

Turn to the back page to read all about our ROBOTICS program and learn how team "GOATS" is excelling in and out of the classroom!



San Miguel News

Winter/Spring 2017

Welcome Home, John Wolf!

While school homecomings are traditionally held in the fall, here at San Miguel we are celebrating a special homecoming during this season of rebirth and renewal. We are thrilled to announce **John Wolf**, former San Miguel educator, as our new Executive Director. John began his teaching career at San Miguel 20 years ago.

He brings knowledge of our culture, a commitment to our values, and most importantly, a passion for our mission, to his new role.

John graduated from the U.S. Naval Academy in 1989 and earned a Masters of Education in Administration from Providence College in 2014. John has dedicated his career



Above: Board Chair, Polly Chatterton Handy, with John Wolf, enjoying the boys' dance performance at this year's Annual Gala.



Left: John with students during early SMS years.

to urban education and it is very compelling to see him return to his educational roots in this important leadership position. He was previously the Executive Director of The Button Hole Junior Golf Course

and Teaching Facility. Most recently, John has served as a teacher and administrator at Highlander Charter School in Warren, Rhode Island.

"I am incredibly excited to be returning to work with the Miguel Men. There is miraculous work being done here."

— John Wolf

Even though John's official start date is July 1, he will be spending several afternoons a week prior to this date becoming acquainted with our boys, faculty, and staff. Please join us in welcoming John to our San Miguel family.

Earning for Eritrea

Every year, the San Miguel School participates in what is known as the Lasallian Regional Twinning Program. Lasallian schools across the USA raise money and awareness for our Lasallian ministries in Africa. Each Lenten Season, our students participate in a brotherly competition to see which grade can raise the most money for The Nativity School, our twin school in Eritrea. This year we are proud to announce that our school raised nearly \$2,000 to help these boys and girls receive an education. A big congratulations goes out to the 5th grade class who won this year's competition with a total of \$319!



The Spirit of Giving



Christmas is a time of joy. It is a season of giving, as well as receiving. While much of the world begins to speed up during this time, here in the Lasallian world, we ask our boys to slow down. We slow down to reflect, and we reflect to become appreciative for all of the people who give value to our lives. The spirit of giving unites us as community during the winter months, and through the generosity of others so many of our favorite Christmas traditions have come to be.

PC Santa Shop

Each year, members of Providence College's honor society, DIRIGO, host an event called **Santa Shop**. Prior to the event, students dedicate their time to fundraising around campus in order to purchase a wide variety of gifts for our boys. Once these gifts have been collected, families of San Miguel are invited to go pick out Christmas gifts for their Miguel Men.



This year, our Development team was able to witness the spirit of giving in action. As parents arrived at Slavin Center, they were warmly welcomed by Providence College students who extended coffee, hot chocolate, and other holiday treats to all who attended. As the digital fire crackled on the big screen, two communities came together with one goal in mind — to spread some happiness on Christmas morning.

Embrace-A-Family

Generosity is revealed in a multitude of ways at San Miguel. At times, the generous nature of others can be as subtle as a kind word, while at other moments it is entirely visible. The **Embrace-A-Family** program, organized by **Tom Darnowski**, creates one of those times when we are able

to tangibly see the support of our community.

Each Christmas season, San Miguel families have the option to participate in this project where supporters of our school choose to “embrace” one family, providing its members with gifts for the holiday season. The individuals who contribute to Embrace-A-Family are not only supporters, they are friends who believe in our mission and go above and beyond each and every year.

Providence Rotary Luncheon

For more than a decade, the **Providence Rotary Club** has invited our community to join them for an afternoon luncheon. As one of the oldest Christmas traditions at San Miguel, our students look forward to this day with great anticipation. This year marked yet another wonderful event. Not only were our boys provided with delicious food, each of them received a gift from Santa as well! In return, students performed for attending guests. This included the 5th grade presentation of *'Twas the Night before Christmas* (through the use of American Sign Language), as well as a selection of Christmas classics from our Men's Choir.



Caroling at the Murphy's

Caroling at the Murphy's is another “old” Christmas tradition — but it is also one of our favorites, too. Each year, donors and mentors, **Bob and Kathy Murphy**, welcome members of the San Miguel community into their home and provide them with a wide variety of homemade cookies, as well as hot chocolate, to celebrate a night of caroling. This annual tradition serves as a reminder for us to slow down and appreciate those around us during the holiday season.



It is our hope that through our students' expressions of gratitude, performing for supporters and writing letters to donors, the boys have come to discover that happiness does not materialize from the attainment of things, but rather, is realized when we are able to pause and appreciate the generosity of others. Thank you all for embodying the spirit of giving.

First Trimester Awards Luncheon

Recognizing Students' Academic Achievements

On December 9th, the San Miguel community came together for the **First Trimester Awards Luncheon**. Faculty and staff joined by families, mentors, and sponsors gathered together to celebrate student accomplishments. The ceremony was led by 8th grader, **Geo** (featured 2nd from left in photo), who moved the program along with both poise and ease.

