

San Miguel School

PROVIDENCE

LASALLIAN EDUCATION
Transforming Lives Since 1680



San Miguel News

Fall/Winter 2016

Developing the Next Generation of Lasallian Leaders

The three San Miguel Schools in the District of Eastern North America (DENA) gathered on September 30th to attend an inaugural Lasallian Student Leadership Conference at the Marriott Providence Downtown, Rhode Island.

Thirty-four students and graduates from the San Miguel DENA middle schools from Rhode Island, New York, and Pennsylvania, participated in this three-day conference. The seven adults who attended included school principals and teachers.

The conference was made possible by a grant with the goal to provide Lasallian students with leadership development skills in ethics, decision-making, role modeling, conflict resolution and public speaking—just to name a few of the many topics students discussed.

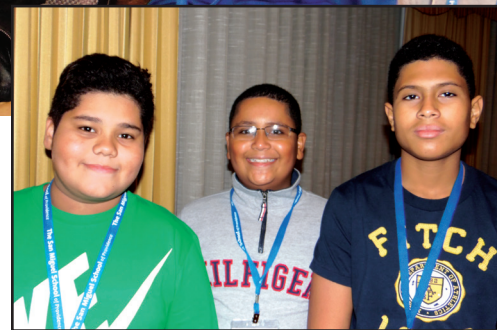
Students worked together to report solutions and make recommendations that they will bring back to their communities, but they had fun too! They swam in the hotel pool, went bowling, toured the San Miguel School of Providence, and attended Mass at St. Ann's Church. For many of the students, this trip was their first experience staying in a hotel.



They formed lasting friendships and will continue the conversations held at the conference via Skype.

San Miguel Students Making History

Gregory Cabrera and Santiago Vera Nicola, San Miguel School graduates from the class of 2012, are the first graduates to continue their education at a Lasallian college! They have been accepted into the class of 2020 at La Salle University, a Catholic college based in Philadelphia.



We are very proud of their accomplishments and hard work.

-Continued on back

Save the date!
12th Annual Gala
4.7.17



Many Hands Make Light Work

Teamwork makes the dream work; and you can witness that concept in action in our community among our teachers, staff, volunteers, and Board of Directors. We are grateful for their devotion and dedication to embody our mission of being servants to our students.

Meet our New Staff and Board Members

We have some friendly new faces in the mix kicking off San Miguel's 2016-2017 academic year.

Some of you may already know **Tom Darnowski**, our Lasallian Volunteer for the past two years. We are blessed that Tom has joined our teaching staff as the full-time *Science Teacher*. He will continue to serve as the Adult Mentor coordinator and co-coach the soccer/baseball teams.

Victor Terry began working at San Miguel over the summer as the *6th Grade Teacher* along with

Melissa Serna, *School Administrative Assistant*.

The Office of Development welcomed **Vangy Auclair**, *Director of Development & Strategic Partnerships*, in early July; and **Kimberly Martel**, *Development & Communications Associate*, joined the team in August.

We have also welcomed two new members to our Board of Directors:

Robert McMahon; and **Irving Ogando**, *SMS Class of 2003*

Welcome, all! We are incredibly fortunate to have you join us as members of the ever-growing San Miguel community.



Top photo (l-r), Back: Kimberly Martel, Tom Darnowski, Victor Terry; Front (l-r): Melissa Serna, Vangy Auclair

Bottom photos (l-r): Robert McMahon; Irving Ogando '03 San Miguel's first alum to join the Board of Directors.



12th Annual Gala: Save the Date

Please be sure to mark your calendars for the 12th Annual San Miguel School Gala event: **Friday, April 7th** (5:30pm start-time) at **The Pawtucket Armory Arts Center!**

Because we seek to serve those most in need, less than 4% of our annual operating budget comes from tuition. Supporting this event gives each boy the opportunity to reach his

goals through a quality education at San Miguel School. Please join us for what promises to be another incredible evening!

For more information on sponsorship giving levels, ticket purchases, or to make cash or auction donations, please contact Matt Kavanagh at mkavanagh@sanmiguelprov.org or 401-467-9777 x118.

Did you know? **31%** of annual giving occurs in the month of December

A Real “Major” Leaguer

Patrick Major, Jr. is a role model to the boys of San Miguel. First arriving as a timid fifth grade student, he is now slated to graduate in June with confidence.

According to Patrick, (*shown right, keeping track of the stats*), his position as Head Sports Reporter helped cultivate this positive disposition.

Starting in sixth grade, he began to manage the soccer, basketball, and baseball teams. Not only did this involve attending each and every game —

keeping track of statistics, scores, and equipment — but also acting as a source of support for his San Miguel brothers in and out of the classroom. Patrick describes his favorite quality of this position as, “the ability to help players through tough times.”

