



San Pasqual Academy

Home of the Mighty Dragons!

Bulletin

As of October 31, 129 youth are living and studying at the Academy.

School Days...

- ◆ Academy students returned to the classroom on August 29th, following a three-week vacation. On August 29th and 30th, students took part in a two-day orientation to learn about the different academic and support programs available to them. Presentations included the San Pasqual Academy Neighbors program (an intergenerational mentoring program), Tech Center, and more.
- ◆ During the two-day orientation, the Escondido East Rotary distributed backpacks to each student, as well as a \$15 Target gift card to purchase back-to-school supplies.
- ◆ Classes officially began on August 31st, with a presentation by inspirational speaker Starla Lewis, professor and Department Chair of Black Studies at San Diego Mesa College. Ms. Lewis' message to the students was to find and follow their path and to realize that race, class and gender are not impediments to success.
- ◆ New classes for the fall term include a construction class in which students are repairing homes on campus, an agriculture class in which students are preparing and planting a one-acre Student Community Garden, and UROK, a basic skills literacy class offering support and intervention in reading, writing and mathematics.
- ◆ The Associated Student Body is off to an exciting start this year. They hosted a luau dance after the September 9th football game against Cal Lutheran.
- ◆ Class of 2005 yearbooks were completed for distribution to the student body.
- ◆ Football practice at the end of the summer certainly paid off! The Academy Dragons' football team has a terrific record with seven wins against Cal Lutheran, Windward Christian, Julian, Tri-City Christian, Calvary Christian, West Shores, and San Diego Jewish Academy, and one loss in non-league play against La Jolla Country Day. What a season!
- ◆ The volleyball team, lead by first-year coach **Melissa Delano**, just finished its season. Although the Lady Dragons didn't win many games, a foundation was set for continued improvement in the upcoming years.

WHAT'S NEW

- ◆ The Rancho Santa Fe Rotary Club is sponsoring the Interact Club, a service club for young people ages 14-18, on campus. The Interact Club has held two meetings to date: a kick-off meeting on October 13th and a meeting to elect officers and set an agenda on October 27th. The club, with over 60 students participating, will meet monthly and is already coordinating several service opportunities both on and off campus for its members!
- ◆ The San Pasqual Academy Agriculture (Ag) Program is taking root! Spearheaded by New Alternatives, Inc. (NAI), the ag program is integrated into the Health and Wellness Center Program, as well as the residential and academic components of the Academy environment. As the result of several grant awards and matching funds from NAI, two agriculture classes are being offered as part of the school curriculum. The YES Program is assisting with an after-school vocational component, complete with paid internship opportunities. Grandparents from the SPAN (San Pasqual Academy Neighbors) program have expressed interest in working side-by-side with the students in the Community Garden. And the idea of growing veggies, fruit, and herbs on campus for student consumption contributes to the student's overall well-being as promoted by the Academy's Health and Wellness Center. No one is more excited than **Johnny Ellison**, the Cyber Café's Food Services Manager, who looks forward to using fresh, campus-grown food in the school menu.

Residential Info...

- ◆ On October 1st, five students and a staff member attended a car show in downtown San Diego while four other students and a staff member spent a relaxing day at Seaport Village window-shopping and enjoying the scenery.
- ◆ Fifteen students and three staff enjoyed their favorite band, Green Day, at the Coors Amphitheater on October 2nd.
- ◆ Academy student and aspiring magician, **Brian D.**, attended his first International Brotherhood of Magicians meeting on October 6th. He is now an active member of the organization.
- ◆ On October 7th, 36 students and six staff traveled to La Jolla to cheer on the Dragons' football team against La Jolla Country Day. Despite their 24-15 loss, the Dragons held their own and completed the entire game.
- ◆ Ten students and two staff had the pleasure of seeing Disney on Ice at the iPayOne Center, courtesy of Creating Safer Havens, on October 12th. The students had a great time!
- ◆ Two students and a houseparent spent October 15th at the Miramar Air Show. They were mesmerized by the stunts and ability of the pilots!
- ◆ On October 27th, four of the junior high school students, along with their eighth grade class, attended a performance of "The Wizard of Oz" at the Escondido Performing Arts Center.
- ◆ Five students and a staff member went to Bates Nut Farm in Valley Center to enjoy fall festivities.
- ◆ "A Haunting Good Time" was the theme for October as Academy students took in a number of haunted houses around the county: on October 8th, four students and a staff member were spooked at Nightmare on Market Street in downtown San Diego; on October 12th, eight girls and their houseparents had a scary night on the Haunted Trail at Balboa Park; on October 24th, six girls and their houseparents had a frightening good time at the Haunted Hotel in downtown San Diego; and on October 26th, fourteen students and three staff went to Knott's Scary Farm for a frightful evening of haunted houses and wild rides. A Halloween party and dance in the campus Auditorium finished off the spooky month, complete with a haunted house hosted by the scary staff.