Students received a variety of awards, which acknowledged those who possess diverse characteristics—from having the Best Sportsmanship or being the Most School Spirited, to even being the best at...Birding! The Awards Luncheon touched on traditional academic areas as well, such as Effort and Improvement,

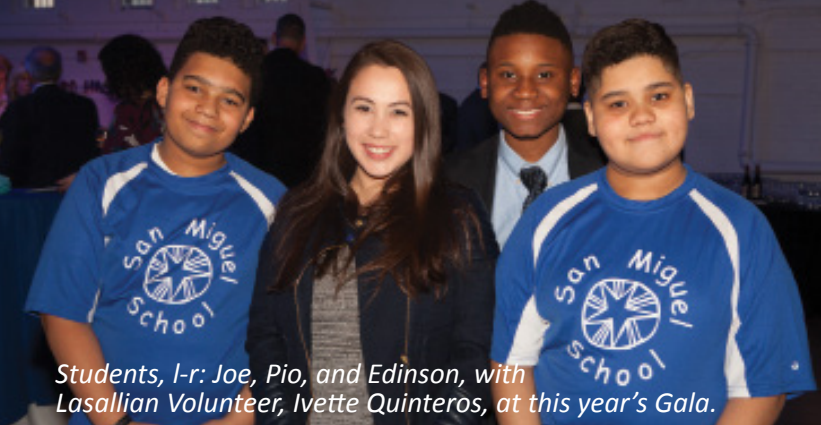


Brown Alpert Medical Students, Ella, David, and Deanna, joined by students, Geo and Alex, along with Director of Development, Vangy Auclair, gathered for a moment of recognition for their dedication to educating students through the Study Group Program

Attendance, and Honor Roll. Students who have achieved recognition at our daily morning assembly were also acknowledged. These categories included Artist, Writer, Drummer, and honorable Miguel Man of the Week.

Students who made Honor Roll had the privilege to participate in the Honors Ski Trip to **Yawgoo Valley**. On January 20th, **Mr. Darnowski, Mr. MacDonald, and Mrs. Paulo** hit the slopes with the boys and enjoyed a fun day away from their classrooms!

First trimester Honor students included: Geovanni Barbosa, Edniel Campos, Brian Cavinal, Geremy Concepcion, Aaron Diaz, O'Ryan Davis, Princeton Dean Jr., Leury DelaRosa, Edwin Domenech, Yoshbel Florencio, Yeivin Herrera, Henly Hiraldo, Patrick Major, Jr., Jackson McWilliams, Adrian Mora, Victor Nin, Almanny Nunez, Nadim Robinson, Octavio Santos, Ronald Soto, Kamill Suero, AJ Tavarez, Niyontsinzi White, and Xang Yang.



Students, l-r: Joe, Pio, and Edinson, with Lasallian Volunteer, Ivette Quinteros, at this year's Gala.

Soaring to New Heights at Our Annual Gala Event

The 12th Annual San Miguel School Gala and Miguel Medal Ceremony took place on the evening of Friday, April 7, at the Pawtucket Armory Arts Center. Thank you to all those who participated in helping us raise **more than \$200,000** in support of Student Scholarships.

Special thanks to Presenting Sponsors, Joseph and Maria Schwartz, along with all event sponsors, donors, attendees, and the Event Planning Committee, for their continuous support and generous contributions, all of which made this year's Gala a great success.

You are all superheroes in the eyes of our boys!



Mentors l-r: Jack, Sue, Kathy, Lindsey, and Polly

Honoring Mentors

In celebration of January as **National Mentor Month**, art teacher, **Eloise Mahoney**, helped students create a gift that allowed them to express their gratitude to their Mentors. A frame that was painted and decorated by each student holds a picture of them with their Mentor. Thank you to all of our Mentors, who serve as role models and give so generously of their time.

To learn about our Mentor Program, contact **Tom Darnowski**, Mentor Coordinator, at 401-467-9777.

Thanks to FM Global: Instilling Success

On February 3, San Miguel was recognized by the **FM Global-Boston Office** at their annual team-building event held at **Four Points by Sheraton Norwood**. The leadership team presented their theme, "Investing for Success" to more than 200 global employees, as well as San Miguel School attendees. As one of the expressions of the company's investment in our boys' success, they donated 64 bags filled with school

supplies, along with various health and wellness items such as first-aid kits, flashlights, and toothbrushes. A big shout-out to students **Edniel, Joseph, and Jamezell** who captivated the audience with their expressions of gratitude for both the gifts and FM Global's investment in their success. We are also grateful to San Miguel donor and FM Global retiree, **Carol Peterson**, who accompanied us in this celebration.



SAVE THE DATE SMS 11th Annual Golf Tournament



Be sure to mark your calendars for the **11th Annual San Miguel School Golf Tournament**, which will be held on **Friday, September 15th @ Triggs Memorial Golf Course**.

All event proceeds are dedicated to supporting Student Scholarships at San Miguel.

We hope you can join us!

To learn more about event sponsorship opportunities, or to play in this year's tournament, please contact **Matt Kavanagh**, Event Coordinator, at mkavanagh@sanmiguelprov.org or 401-467-9777 x118.

