.
- 3 graduates attending college returned "home" to the Alumni Housing Program for weekends and breaks.
- 13 grandparents were part of the San Pasqual Academy Neighbors Program.

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Orientation Points Students in the Right Direction

With a new school year underway, there are new faces and new programs on campus! To help introduce incoming students and reacquaint continuing students with the many services offered at San Pasqual Academy, a two-day orientation was held on August 24th and 25th as part of the first week of school.

Orientation offers the high school students a chance to learn about what's new on campus for the year. It is also an opportunity for campus staff to share program information with the students and highlight how students can benefit from their support services. Each of the campus partners, New Alternatives, Inc., the San Diego County Office of Education, the Youth Empowerment Services (YES)

Program, and the County's Health and Human Services Agency, participated in the Orientation.

Over the two-day event, students attended 20-minute class sessions focused on one of 16 topics. The topics included the Agriculture Program, Associated Student Body, Athletics, Insight Class, Alumni Housing Program, work readiness, Child Welfare Services case management and the Transitional Independent Living Plan, Health and Wellness Center, Independent Living Skills, UROK (a skills intervention program for writing, reading, mathematics and character building), YES Program, Technology and Career Information Center, San Pasqual Academy Neighbors (an intergenerational mentoring program),

citizenship awards and the school handbook. The session on college applications, financial aid and scholarship opportunities was of particular interest to graduating seniors!

Orientation is a valuable opportunity for students and staff to connect with one another and create a foundation for future meetings!



Home of the Mighty Dragons!

An Old Fashion Summer Concert in the Park

Academy student and aspiring musician, Leroy D., performed with the San Diego Chamber Orchestra on September 10th at The Inn at Rancho Santa Fe. The performance was

directed by Jung-Ho Pak, the world-renown conductor and current artistic director of the San Diego Chamber Orchestra. The orchestra accompanied Leroy on his original composition,

Let It Be, as part of a fundraiser for the orchestra and San Pasqual Academy. There's no doubt that we will hear from Leroy again in the near future! Hats off to you, Leroy!

What's Happening at School...

- Summer session ran from June 26th through August 4th, providing students an opportunity to catch-up on credits in core and elective classes. Fall classes at the Academy resumed on August 21st! Students jumped right into the Measures of Academic Performance (MAP) testing the first three days of school.
- TranscenDance, a youth dance troupe, performed on campus on August 22nd. The TranscenDance Youth Arts Project empowers multi-cultural, inner-city youth to create "healthier communities through the transforming and life-affirming power of the arts and performance."
- On August 23rd, motivational speaker and advocate of personal empowerment, Lisa Nichols, spoke to Academy students on *Realizing Your Dreams, Living With Integrity*. Ms. Nichols is the Founder and CEO of *Motivating the Teen Spirit*.
- The Dragons eight-man football team is off to a great start with wins over Foothill Christian, 30-20, Julian High School, 12-7, and West Shores High School, 8-6! And, the Lady Dragons are not to be outdone, as the varsity and junior varsity volleyball teams posted pre-season wins over Escondido Charter and Christian Life Academy, respectively. Way to go!
- On September 21st at noon, the Academy observed a minute of silence for the International Day of Peace as declared by the United Nations General Assembly Resolution 55/282.

Familiar Faces

It seems that being part of the planning process just was not enough for these two! Academy high school teachers, Jeffra Becknell and Mark Rounds, were active participants when the vision for San Pasqual Academy was being developed. Once the San Diego County Office of Education began hiring teachers for the on-site high school at the Academy, Ms. Becknell and Mr. Rounds had their applications ready to go.

Ms. Becknell teaches American Government, United States History, Economics and an Advancement Via Individual Determination (AVID) class. On a lighter note, she is the advisor for the school's Comedy Improv Group, sponsored by the Friends of San Pasqual Academy. At one point, Ms. Becknell also served as the Academy's Interim Principal during a transition from one principal to the next. Ms. Becknell's dedication goes beyond the classroom as she (and her family) are often found on the sidelines of Dragon sporting events cheering on the students!

Reading and writing is Mr. Rounds' specialty as he teaches English 11, English 12, and Journalism at the Academy. Mr. Rounds, San Diego County Office of Education Juvenile Court and Community Schools' 2005 Teacher of the Year, recently helped students get their weekly school newspaper, *The Blue Flame*, off the ground and the publication sure looks good! When Mr. Rounds is not in the classroom, he can be found on the football field as the Assistant Coach for the Dragons eight-man football team.

Welcome back for your 6th year of teaching at San Pasqual Academy! Your hard work and dedication are appreciated.

Fall Football Schedule

Friday	Oct. 6	3:00 p.m.
Christian Life Academy. (non-league) @ SPA		
Thursday	Oct. 11	3:00 p.m.
SD Jewish Academy @ S.D. Jewish Academy		
Friday	Oct. 20	6:00 p.m.
Borrego Springs @ Borrego Springs		
Friday	Oct. 27	3:00 p.m.
Warner @ SPA		
Friday	Nov. 3	2:00 p.m.
Calvary Christian (Vista) @ SPA		
Friday	Nov. 10	2:00 p.m.
All Tribes American Indian School @ SPA		

Go Dragons!