Work Readiness and Self Sufficiency...

- ◆ On August 11th, the Youth Empowerment Services (YES) Program hosted an Awards Banquet for participants in the Pre-Employment Traineeship (PET) Program at Mission Bay Park in San Diego. Eleven students were recognized and given awards for successfully completing four weeks of on-the-job training. The worksites for the program were the Academy's Dragon Lounge, J's Culinary Arts (Cyber Cafeteria), Golden Rule Book Bindery and Escondido Humane Society.
- ◆ Opportunity Passport Training, a financial literacy program sponsored by Casey Family Program, took place again on August 18th and 19th, and now meets the enrollment requirements of 22 student participants. As part of the program, students opened checking and savings accounts at Union Bank of California. To date, two alumni students have purchased cars with their savings and matching funds from the Casey Family Program. Seven students are on the waiting list to participate in the program and the long-term goal is to have all Academy students complete the Financial Literacy training.
- ◆ On August 29th, Dan Radojevic, Employment Services Coordinator for the YES Program, presented an update on the Academy to the San Diego Workforce Partnerships' Youth Council. Council members expressed interest in the activities and outcomes of the Academy students.
- ◆ A San Diego Foundation Scholarship Workshop was held on campus on September 22nd to assist students in completing the scholarship application.
- ◆ On September 28th, students received scholarship packets and information on requirement and upcoming deadlines for scholarship opportunities in a workshop in the Career Center.

Work Readiness and Self Sufficiency... cont.

- ◆ A new staff member, **Melissa Delano**, is on board with the YES Program. She is teaching three elective Multi-Media classes, World History and Algebra.
- ◆ The Tech Center SmartLab enhancements, made possible through a Congressionally-directed grant of \$119,040, have enabled several classes to utilize the space simultaneously. Several teachers are regularly bringing their classes to the Lab during the school day to complete projects.
- ◆ The week of October 13th, Academy seniors participated in senior meetings with the County Office of Education, New Alternatives, Inc., Health and Human Services Agency, and YES Program staff to determine their plans after graduation. The plans included setting goals for education and/or vocational training, housing, and employment.
- ◆ The Annual YES Program Career Fair took place on October 18th in the Academy auditorium. Employers, the armed services, vocational programs and colleges were represented at the fair and all Academy students participated in the event.
- ◆ On October 28th, College Connection hosted a tour of California State University, San Marcos and provided information on the college application process and Guardian Scholarship opportunities. New Alternatives, Inc. assisted by hiring a bus to transport 40 students and seven staff to the event.
- ◆ Nineteen students are working both on and off campus in internships and paid employment.
- ◆ The Multi-Media class is creating menus and collages for the Dragon's Lounge, the student run juice bar, which is following the campus lead in offering healthier food options for students.
- ◆ The Career Center is developing workshops to assist students with college and scholarship applications and explorations. Plus, there are extra resources at the Career Center to help both current and alumni students, including California Employment Development Department staff twice a week to assist with employment and work readiness; California Student Opportunity and Access Program (Cal SOAP); and Extended Opportunity Program and Services (EOPS) twice a month to assist students in their pursuit of a post-secondary education.

Health and Wellness...