As Patrick prepares for graduation, he is conducting an interview process for the perfect student to carry the torch. He is looking for someone both knowledgeable of sports and responsible, with an ability to improvise. “He



will be put on the spot a lot,” he explains.

Patrick has given his peers a great example to model

themselves after. As one Miguel Man steps down, we wait in anticipation for the next one to step up.



2016 Golf team pictured , l-r, Yeivin, Octavio, Patrick, Anderson, Jackson, and Johansel

Another Hole-in-One Success

The sun was shining for another phenomenal day at **Triggs Memorial Golf Course** where the 10th Annual San Miguel School Golf Tournament was held on September 23, 2016.

This year’s tournament raised **more than \$60,000** to support student scholarships at San Miguel!

Kudos and thanks to all sponsors, players, donors, and our Tournament Planning Committee for making the tournament a major event. Special thanks goes to event sponsors: **Cavanagh Company, Delta Dental of Rhode Island, and Weybosset Research & Management, LLC** for the critical roles they play in making our tournament such a huge success.

Turning Gold

Our precious school facility, serving as a haven of excellent education, is turning 50 years old next year. Like any property, it requires constant upkeep, care, and attention.

The building is calling for attention with its windows, bathrooms, outdoor gates, and security systems required to keep the building safe and one that we call home.

To learn how you can support us in keeping our facility safe and progressive in its design, contact Anne Newquist at anewquist@sanmiguelprov.org.

Did you know? Our longest tenured mentor, Bill Rogers, has donated more than **2,000** hours over a period of **15** years.

Education: Food for the Soul

Nelson Mandela said, “Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world.” Carol Peterson, one of San Miguel’s treasured donors, is doing just that with her support of San Miguel School’s Teaching Kitchen.

Carol has a longstanding history with San Miguel as a board member. Currently, her commitment extends to being a Student Sponsor as well as serving as a member of the Development Committee and an invaluable resource for consultation on fundraising and human resource matters.

Through her partnership with Providence’s renown Chef Walter Potenza, she has donated after-school

cooking classes at the Chef Walters Cooking School, located on Atwells Avenue in Providence. Students who participated in the classes were transported to his school to be introduced to a new world. They learned how to handle a chef’s knife while cutting vegetables and were introduced to a variety of proteins. But, more importantly they learned the value of healthy eating and life skills that they can carry into their everyday lives. In fact, one of our students was complimented on his handling of a chef’s knife and responded, “I help my mother prepare meals every day.”

After these experiences, Carol decided that her



Carol Peterson with her Student Sponsor, Joseph ‘17.

commitment to San Miguel would include a renovation of our school kitchen so that cooking classes would become available at our school. Teaching San Miguel students about cooking also gives them an opportunity to develop applied skills in math, science, and art. The Green Team—our Garden Club—will look forward to Spring planting that will surely help our community and

this program.

The kitchen renovation project is underway, and we look forward an Open House in the months to follow.

Carol is a champion and advocate for children’s causes. San Miguel School is indebted to her for her investment in our boys. She exemplifies the notion that changing the world is possible: one child at a time.



Creating Art in the Park

On September 17th, art teacher **Eloise Mahoney** set out to the *Alex and Ani City Center* with six of our students to get creative.

Every year, the **Providence Rotary** organizes a street painting festival that attracts a wide variety of artists with different levels of experience. Participants in the event have the option of working within four or eight foot squares of space, which are donated by sponsors of the Rotary Club’s annual fundraiser.

This generous act of giving is contagious, and inspired San Miguel donor and Rotarian, **Bob Murphy**, to donate two squares.

Though our students may have been some of the youngest participants out on the rink that afternoon, they were able to make their space shine. Through the use of vibrant colors and intricate designs, the San Miguel boys made the dull concrete come to life!

Did you know?

93%

of our students
are high school
graduates



Mentors Nurturing our Boys

Mentoring is a great way to express support and shape the development of students so they can be the best and the most they can be. In the articles that follow, we hope that you will admire the gifts of time that mentors offer San Miguel so that our boys can mature to be model young men.

Even Kids Can Be Mentors

An essential quality of a Miguel Man is to be responsible and reflective of one's words and actions.

Our student peer mentor program plays an important role in developing this admirable characteristic. Each 5th grade student that enters San Miguel is paired with an 8th grade mentor. The elder student acts as a source of guidance by helping his mentee become acclimated to the school culture, values, behaviors, and expectations of our community. They have lunch together, and even take recess together. Some could say that they are connected at the hip!

In order to gain insight into this unique relationship, 5th grade student **Brandon Gaines** was interviewed along with his 8th grade mentor, **Evan Connor** (*top left picture, l-r*). When we asked Brandon how he felt before entering this program, he said, "Although I was nervous and scared about what to expect, I knew that I would benefit from my mentee's teachings of discipline."

