



# San Pasqual Academy

## Bulletin

As of April 15, 131 youth are living and studying at the Academy.

### School Days...

- ◆ The Second Quarter School Awards ceremony was held in February, recognizing 13 students for outstanding citizenship, 24 students for achieving a GPA between 3.0 - 3.4, 17 students for achieving a GPA between 3.5 - 3.9, and two students for earning a GPA of 4.0.
- ◆ As part of the Ready-to-Learn program, eight Academy students attended a weekend peer mentoring camp at Camp Fox on Palomar Mountain. Three of the eight students served as peer resource leaders and led other students from around the county in some of the weekend activities.
- ◆ Students continue to participate in the Lindamood-Bell Literacy Program on campus. Students have demonstrated gains in their reading ability, as well as in their overall grade point averages.
- ◆ The Helen Woodward Animal Center brought a pair of instructors and several types of critters, including dogs, guinea pigs, and a collection of reptiles, to deliver a day of instruction to the school's science classes.
- ◆ The entire student body attended a school assembly March 7 to learn more about the consequences of drunken driving from the National Chapter of Mothers Against Drunk Drivers (MADD). In addition, Anytime Towing of Poway donated a crashed sports car to the campus for several days prior to the presentation to reinforce the negative impact of drinking and driving.

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

Students are busy preparing multi-media work to submit to the San Diego County Fair. There will be approximately 50 entries from the Academy this year. Academy students have fared exceptionally well in prior years, capturing a record number of Blue Ribbons as well as first, second, and third place awards in the art and multi-media categories.

- ◆ The Girls' Varsity basketball team finished the season with a 15-7 record, and the Boys' Varsity basketball team finished with a 14-9 record. Both teams made it to the quarterfinals, and placed second overall in the Citrus League. Another stellar season for our Dragon athletes!
- ◆ The Friends of San Pasqual Academy sponsored the Dragons' Sports Banquet at the Del Mar Hilton on March 21. Students were recognized and honored for their athletic abilities and sportsmanship in football, Girls' volleyball, Girls' basketball and Boys' basketball, as well as the Cheer Squad. Two jerseys (both #30) were retired during the banquet to celebrate the outstanding contributions made by **Diondre G.** in football and **Natasha H.** in Girls' basketball.
- ◆ The spring sports season is underway as both the Girls' softball and Boys' volleyball teams have started league play. Both teams are looking forward to continuing the Dragon tradition of academic and athletic excellence!

### Residential Information...

- ◆ New Alternatives, Inc. awarded Barnes and Nobles gift cards, dinner trips, and outings to Southern California amusement parks to certain homes with scholastic achievements such as the highest overall GPA, the fewest missing assignments, etc.
- ◆ Food Services Manager, **Johnny Elison**, and four Academy students attended the annual Food Show in Del Mar. The show, hosted by food services providers, allowed students to observe food preparation demonstrations, learn about menu creation, and sample food items.
- ◆ **Greg Bailey**, one of the house parents and a former Theater Arts major in college, has started a weekly drama group on campus. The students have expressed tremendous enthusiasm about the addition of this activity. A production is sure to follow in the near future!
- ◆ Academy students enjoyed numerous outings in March. Among the activities, students attended an illusion show (March 4), visited Disneyland (March 5), viewed a movie at the IMAX Theatre (March 12), and attended the Reptile Show at the Del Mar Fairgrounds (March 12).
- ◆ A new Program Director, **John Scholte**, is overseeing the intergenerational mentoring program, known as the San Pasqual Academy Neighbors (SPAN) Program. Mr. Scholte brings a wealth of knowledge and experience to the position.
- ◆ In March, Mr. Scholte began his new position by hosting a dinner for all campus mentors to learn more about their experiences on the campus and their feelings about the program. Later in the month, he hosted a dinner for community mentors who are interested in getting involved with SPAN or who want to reconnect with the program.
- ◆ Evening activities such as sewing, cooking, pool, ping-pong, shuffleboard, poetry readings, and watching movies continue to bring together the SPAN volunteers and Academy students. Mr. Scholte describes the intergenerational activities taking place as a "very normal and natural part of Academy life."

