



San Pasqual Academy

Home of the Mighty Dragons!

Bulletin

September 2007

Facts-At-A-Glance

As of this writing...

- 136 youth are living at the Academy.
- Over 50 students are working on- and off-campus in internships and paid employment.
- Over 20 graduates are residing in the on- and off-campus Alumni Housing Program.
- 13 grandparents are part of the San Pasqual Academy Neighbors Program.

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Academy Agriculture Program Continues to Grow

When people hear about the Academy's Agriculture Program, the tendency is to think about the students growing fruits and vegetables on the 238-acre campus. It's true... the students have a hand in planting and harvesting the produce on campus. But, the Agriculture Program, or Ag Program as it's more commonly known, is much more than just a farm!

A collaborative effort among the campus partners, the Ag Program offers numerous opportunities for Academy students to develop their academic, employment and independent living skills. In the on-site high school, Ag classes are offered for elective credit and provide classroom instruction, as well as hands-on farming experience. Beginning this year, all freshmen are enrolled in the Ag class and concurrently participate in the Pre-

Employment Traineeship Program offered by the YES program, which builds the students' work readiness skills. Paid internships are also available to the older Academy students.

The world of work is further embedded in the Ag Program since students are able to learn about marketing, accounting, and business management skills. Students also have the opportunity to explore ag-related careers.

The receipt of a three-year grant from the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) supports the expansion of the existing Community Garden into a 20-acre, youth-run, sustainable agriculture enterprise that is financially self-sufficient and provides fresh, organic produce to the Academy residents and local community. The USDA grant also reinforces the Ag Program's mission to encourage healthier eating habits

and to help reduce the incidence of obesity and related health issues among the students.

Information on healthy living and nutrition is provided to the students as part of the Health and Wellness Center services on campus. In addition, cooking classes which incorporate campus-grown produce, are offered for elective credit through the school and as part of the independent living skills training available to both the current students and graduates living in the Alumni Housing Program. The campus produce is also a staple in the Cyber Café menu!

Stay tuned for more Ag news in the months to come!



Independent Living Skills

Independent Living Skills (ILS) activities are a part of the Academy students' daily routine. Students plan and prepare meals, are responsible for household chores (including doing their own laundry), learn about money management, prepare for the world of work, and famil-

iarize themselves with community resources.

Together, the Academy partners create an environment, which supports the students' ILS training across program components.

For instance, as part of the Day Rehabilitation Program

on campus, clinical social workers facilitate Teen Topics in each of the homes. Every month, a different topic is covered through presentations, hands-on activities and field trips. Transportation and Character Building were the topics for July and August.

Dragon Athletes Charged Up

On August 16th, twenty Academy athletes were in for a big treat...San Diego Chargers' cornerback, Quentin Jammer, invited them to attend the Chargers' Training Camp for the afternoon. The athletes, who proclaimed themselves "Jammer's #1 Fans" on a banner they all signed, had an opportunity to watch the Chargers practice, as well as visit with Mr. Jammer and his teammates, take photos with Mr. Jammer and get his autograph. The afternoon was a memorable event for these young athletes!

But there is more to the story...Mr. Jammer committed to hosting twenty Academy students at every Chargers' home game, complete with refreshments from the concession stand. Now, what do you suppose the students will wear to support the Chargers on game day? Well, that's where the T-shirt design contest comes in.

Mr. Jammer sponsored a T-shirt design contest among the campus students as part of "Jammer's Picks." Academy student, David L., created Mr. Jammer's top pick! He received a baby blue T-shirt bearing the winning design during a class presentation by Principal Tom Allison, Campus Director Tia Moore, and New Alternatives, Inc.'s Executive Director Michael Bruich. David L. also received a football autographed by Mr. Jammer, a Chargers jersey and tickets to a game of his choice. As for the winning T-shirt, Mr. Jammer had shirts made for the entire school!

No doubt, Academy students will be cheering "Go Chargers" on campus and at "The Q" on game day!

