

### **St. Martin de Porres Begins Year Four**

On September 3, 2008, St. Martin de Porres Academy welcomed twenty-one new students. With our first graduating class of eighteen students in place, we have fulfilled the dream envisioned more than five years ago. In addition to the new students, we welcomed four new Teaching NDMV Fellows, a new art teacher, Ms. O'Leary as our first assistant principal, and a new chef. We are anticipating a wonderfully rewarding and successful year.



### **United Way Day of Caring- Pearce Realty Cares Big Time!**

On September 18, the Hill district of New Haven was the scene of a massive invasion of stalwart volunteers armed with paint brushes, paint, pads and paper, all to benefit St. Martin de Porres Academy. Pearce Real Estate is celebrating its fiftieth anniversary and chose our school as its focus for participation in the Greater New Haven United Way's Day of Caring. We are most grateful for their help. The change in the cafeteria was immediately noted by the kids upon their return the next day. It's brighter, cleaner, and feels as if we are eating in a REAL café.

The event required extensive planning and collaboration. Special thanks are due to Barbara Pearce, president of Pearce Real Estate and a member of SMPA Board of Trustees, Mike Dowley, Paul Morris and Kitty Champlin for making this day possible.



### **First Term Progress Reports Mailed**

Families should have received first term progress reports this past week. These interim reports are sent to alert students and families to progress mid-way through first term. First term closes on November 7 which gives students an opportunity to complete missing assignments and improve, if necessary, their grade. One important note: Community service is required of all students and is a critical component of their Religion grade. All community service slips must be signed and returned to their teacher prior to November 7. Service to others is one of the founding principles of SMPA.



## Let the Music Begin!

This past weekend, twelve of our students qualified for participation in the FMI Regional Band. Several of these young people are in their second tour with this band and, we hope, will proceed to participate in the FMI Concert or Symphony Band in March. Our representatives are: Alexandria Doyles , Cherry Grear, and Tabytha Longway on clarinet, Maria Gant, Chanttal Cabral and Drew May on flute, Timothy Hutchinson and DeAndre Handley on trombone, Myeshia Brumell on saxophone, Kahdeem Cohens on French horn, and Javier Stephens and Philip Morrison on trumpet. Philip Morrison earned first chair in the trumpet section, as did Timothy and Kahdeem.

You can hear the concert on October 25 at St. Aedan School. Come and enjoy the concert.

## Class of 2017 Elects Class Officers

The first class to graduate from St. Martin de Porres Academy has already begun preparations for their graduation and end-of-the-year activities. First on the agenda was their election of class officers. During English class, nominees presented their cases for election, and voting proceeded the next day.

Congratulations to the following officers:

President: Alexandria Doyles

Vice-President: Ki'Yonta Stevenson

Secretary: Kahdeem Cohens

Treasurer: Chanttal Cabral

Yearbook Editor: Myeshia Brumell

## SMPA School Store Opens Thursday, October 23

The SMPA School Store will open next week for the first time. The store will be located on the cafeteria level and will be open three days a week during breakfast and lunch. In addition there will be a branch on the second and the third floor open during morning recess. Under the management of the Class of 2017, the profits will be used to fund the end-of-the-year activities of their class. The class has to earn in excess of \$1200 and the school store will be a piece of that profit. Store managers are Branden Rose and Timothy Hutchinson.

Students will be able to purchase pencils, pens, rulers, erasers, paper and necessary school supplies at reasonable cost. In addition there will be novelty items for sale. Candy will not be sold at the store.



## Science Olympics Held at Lauralton Hall

On September 27, a group of our young women participated in the Science Olympics held at Lauralton Hall. Our team competed with students from other schools in the region on various science projects. Organized by Ms. O'Leary and Ms. Rivera the girls had a great time. Those students participating were Asia Barnes, Myeshia Brumell, Chanttal Cabral, Alexandria Doyles, Maria Gant, Madijah Gant, Cheyenne Hedley, and Kirstin Vega



### **School Pictures: October 23**

Donner Photography will be making its annual visit to St. Martin de Porres Academy on October 23 for school pictures. Students will wear their academic uniforms. Families should have already received a package from Donner Photography and the envelope should be brought to school with payment on Picture Day. It should be noted that these are the pictures that will be used in our school yearbook. Absentees will be able to be photographed on a make-up day yet to be announced.



### **Harvest Fest Celebration: October 31**

The afternoon of October 31 will see SMPA transformed into a party place! Under the direction of Mr. Eloi, Mr. MacDonald and Mr. Daley our students will celebrate the fall harvest by building a cardboard community and decorating the doors of their advisors rooms. We will be inviting the Pre-K to join us as we visit the SMPA Cardboard Community and participate in a series of crafty fun activities .