## Work Readiness and Self-Sufficiency...

- ◆ Through the YES! program, students participated in a number of workshops in February. FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) Application and Essay Writing workshop (Feb. 2); Income Tax Workshop offered by the Controller from ACCESS, Inc. (Feb. 9); CAPF (Child Abuse Prevention Foundation) Scholarship Workshop (Feb. 16); and CAPF Scholarship, Cal Grant and FAFSA workshop (Feb. 23).
- ◆ Students interested in music and guitars were offered a tour of Taylor Guitar Factory in El Cajon on Feb. 23. The students learned how guitars are made, the history of this successful local business, and the various jobs and careers associated with the factory.
- ◆ On Feb. 24, 25 students, including some Alumni students, attended the all day Mira Costa College tour in Oceanside. The tour was held specifically for foster youth, and exposed the students to various areas of study on campus, including mechanics, cosmetology, culinary arts, and theater, and introduced them to staff from the Admissions and Financial Aid departments.
- ◆ Students are continuing to attend senior conferences in which every senior meets individually with staff from the school, New Alternatives, HHSa, and the YES! program to discuss progress and goals of their senior year.
- ◆ Three students attended the Wild Animal Park Job Fair on March 1, and all three were hired for weekend shifts in the Merchandising department.
- ◆ **Mark Bealo**, a Multimedia instructor at Palomar College, spoke to 12 students after school on March 16, to discuss career opportunities in the multimedia field.
- ◆ Sixteen students participated in the Child Abuse Prevention Foundation Scholarship workshop on March 25, and submitted completed applications to the Foundation for consideration.
- ◆ On March 29, 17 seniors and alumni residents attended the Opportunity Passport orientation to learn about this financial literacy program that offers students a dollar for dollar match for money put into a savings account up to \$1,000 per year for three years.
- ◆ With April deadlines approaching, students attended a CHAD (Character, Honor, Academics and Determination) and Orphan Foundation Scholarship workshop to receive assistance completing the necessary applications. All seniors were encouraged to complete both scholarship applications for consideration.

## Health and Wellness Center...

- ◆ The Center for Community Solutions offered three separate Healthy Relationships trainings on campus through the Health and Wellness Center. A total of 60 students attended the sessions.
- ◆ Welcome aboard! **Brooke Plooy** has been hired as the Sulpizio Health and Wellness Center's new Health Educator and Recreation Therapist. Ms. Plooy will coordinate structured cardiovascular activities and stress management workouts for the students. She will also assist in developing Optimal Life plans with the students.
- ◆ Eighty-four students returned surveys to the Health and Wellness Center by March 7 in response to future gardening projects on campus. The survey results will be used to modify the food served in the Cyber Café and in the homes. Students indicated that they would like to see lower fat salad dressings, more whole fruits as snacks, and more vegetarian entrees.
- ◆ The Healthy Cooking seminar kicked off on March 9 with two students learning how to make low fat pizzas. SPAN volunteer, Grandma Jackie, partnered with the Health and Wellness Center to help with this health education campaign. Future seminars are in the planning stages.

- ◆ Several ongoing activities are being offered by the Health and Wellness Center: one-mile walks around campus every Thursday afternoon with Health Educator, Ms. Plooy (5 students participating), Friday night health-related movies (for example, Super Size Me) and healthy snacks in the recreation rooms (15 students participating), Hip Hop Dance in the Assembly Hall every Thursday night 5 students participating), and Frisbee Football every Saturday afternoon (10 students participating).
- ◆ The Health and Wellness Center was further outfitted with furniture and medical exam room equipment in March.
- ◆ **Dr. Robert Ross** and **Olga Canon** with the California Endowment visited the campus on March 16. The Academy received a generous grant from the California Endowment earlier in the year to assist with the Center's program development.

### Alumni Housing Program...

- ◆ Five Academy graduates are currently living at the Alumni Housing program on campus. Orientations for the Alumni Housing program are being held the first Wednesday of every month to educate and prepare interested Academy students for the program and transitional living.
- ◆ Alumni residents have been able to utilize resources such as tax preparation, resume development, job leads, and "out of school" internships offered through the YES! program.
- ◆ A new residential advisor with foster care experience and a new case manager with residential care experience have joined the Alumni Housing staff.

### Community Involvement...

- ◆ Six students were invited to participate in a focus group with Palomar-Pomerado Hospital to discuss future internship opportunities with hospital administration. As part of the focus group, the students were given a comprehensive tour of the hospital, and learned about several of the hospital departments and associated career opportunities.
- ◆ Calvary Christian Church provided a free concert on campus on Feb. 25.
- ◆ In February, New Alternatives' program staff joined Girls' House #6 to enjoy the musical production of "Beauty and the Beast" and Girls' House #8 to experience the high energy hit, "STOMP" in downtown San Diego. "STOMP" was such a big hit, that in March, SPAN volunteers, Donna and Kellie, treated residents from Girls' House #7 to dinner and this unique performance.