Getting a Head Start on College

Academy students are getting a head start on college credits and making a difference in the community through the Alex Smith Foundation San Diego State University (SDSU) Guardian Scholars Program—High School Component. Offered in collaboration with the Consensus Organizing Center at SDSU, selected Academy sophomores and juniors enroll in an introductory social work course at the SDSU campus and receive 3.0 general elective high school and college course credits upon successful completion of the class.

Formerly known as Fostering Community Connections, the program engages, educates and empowers Academy students to pursue post-secondary education and to develop the practical skills needed to solve a range of social issues. Students participate in forty-hours of community service as part of the program's community-based learning approach. This opportunity allows the students to connect their work in the community with the topics they learned in class.

Since 2003, seventeen Academy students have completed the introductory social work class at SDSU. Currently, twelve students are enrolled in the course. This unique opportunity opens up the world of college to them and often makes the difference in whether a student chooses to pursue a college education.

And the Winner is...

Academy students submitted over two dozen multi-media entries to the San Diego County Fair this year! As always, the results were very positive: one First Place ribbon, five Second Place ribbons, fourteen Third Place ribbons, and six Fourth Place ribbons. The students' work was displayed in the Tech Center lobby and in the school's front office during the summer.

2007 Football Schedule

Game Results to Date

Date	Opponent	Result
Sept. 8	at Army-Navy	L, 8-6
Sept. 14	vs. Twin Pines	W, 35-6
Sept. 21	West Shores*	W, 58-12
Sept. 29	vs. Vista Calvary Christian*	W, 60-10
Oct. 5	Borrogo Springs*	W, 62-14

Upcoming Games

Date	Opponent	Time
Oct. 12	at Warner Springs*	3:00 p.m.
Oct. 19	All Tribes*	3:00 p.m.
Oct. 26	at Calvin Christian	4:00 p.m.

* Citrus League

Go Dragons!





Summertime Fun in San Diego...



Despite record high temperatures around San Diego County, Academy youth found plenty of activities to keep themselves cool and entertained this summer. Here's what they did:

- Participated in bowling, roller skating, ice skating, laser tag, fishing at Lake Jennings, and golfing at The Vineyards Golf Course.
- Cooled off from the warm weather in the campus pool, at the Wave Water Park in Vista, and at Belmont Park in Mission Beach.
- Enjoyed the Vans Warped Tour at Coors Amphitheatre in Chula Vista, the musical West Side Story at the Moonlight Amphitheatre in Balboa Park, Beauty and the Beast at the Starlight Theatre in Balboa Park and the Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Circus in San Diego.
- Cheered on the San Diego Padres, courtesy of the Junior Seau Foundation.
- Visited Knott's Berry Farm in Buena Park, Birch Aquarium in La Jolla, and local parks and lakes for hiking and picnics.

Bodies...the Exhibition

The Friends of San Pasqual Academy hosted this summer's Science Class to attend "Bodies...the Exhibition" in La Jolla. Students had an opportunity to see, literally, from the inside out just what makes up our bodies. They viewed twenty-one whole-body specimens and over 260 organs.

Alumni Housing Program

The Alumni Housing Program, funded by the State Transitional Housing for Foster Youth Fund, has had a full house for the summer, providing housing for over twenty former Academy students. As new residents transitioned into the program following graduation, others transitioned into the community and/or college housing.

Recent workshops, which are part of the supportive case management services offered by the program, included: cooking, employment, "Raising Your Interview IQ," transportation options, and how to obtain a driver's license.

School News...

Summer school session began on June 25th and ran through August 3rd. Students needing to catch-up on credits attended classes from 8:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. daily. A two-week break offered students a brief respite before the '07-'08 school year began.

On August 20th, students participated in three-days of assessment tests and a two-day orientation to the services and support available on campus. An Ice Cream Social, hosted by the Friends of San Pasqual Academy on the 21st, provided a refreshing treat. Classes officially began on August 27th.