- ◆ Yoga continues to be well received by the Academy students and is a staple activity at the Health and Wellness Center.
- ◆ Throughout September, the Health Educator, Julie Wilson, was busy engaging the students in numerous activities. She presented Healthy Skin/Sun Protection training to each house and the staff, as well as a Healthy Heart lesson on September 24th in her health class. Other activities include Stress Bingo for Kids, Healthy Relationship Board Game, Healthy Relationship Bingo and "Boozed and Confused," a drinking education/prevention game. The various games are played in the recreation rooms or in the students' homes as part of the campus' continuing education on health and wellness topics.
- ◆ On September 25th, a relaxation/meditation session was offered.
- ◆ Anand Rojani, M.D., from the University of California, San Diego provided a training on substance abuse to eight students on September 27th.
- ◆ Sixteen students are enrolled in a health class. Topics covered in this class include: physical fitness and muscle endurance, stress management, media and health topics, effects of tattooing and body piercing, developing healthy activity plans for self and others, Tai Chi, and drug awareness.
- ◆ Students are beginning to meet individually with the health educator for a nutrition consultation.
- ◆ Two video workshops were held at the Health and Wellness Center: "Osmosis Jones" on October 10th focusing on how unhealthy lifestyle choices affect the body, and "Whale Rider" on October 11th discussing race and gender stereotypes.
- ◆ On October 13th, San Diego Teen Challenge provided a drug abuse prevention performance for 130 students and staff.

Alumni Housing Program...

- ◆ On August 27th, Clear Channel Communication sponsored “Paint Your Heart Out” on campus. Both alumni residents and current Academy students teamed up with over 60 volunteers to paint two of the alumni homes. Frazee Paint donated the painting supplies, and even helped with power washing and preparing the homes for the event.
- ◆ Residents continue to benefit from weekly case management services, and increased collaboration with the San Diego Workforce Partnership and Career Center staff in obtaining employment.
- ◆ Additional transportation services such as ride sharing, a shuttle service, affordable vehicles for residents to purchase and additional driver's training are becoming available to assist residents with their travels to work and school.
- ◆ Sixteen residents were living in the Alumni Housing Program on October 31st.
 - Eleven of the residents are in local colleges, nine are employed, and two are job searching while in college full-time.
 - Five of the residents attend out-of-area colleges full time, but return to the Alumni Housing Program during breaks and on various weekends!
- ◆ On October 19th, the Zonta Club of San Diego donated an array of household items to house #19, which promises to be a well-prepared expansion of housing in the program. Also, Jerome's Furniture is scheduled to donate furnishings for the house.
- ◆ During the Senior Meetings, the majority of the 23 potential graduates expressed interest in utilizing the Alumni Housing Program during their transition into “adulthood.”

San Pasqual Academy Neighbors (An Intergenerational Mentoring Program)...

- ◆ The SPAN grandparents continued with their regular campus activities in August, September and October. These activities included making dessert with the students, having poetry slams and movie nights, teaching art classes and sharing Sunday night dinners with students.
- ◆ **Grandpa Bob** and **Grandpa Jeff** have been working with the students to fix up equipment in the Boys' Recreation Room. Together, the gentlemen have been providing mini maintenance lessons to the students.
- ◆ The SPAN program participated in the Academy orientation at the end of August and invited the students to get involved in the intergenerational activities taking place on campus.
- ◆ In addition to joining the Academy students in cheering on the San Diego Chargers at the September 1st NFL game, SPAN grandparents are consistently on the Dragons' sideline rooting for the football team.
- ◆ Grandparents enjoyed a Labor Day BBQ with the students on the cafeteria patio. The event offered a wonderful opportunity to get to know each student better.
- ◆ On September 9th, nine students came to the birthday celebration held at **Grandma Jean's** house. Three students helped **Grandma Jean** shop for the party supplies and they also helped **Grandmas Kellie** and **Jane** set-up on the day of the party. **Grandma Donna** and **Great Grandma Kellie**, the masterminds behind the successful monthly birthday parties, also bake each birthday boy and girl a brownie cake for their special day
- ◆ **Grandmas Joan, Donna and Kellie** continue to visit one house almost every evening to make desserts such as carrot cake with cream cheese frosting or chocolate covered strawberries, and to touch base with all the kids. **Grandpa Howard** and **Grandma Jackie** also hosted a recent Sunday seafood dinner for Academy staff.
- ◆ **Grandma Joan** is responsible for personally making and helping the students create over 250 throw pillows this past year! She states, “A pillow or two gives them [kids] comfort.” **Grandma Joan** also provides an ear to listen, an understanding spirit and a loving hug when needed.
- ◆ **Grandpa Bob** continues to open up the recreation room every night for the kids to have some fun at the end of the day.



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

Go Dragons!