



# San Pasqual Academy

Home of the Mighty Dragons!

*Bulletin*

July 2007

## Facts-At-A-Glance

As of this writing...

- 136 youth are living at the Academy.
- 27 graduates are in the Class of 2007.
- 22 graduates are going on to post-secondary education.
- 38 students are working on- and off-campus in internships and paid employment.
- 20 graduates are residing in the Alumni Housing Program.
- 13 grandparents are part of the San Pasqual Academy Neighbors Program.

### Inside this issue:

Senior Activities	2
On to College...	2
It's Never too Early	2
Scholarships	2
When They Aren't in School, Studying or Work-	3
Academy Key Club	3
Spring Sports Banquet	3
Health and Wellness	3
Alumni Housing Program	3
Drop Everything and Read Bookshelf Award	3
Health and Wellness	4
Artists Abound at the Academy	4

## Congratulations, Class of 2007!

On June 21<sup>st</sup> twenty-seven seniors donned caps and gowns to receive their high school diploma. The Academy gymnasium was filled with family, friends, campus staff and distinguished County officials, who cheered on each of the students' accomplishments. Four students were selected to speak on behalf of their class; Veronica F., Tymbre B., Andre H., and Ashley S. Each spoke of their experiences at the Academy, thanked those who supported them during their high school years, and shared their plans for the future.

At the culmination of her high school career, Tymbre shared, "For the past four years, all I wanted to do was leave. Now, that it is time to go, all I want to do

is stay." She reflected that, "Being here [at the Academy] is the best thing I did for myself. The teachers don't give up on us." Tymbre has been accepted to California State University - Northridge.

It is the support Tymbre mentions from the school staff, as well as



the residential, work readiness, and County social work staff, that encourages the students to pursue their future academic, vocational, and career goals. This fall, twenty-two of the graduates are planning to attend four-year colleges, universities and community colleges while the remaining gradu-

ates will either attend trade/technical schools and work part-time or enter the workforce directly.

Following the commencement ceremony, the festivities continued in the Cyber Café with a wonderful lunch catered by the Friends of San Pasqual Academy.

**Congratulations, Grads!**



**Home of the Mighty Dragons!**

## Outdoor Enthusiast, Tony R., Recognized

On June 20<sup>th</sup> at the Graduates Luncheon, graduating senior, Tony R., received the Outdoor Adventure Award from the Department of Parks and Recreation for his participation in Outdoor Adventure program activities!

Tony demonstrated enthusiasm, a willingness to try new outdoor adventures and was supportive of others participating in the activities. The award, a \$250 gift card to REI, was funded by a grant from the State Parks Department

Habitat Conservation Fund.





# Senior Activities...



Spring is a busy time for everyone at the Academy, especially the graduating seniors! Students worked diligently throughout the semester to finish class assignments, as well as complete their senior projects and portfolios, which are graduation requirements. When all was said and done, the students still found time for the much-awaited activities that take place at the end of the school year.

- First up was prom, held on May 18<sup>th</sup>, at the Hotel del Coronado. Students looked their best in tuxedos and gowns, as they dined and danced the night away! Planet Hope, a non-profit organization founded by Sharon and Kelly Stone, donated 100 brand-new, designer name gowns to the Academy for the event.
- Grad Night followed with seniors hitting the road for Disneyland on June 14<sup>th</sup> in the evening and returning to campus in the wee hours the next morning. The students had a great time at the "Happiest Place on Earth."
- The Graduates Luncheon followed on June 20<sup>th</sup>! Hosted by the Friends of San Pasqual Academy, the graduates were showered with luggage, household essentials, and gift cards. Four students received a laptop computer.
- The culmination of high school, graduation, took place on June 21<sup>st</sup> in the gymnasium. A full house cheered on the twenty-seven graduates, and many shed a tear upon listening to the student speakers.

**Best wishes, Class of 2007!**

## On to College...

Getting into college can be very stressful...thinking of how to pay for one's college education can be even more stressful! Through their hard work and demonstrated academic abilities, two Academy graduates, Wendell W. and Johnny C., have received full scholarships for their college education.

Wendell, who finished up his high school credits in January 2007, has received a full scholarship to National University. He has already begun taking classes at the Carlsbad campus and plans to pursue a degree in business.

Johnny is one of the first Alex Smith Foundation San Diego State University Guardian Scholar Program recipients. The Guardian Scholars Program, a comprehensive program for former foster youth provides a five-year scholarship, year-round housing and extensive individual guidance and support. Johnny will begin classes in the fall and plans to become a bio-chemist.

## It's Never too Early

James M., who just finished his junior year, is the recipient of the San Diego Chargers Champions Scholarship. One of several San Diego County high school student recipients, James received a \$7,000 tuition scholarship and a laptop computer. College is just around the corner, James!

## Scholarships

To help support the Academy graduates in their future endeavors, several scholarships were awarded during graduation. In addition, four students received a car for a combination of their academic achievement, good citizenship, community service, and being a positive community role model on campus.

Some of the organizations and families who generously awarded scholarships to the Class of 2007 are: the Friends of San Pasqual Academy; Verizon; IDEC; the Howerton Family; the Rotary Club of Escondido; the La Jolla Sunrise Rotary; North Inland Special Education Advisory Committee; the Gibbon's Family; Women in Realty - North County/San Diego Chapter; the Miadio Family; the North County Building Industry Association; Nice Guys; Kiwanis of Poway; ZONTA; the Staples Foundation; the Peterson Trust Scholarship; the Rotary Club of Coronado; CHAD - Olifant Family; the Assistance League of Inland North County of San Diego; Bridge to Knowledge, Support and Hope; the San Diego County Citizens Scholarship Foundation; and Altrusa.