Evan shared the lessons he learned from his mentor three years ago. He explains, "My 8th grade mentor taught me to learn from my mistakes, to always keep my head up high, and to do the right thing."

When asked about his friendship with Evan, Brandon revealed, "He's funny... he's *really, really, really* smart, and he cares about me. Evan tells me that some things that have happened to me have also happened to him, and he prepares me for the consequences of my actions."

Evan believes that his experience of being a mentor has prepared him to be a leader and role model.

Medical Students Dedicated to Community Service

Brown University's Alpert Medical School, based in Providence, invites medical students to participate in a service-centered elective, entitled "San Miguel Project."



Compared to other medical schools in the country, Brown leads in the number of hours they volunteer to the community.

Now in our second year of partnership, medical students have been providing students with weekly after-school tutoring, helping them to close the gap in their academic studies. The project elective was inspired by current medical student, **David Karambizi** (*shown top center*), who attended a faith-based middle school and wanted to 'pay it forward' by helping children. David, along

with fellow Brown medical students **Deanna Nardella** and **Ella Sorscher**, co-lead this innovative program with passion and dedication.

In early 2017, Brown medical students have plans to host a science class at the Alpert Medical School, where the boys will be able to see a human organ.

Kids need Mentors and Mentors need Kids

"Lunch isn't just a time for students to eat. It's a time to play games, laugh, and receive support from adult mentors," says Geo '17 pictured above right with his mentor, Ashley. "Everyone wins from this relationship of give and take."

Each week, mentors commit to spending one hour with San Miguel students to serve as role models in helping to shape bright futures in school, home, and life. You can feel the room ignite with energy and enthusiasm when our adult mentors arrive.

San Miguel is a member of the Affiliate Program with the Rhode Island Mentoring Partnership.

To learn more about becoming a mentor, contact Tom Darnowski at tdarnowski@sanmiguelprov.org or 401-467-9777 x131.



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Jack Walsh

Alan Weyland

This newsletter is published by the Office of Development staff.

For more information, contact Vangy Auclair, Director of Development & Strategic Partnerships at 401-467-9777 x117.

Ways You Can Help

Thank you for the gifts you bestow on San Miguel School. Whether it is a gift of time, treasure, or talent, we are grateful for your support. It is your unwavering dedication that allows us to transform the lives of our boys to provide them with high-quality education and a pathway void of poverty. Here are some of the many ways that you can consider being a part of our mission:

- **Volunteer.** We need all types of support, such as answering phones, helping with mailings, aiding with daily student dismissal, or serving on an event committee.

- Support our **Annual Fund** with a cash, check, or stock donation. Please consider a charitable donation before the close of 2016.

- Impact a Student's Life. By **becoming a Student Sponsor**, you will have a personal connection with a student to learn about his goals and academic achievements through hand-written letters. Sponsorships are available at a variety of giving levels.

- Be a **Mentor.** We are always looking for mentors to donate a weekly lunch hour.

- In lieu of gifts, **select San Miguel as the beneficiary of a gift** being made in honor or in memory of an individual.

- **Visit us.** Receive a school tour guided by our students and experience our Morning Assembly.

- **Host a home party or fundraising event** to benefit San Miguel School.

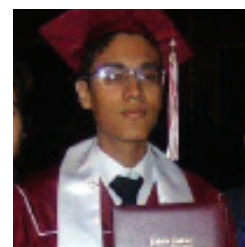
- Consider a **Leadership Gift of \$1,000** or more and receive an invitation to our Annual Leadership Dinner.

- Plan a **Legacy gift** by designating San Miguel School in your estate planning.

For more information, please contact Vangy Auclair at 401-467-9777 x117.

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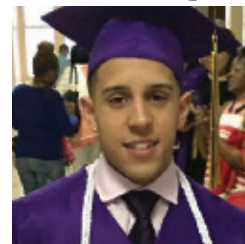
Santiago, who is majoring in Integrated Business Science and Technology, credits



San Miguel for giving him the fundamental tools to complete any given task. He recently said, "My Lasallian education has instilled in me an attitude of

being humble as well as one of gratitude. Success is being able to give back to those who have helped me on my path."

Gregory is majoring in International Business and is aspiring to be an international



business entrepreneur within a Fortune 500 company. He credits his Lasallian San Miguel education as the basis of instilling the importance and

value of education. "From every parent-teacher conference to receiving honor roll, I learned that with hard work and consistency



anything can be achieved."

We wish Santiago and Gregory all the best in their journey in school and life. You are true Miguel Men!

Mark Your Calendar!

2016

December 9. Awards Luncheon

2017

January. National Mentoring Month

February. Valentine's Day Event

March 24. Awards Luncheon

April 7. Annual Gala Event

May 1-5. Teacher Appreciation Week

June 9. Graduation

The San Miguel School of PROVIDENCE

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Front cover masthead image: Our Green Team harvested their crops from our garden.