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Opportunity Passport— Incentive to Save



Academy students are encouraged to participate in Opportunity Passport, a financial literacy training program offered through the Youth Empowerment Services (YES) Program on campus.

Students have the opportunity to have their savings matched up to \$3,000 while at the Academy. Currently, Opportunity Passport is offered in collaboration with Union Bank of California. However, Wells Fargo has also expressed interest in supporting the financial literacy program on campus and offering services to the students.

To date, several students and alumni have used their savings to purchase a car!

Tech Center Gets Refreshed

Through the efforts of Congressman Duncan Hunter and the County Board of Supervisors, the Academy received a Congressionally-directed grant from the United States Department of Education in the amount of \$124,263. The purpose of the grant is to further enhance the Technology and Career Information Center on campus through the purchase of additional computers, software, and multi-media equipment.

Academy students have an amazing aptitude and interest in information technology (IT), which is demonstrated in their class assignments. IT equipment on campus is used to search the Internet, write reports, create multi-media projects, and even compose musical compositions. This Congressionally-directed grant will increase the students' ability to prepare for higher education and employment, which demands IT literacy, as well as provide them opportunities to express their creativity through multi-media programming.

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

San Pasqual Academy Neighbors (SPAN)

The SPAN Program, an intergenerational mentoring program on campus, fosters supportive relationships between the surrogate grandparents and the students who call the Academy “home.”

This past summer, the grandparents were particularly busy working with the students in the Community Garden. Together, the grandparents and students harvested fruits and vegetables to use as part of their Independent Living Skills dinners. The meals were prepared in the students’ homes weekly and provided an opportunity for the grandparents to pass on their culinary skills to the chefs-in-training. They also incorporated the fresh produce into different treats served at campus events. For example, at the Fourth of July bar-becue, tomatoes found their way onto shish kebob skewers, while strawberries were dipped in chocolate.



In addition to sharpening the students’ cooking skills, the grandparents have a way of bringing out their creative side. Skit Night is a big hit on campus! Led by Grandpa Jeff, along with Grandmas Jean, Donna, and Kay, students perform short vignettes for the audience which can reach thirty-plus students at times. To encourage participation, the grandparents also perform for the students. According to Grandpa Jeff, “Sometimes you have to do something a little bit crazy to capture their attention, even if you wouldn’t want to have your picture taken.”

Through time and a host of activities, the grandparents and students have developed a very special bond!

PET Program Gains Momentum

Preparing students for independent living and the world of work is a primary objective at San Pasqual Academy. Through the Youth Empowerment Services (YES) Program on campus, a collaborative of the San Diego Workforce Partnership, Casey Family Programs and ACCESS, Inc., students are able to gain valuable work readiness skills to prepare for future employment.

In an effort to begin instilling a positive work ethic in the Academy’s younger student population, the YES Program offers the Pre-Employment Traineeship (PET) Program, which originated as a Casey Family Programs service. Students, who are 12- and 13-years old, are eligible to participate in the PET Program. The students complete internships with local busi-



nesses, including the Academy’s own Agriculture Program, and are provided financial incentives for demonstrating 5 key work behaviors.

The behaviors are:

1. Dressing appropriately
2. Being punctual
3. Being productive
4. Being honest
5. Having a good attitude

In the past, the PET Program was only offered during the summer and students could participate for up to two summer sessions before they were eligible for a traditional work permit from their school. Currently, the PET Program, is being re-designed by Casey Family Pro-

grams as a year-round opportunity for students.

The PET Program expansion is a perfect fit to the Academy’s Agriculture Program, where PET participation will be a requirement for students enrolled in the freshmen Agriculture class. The freshmen will receive hands-on work experience on the campus farm.

Over the summer, eleven students, including six students who returned to the program for a second time, participated in the PET Program. Their success in the program was celebrated in August at a formal banquet held at the Fish House in Chula Vista.

Way to go PET Program participants!