## When They Aren't in School, Studying or Working...

Students have plenty to keep them busy when they aren't in school, studying or working. Here are some of their recent activities and outings:

- Participated in bowling, roller skating, ice skating, racing go-karts and golfing at The Vineyards Golf Course.
- Cooled off from the warm weather at The Wave Water Park in Vista.
- Enjoyed arcade games at Nickel City and the rides at Belmont Park.
- Visited Knott's Berry Farm in Buena Park and the Birch Aquarium in La Jolla.
- Cheered the San Diego Padres on to a victory over the Milwaukee Brewers on May 26<sup>th</sup>.
- Appreciated the waterfront of America's Finest City with a picnic dinner.

## Key Club

The Academy Key Club is up and running! The 16-member community service organization, sponsored by the Escondido Kiwanis Club, has elected its officers and is ready to begin contributing to their local community. The Key Club will further the Kiwanis vision of changing the world, one child and one community at a time.

## Spring Sports Banquet

The Spring Sports Banquet, hosted by the Friends of San Pasqual Academy, was held on June 13<sup>th</sup> in the campus auditorium. The Dragon athletes were recognized for their athletic abilities and sportsmanship in Girls Softball and Intra-mural Soccer. 2006-2007 has been a great athletic year for the



Dragons!

## Health and Wellness

With the arrival of summer, 100° weather is not uncommon at the Academy, located four miles east of the San Diego Wild Animal Park in Escondido.



In June, first-year residents from the University of California, San Diego School of Medicine spoke to the students and staff about staying hydrated and sun safety. Participants learned about drinking plenty of water, as well as using sunscreen to protect their skin from the sun. And, the sunscreen on campus is putting in plenty of overtime, as students have taken to the swimming pool to keep cool!

## Alumni Housing Program

There are currently 20 students participating in the Academy's Alumni Housing Program; 15 alumni live on campus and five live off-campus near the community college they attend. The alumni receive case management services and support to access local community resources. In addition, the alumni participate in community meetings with their fellow residents and have access to a variety of workshops in the program to prepare them for job interviews, help them explore career choices, refine their culinary skills, and practice good housekeeping.

New Alternatives, Inc. recently expanded transitional housing services for former foster youth through the Transitional Housing Program-Plus in the East, South and Central regions. This is a much needed service for former foster youth!

## D.E.A.R. Bookshelf Award

*The Academy was recently selected as one of 100 public schools to receive a 2007 Drop Everything and Read (D.E.A.R.) Bookshelf Award! Funded by the NEA Foundation and the National Education Association, the \$500 award may be used for the purchase of books and reading materials to entice students to drop everything and read for pleasure. The funds will complement the Academy's reading incentive program by enhancing the school's library and classroom book collection with more titles to meet the students' interests.*

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](http://www.sanpasqualacademy.org)**

## San Pasqual Academy Neighbors

The San Pasqual Academy Neighbors Program, an intergenerational mentoring program on campus, fosters supportive relationships between the surrogate grandparents and the students who call the Academy "home." The grandparents can be found just about anywhere on campus engaging the students in art projects, cooking lessons, sewing, homework support, and more.

For prom, Grandmas Linda, Joan and Jackie worked diligently to make alterations to the young ladies' gowns and assist them with their hair and fashion accessories. At graduation, the grandparents joined the student body in the bleachers and were one of the loudest supporters of the graduating class! Grandpas Jeff and Bob were busy running around the gymnasium, capturing this special occasion on film and video for the graduates!

When Grandpa Howard isn't supervising students in the Tech Center or helping them repair bicycles, he and his wife, Grandma Jackie, have been offering church services to interested youth on campus!

And, of course, Grandma Donna and Great Grandma Kellie continue their tradition of baking brownies for every student's birthday and helping with Independent Living Skills dinners in the homes.

The grandparents are a wonderful complement to the campus program! Both the students and alumni have a special relationship with the grandparents, who provide a sense of comfort and support in all that they do!

## Artists Abound at the Academy

San Pasqual Academy students are exceptionally talented in the arts! However, for many of the students, they have not had the support and encouragement to foster those talents. Until now...

At the Academy, staff and volunteers encourage the students to express themselves through music, drama, poetry, painting, drawing, comedy and more. For instance, Grandma Jean, who lives on campus, holds weekly Poetry Slams in her home, providing a forum for students to gather and discuss published poetry, as well as to share their own creative work. Grandma Jean also teaches the Craft Classes with Grandma Jane. Together, they encourage the students' artistic talents and help them display their artwork

on campus and in local art galleries.

Here is just a sample of the talent found at San Pasqual Academy:

Academy student, Harold T., completed a playwriting residency taught by the Playwrights Project, an arts education non-profit. On June 20<sup>th</sup>, Harold's residency culminated with professional actors reading excerpts from his play and those of others in the program. Not only has Harold written his first play in the Write On! Program, he was selected to be a member of the Step Up Company, a teen acting group. Harold will serve as a role model for other teens aspiring to be artists.

Current Academy students, Stacey S. and Christina D., along with alumnus, Michael M., submitted their original art for exhibit at the 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Children's System of Care Conference Youth Art Show held on May 30<sup>th</sup> at the Bahia Resort Hotel in San Diego. Their art work, demonstrating the topic of "Trauma in Our World and in Our Lives," was available for sale at \$25 each. All nine pieces submitted were sold!