### **Meet The Teaching Fellows**

We have welcomed four new Notre Dame Mission Volunteer Fellows this year to our staff. Each has brought a wealth of talent to share with our young people. Here is a short profile of each of our new teachers:

Mr. Stephen MacDonald is a native of Derry, New Hampshire and a 2007 graduate of St. Anselm College. Mr. MacDonald comes to our profession from a family of teachers – his grandfather is a former superintendent of schools. His teaching assignments are sixth grade Ancient History classes and eighth grade American history.

Mr. Joseph Daley is a 2008 graduate of the University of Connecticut and a resident of East Haven. Mr. Daley has been involved as a basketball coach for middle school boys as a volunteer while in college. He will be our varsity basketball coach and teaches fifth and sixth grade science and 8<sup>th</sup> grade English with Ms. Kaye.

Mr. Kameron Isaacs is a 2008 graduate of Boston College and comes to St. Martin de Porres Academy after a stint as a substitute teacher. Mr. Isaacs was an honored lacrosse and soccer player in high school and teaches our Algebra and Advanced Literature classes and 7<sup>th</sup> grade English.

Ms. Michelle Kaye is a 2007 graduate of Hampshire College and worked in the publishing industry for a year before deciding to teach at SMPA. Ms. Kaye is interested in writing and is the advisor to our school newspaper and drama club. She teaches 6<sup>th</sup> grade girls English, 8<sup>th</sup> grade History, and 8<sup>th</sup> grade English.

We are most fortunate to have such an accomplished staff working with our youngsters! Please make them feel welcome.

## **Parent Forum: Wednesday, November 5**

The monthly Parent Forum will again meet on Wednesday, November 5. Our first meeting attracted more than thirty parents! This is a great opportunity for everyone to meet in a relaxed atmosphere and share ideas and concerns with each other and the administration. The families decided that future meetings would start at 5p.m. Please mark your calendars and try to join us.

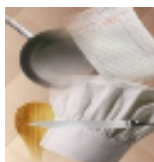
**An important note to families of the Class of 2017.....there will be special meeting for the families of eighth graders following the Parent Forum to discuss the end-of-the-year activities. There are preliminary arrangements being made and we would like to be sure that everyone is in agreement with the tentative plans for graduation and the other activities planned for this very important time.**



### **Basketball Team Begins Practice for Season**

After our first season fielding a varsity team, we are anticipating a strong second year with seven returning varsity players. Under the leadership of Coach Daley, twelve boys have made the team with two alternates. The boys have been practicing on the playground, but will soon move to the John Daniels gymnasium. Watching them do suicides and layups, their physical fitness should not be a problem!

Captains selected for their effort, leadership, and determination are eighth grader, Branden Rose and fifth grader, Patrick Moyer. Congratulations! Those young men who will wear the blue and green for the SMPA Eagles are: Joshua Blumell, Karim-Abdul Cisse, Nico Clarke, Kahdeem Cohens, DeAndre Handley, Xavier Hernandez, Timothy Hutchinson, Malik Joyner, Philip Morrison, Jaelin Robinson, Trevonne Rose and Ezequiel Velazquez. Good luck!



### **Welcome Mrs. Levine!**

Have you heard the rave reviews for our new chef? The cafeteria has been opened up and painted to make it a more inviting place. Complete with tablecloths, silverware, and plates, it resembles the café atmosphere we had originally imagined. The buffet-style service has facilitated a more convenient and speedy service with the help of Ms. Diaz and Mr. MacDonald. The coup de gras though is the wonderful varied menu presented by Mrs. Levine. Whether its meatloaf, lasagna, Chinese, quesadillas, or hamburgers – we've feasted on them all. Mrs. Levine comes to us from wide experience in the restaurant business and it's obvious that she is an expert. Wish we could cook at home like this!

### **Ms. Rivera Helps Eighth Graders With High School Search**

This is a busy time for Ms. Rivera as she helps our eighth graders and their families prepare for high school. At a meeting in September, Ms. Rivera presented the many options available to our young people. She explained that for the next few months they should be attending open houses, selecting the schools at which they were most comfortable – academically and socially, and her role in helping them secure financial assistance and admission. We have been visited by Notre Dame High School, Sacred Heart Academy, Luralton Hall, Mercy High School, Fairfield Prep, Xavier High School, Hopkins, Canterbury, and Westover and the director of the New Haven magnet school program. Ms. Rivera will guide our students and their families through this most important next step towards graduation in 2017!