The Residential Side of the House

Despite hot temperatures throughout San Diego County this past summer, Academy youth kept plenty busy! Here's what they did:

- Cooled off at Knott's Soak City in Chula Vista and Buena Park.
- Took in musicals such as Suessical the Musical, Rent and the Sound of Music.
- Participated in bowling, roller skating, golfing and indoor rock climbing.
- Enjoyed several concerts.
- Attended the Acura Tennis Classic, two Padres games, and Del Mar Racetrack.
- Visited the Aerospace Museum, the Museum of Photographic Arts and the Art Museum in Balboa Park.

Youth Empowerment Services Program

With the start of a new school year, college and scholarship application workshops are held every Thursday!

San Pasqual Academy Neighbors (An Intergenerational Mentoring Program)

- Over the summer, Grandma Joan continued her tradition of making carrot cake, chocolate covered strawberries, and smoothies in the homes and helping students with sewing projects. Craft classes remained a constant activity offered by Grandma Jane and Grandma Jean.
- In August, the grandparents, led by Grandma Jean and Grandpa Jeffery, began hosting a monthly "skit night" in the auditorium as an opportunity for the youth to showcase their talents. Their first "skit night" was a success with 15 youth participating and Grandma Kellie baking homemade cookies for the event.
- In August, the grandparents visited each of the homes, introducing themselves and the SPAN program to all the houseparents.
- Grandma Kay offered support to the students' operating the Dragon's Lounge, a juice and snack bar, in the Cyber Café and Grandma Donna and Grandma Kellie continued to visit the homes to help students with an Independent Living Skills dinner.
- Grandpa Howard continued to assist students in the Tech Center in the afternoons, while Grandma Jackie continued offering cooking classes. In August, students learned the "how to's" of preparing for a formal dinner party.

Alumni Housing Program

- Several residents have made great strides towards achieving their goals—one resident transitioned to San Francisco to pursue her goals in dance, one resident earned a Nursing Certificate, and several others are making progress in their transition plans towards independence.
- On August 12th, the Alumni Housing Program hosted a volunteer event in which over 20 volunteers helped clean, paint, and landscape one of the Alumni homes. It is expected that this home will be used for college students returning to the campus for visits.
- Three residents are participating in collegiate football at Palomar College this fall.

Shopping at the Academy?

On September 20th, Academy youth were treated to the Annual Back-To-School Shop 'Til You Drop event. Hosted by the Friends of San Pasqual Academy, youth "shopped" for backpacks and school supplies in the auditorium. To top off their shopping spree, Academy youth received a pair of running shoes from Road Runner Sports. Academy graduates residing in the Alumni Housing Program were presented with new running shoes, too! Thank you Friends and Road Runner Sports!

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

San Pasqual Academy

A Bridge to Knowledge, Support, and Hope

Check out the Academy website at:
www.sanpasqualacademy.org

Health and Wellness...

- In preparation for the hot days of summer, the Health and Wellness Center staff provided sun protection trainings in each of the homes during July.
- Six students trained three times a week from June through August for America's Finest City 5K race in Balboa Park. The race took place on August 20th; six students and three staff participated. In August, the six students picked out new running shoes at Road Runner Sports for meeting their training commitment. Thanks to the Friends of San Pasqual Academy and Road Runner Sports for their generosity!
- Student trainings during July, August, and September covered nutrition, stress management, knee health, sexual health, tobacco and caffeine use. Plus, six students viewed "Coach Carter," a true story about an inner city basketball coach encouraging students to improve their grades in order to play basketball.
- Staff trainings during the summer included stress management by the campus Health Educator, as well as the topics of human trafficking and teen prostitution presented by Manolo Guillen from San Diego Youth and Community Services.
- In August, Neighborhood Health Care physicians began providing services to students at the Health and Wellness Center.

Goal! Soccer comes to the Academy!

Soccer has landed on campus! That's right! The Dragons are taking up "futbol" as it is known across the world. Thanks to a \$31,400 grant from the Amateur Athletic Foundation (AAF) in Los Angeles, the students at San Pasqual Academy now have soccer as an option for physical education. Through a coordinated effort by ACCESS, Inc., the Youth Empowerment Services (YES) Program, and the World Wide Soccer Academy, San Pasqual Academy received uniforms, goals, soccer balls, coach's equipment and practice materials for the program.

In preparation for an organized soccer program, four classes are offered through the Physical Education (PE) department so that students

may learn the history and fundamentals of soccer. To spark interest in this new sport on campus, Markus Schruf with AAF coordinates staff to train the campus coaches and support the Academy students once a week. For example, Brian Lewis, a soccer specialist and coach at Otay Ranch High School, worked with two of Coach Bob Manning's PE classes on September 19th. Mr. Lewis taught the students new soccer drills and organized a game at the end of each class, easily lifting the students' enthusiasm for the sport.

To complement the PE classes offered, Jonathan Richards, the Academy's recreational therapist, organizes soccer as an evening and week-

end activity for the students. While Mr. Richards' soccer activities are geared for students who do not normally participate in team sports, everyone is welcome! At least 40 students a week have been participating in anticipation of a soccer club forming. And, like the PE classes, the evening and weekend activities promote good sportsmanship, healthy behaviors and having fun!