## **Field Hockey Is a Winning Sport at SMPA!**

Field Hockey arrived at SMPA this fall and has been an instant hit with our young women. Traditionally a popular sport with high schools, we have been fortunate to have the expertise of Coach Elrick who has given her time to introduce this sport at SMPA. Every Tuesday and Thursday you can see the hockey sticks, mouth guards and shin guards come out of the lockers as the girls head off to practice. Recently the team went on a field trip to watch an actual game at North Branford. Maybe next year we'll be traveling to see some of our own graduates play at their high school!

A special thank you to Coach Elrick who volunteered after working with our fifth graders in our summer program at Albertus Magnus. An experienced teacher and avid field hockey fan, we can't say thank you enough.



## **Volunteers of the Year Honored by Archdiocese of Hartford**

Each year the Archdiocese of Hartford honor volunteers who have contributed their time and energies to parochial and independent Catholic schools. Through their efforts, schools are able to offer their students the varied activities and resources that would otherwise be financially impossible. This year St. Martin de Porres recognized the efforts of Mrs. Nancy Harold and Mr. Ken Fellows.

Mr. Fellows began his volunteer work last fall as a tutor for one of our students. Originally he was to work one or two mornings a week, but quickly it became an avocation and Mr. Fellows has come to school every morning and every afternoon throughout the school year to work with that student. An amazing commitment to that lucky student and our school!

Mrs. Nancy Harold began her involvement at St. Martin de Porres Academy as a visitor at one of our open houses. She quickly became someone who could get things done. She was able to secure the lockers for our students and had them installed for us. She organized the First Tee program for our students and chaperoned them throughout the summer and hosted a three hole golf tournament this summer topped off with a swimming party at her home. We have come to know that if you want something done efficiently and quickly – call Mrs. Harold.

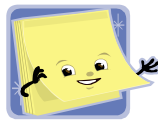
Our school could not function without volunteers and these two people represent more than a hundred volunteers who work at our school in one year. Our families, students, and staff are most grateful for their service.



## Third Annual Golf Fore Kids

On Tuesday, October 14 the supporters of St. Martin de Porres Academy joined together to swing the golf clubs to benefit the students at SMPA. Held at the Woodbridge Country Club, the event had been rescheduled from a September rainout. The goal was to raise \$30,000 to meet the needs of running the school. In these difficult economic times, we are most grateful for their help.

Several SMPA students greeted the guests at tee time. They are participants in the First Tee program: Alexandria Doyles, Karim Cisse, Mishell Manrique, Nico Clarke and Ezequiel Velazquez and have been learning the golf game as part of our cocurricular program. Under the watchful eyes of Mrs. Nancy Harold, Mr. Daley and Mr. Surowiecki, the kids have been learning the game every Wednesday at Allings Golf Club in New Haven.



## Dates to Remember

October 23	School Picture Day – academic uniforms required
October 25	FMI Regional Band Concert at St. Aedan School – 2 p.m.
October 31	Harvest Fest for students
November 4	No School – Election Day – Teacher Workshop <b><u>Don't forget to vote!!</u></b>
November 5	Parent Forum @ 5 p.m. followed by meeting of 8 <sup>th</sup> grade parents
November 7	First Term grades close
November 11	No School – Veterans Day
November 18,19,20	Report Card conferences by appointment
November 20	SMPA Thanksgiving Feast & Honors Awards Ceremony for First Term @ 6 p. All families invited!
November 26,27, 28	Thanksgiving Recess
<b>December 18</b>	<b>Christmas Concert and Nativity Presentation (<u>mandatory attendance of all students</u>)</b>
Dec. 22	Christmas and New Year Recess begins
January 5	School resumes



## SMPA Code of Honor

*"I am a child of God. I will be truthful, honest and respectful. I will work to the best of my abilities to develop the talents that God has given me. I will endeavor to share my gifts and talents to make my family, my school, and my community a place of justice and peace."*

Mr. Bories, Mrs. Surowiecki, Ms. Rivera, Ms. O'Leary, Mrs. Champlin, Mrs. Baloga, Mr. Daley, Ms. Diaz, Mrs. D'Uso, Ms. Edmundson, Mr. Elai, Sr. Louise Finn, Mrs. Gargoda, Mr. Isaacs, Ms. Kaye, Mrs. Levine, Mr. MacDonald, Mr. Marrero, Mr. Messina, Mrs. Moore, Mrs. Peters, Mr. Santos, Ms. Seethaler, Mrs. Swift, Mr. Velazquez,