Chess Mates

Written by Xang and Yeivin, Grade 8

The **San Miguel Chess Club** is made up of all students, grades 5-8. However, only the top eight players are able to participate on the team. We are able to distinguish who these players are by using a ladder board. Here, members of the club can challenge higher opponents in hope of advancing up the ladder. This usually takes place during practices or lunch-time chess. Once these top

"Chess makes me think. Not only do I have to strategize a plan of my own, I also have to anticipate the moves of my opponent."

eight players have been determined, they are able to compete in matches against other schools. The top four out of eight students earn the title of Varsity, while the remaining four are considered Junior Varsity.

When facing another school, we play in a 4 vs. 4 structure. Each San Miguel student matches up with a player from the other school. This is determined through a numerical system, where each student is assigned a number 1 through 4. Whoever is number 1 matches up with the other school's player number 1. Then the 2's match up with the 2's, and so on.

The "score" goes to the winner of the match. One point is awarded to the winner, while zero points are given to the loser. If the game is a draw, then both players earn a half-point

for their respective school. After all of the matches are completed, the scores are tallied and the school with the most points wins. This season, our team achieved second place out of the entire league, with 6 wins, 3 losses, and 1 tie. It was a great year!

Teammates, Xang and Alan, face off.





SMS Men's Basketball Team, l-r: Coach Clements, Evan, Josmar, Coach Paulo, Raheim, Joe, Ameir, Moe, Jayden, Jamezell, Patrick, Alan, Kamill, Edwin, Ja'Kai, and Yoshbel.

Hoops, They Did It Again! *Written by Patrick, Grade 8*

Our Men's Basketball team played in two tournaments towards the end of the season. During the first game of the **Rocky Hill Tournament**, we came out with a fire that I had never seen before. Within this tournament we played our best game of the season against Community Prep. We made our way all the way to double overtime, but unfortunately lost by 1 point right at the buzzer! We gave our best the entire time, and

managed to get 3rd place. The second series of games we had was part of the **Central Falls Tournament**. I would be lying if I said it was easy. We played against some very talented teams. I'm not sure what it is, but whenever we play against a strong competitor we end up performing even better. Our team went undefeated, coming in first place and making this the second San Miguel victory at the Central Falls Tournament.

For our boys, summer means Camp Miguel!

Helping to limit summer learning loss while providing our boys with a safe, supervised environment, Camp Miguel extends our school year with three weeks of learning and activities. Camp Miguel keeps the San Miguel family close and connected — even when school's out for the summer!

With your help, we can make this summer one that will always be remembered.

\$400 per student
A safe and fun summer —
priceless!

For information on how to sponsor a student for Camp Miguel 2017, please contact Director of Development, Vangy Auclair, at 401-467-9777 x117 or vauclair@sanmiguelprov.org



7th Grade Students, l-r: Joe, Octavio, Liva, Armani, Kamill, Aaron, Edwin, and Jeremy

The Amazing Eagle Trip *Written by Joe, Grade 7*

On February 19th, seven of my 7th grade classmates and I went on a field trip to Connecticut with **Ms. W** and **Mr. Mac**. While there, not only did we take a boat tour up the Connecticut River, but we all got to investigate the submarine museum in Groton, and even crawled our way through the first nuclear powered submarine, *Nautilus*.

My favorite part of the trip was trying to spot visiting bald eagles who come

down to the river from far up north. The birds travel south because the rivers and lakes up north are frozen, making fish hard to catch. During the trip we didn't just spot eagles, we saw a variety of other birds like swans, loons, cormorants, Canada geese, and several types of hawks. Although we were not expecting it, we ended up having the boat all to ourselves. There were even enough binoculars for each person to have

their own pair! It was a long day but fortunately the weather was beautiful. We caught the most magnificent sunset filled with the deepest purple, orange, and gold. By the time we made it back to Providence it was around 7pm. We were all pooped, but happy because we had a fun and successful day spotting at least 10 different eagles!



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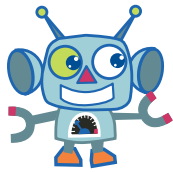
*For more information,
contact Vangy Auclair,
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401-467-9777 x117.*

Robotics' First LEGO League Competition

Insider's Scoop — from the classroom to the championship!

Written by Team GOATS
(Greatest of All Time)

Front page cover photo, l-r: Patrick, Leury,
Princeton, Raheim, Geo, Xang, Moe, and Joe.



When **Mr. Mac**, our technology teacher, told us that we would be participating in the *First LEGO League's Animal Allies* competition, we were incredibly excited! The very first thing we had to do was separate the eighth grade class into two groups. Mr. Mac had these teams planned out ahead of time, so regardless of who you were matched with, it was essential to find a way to work together as a unit. Luckily, this was easy for us because each of our members already had experience of being on a team.

Once our team members were together, we separated our group into three different subgroups; programming, design, and presentation. Even though each subgroup had its own task, we would still check in with each other to see if anyone was in need of help. We functioned through a series of core values. One of these core values was to get each member of the team involved. Through this system of checks and balances, it became possible for each team member to have an active role in every aspect of our project.

One of the most important things we had to understand was that robotics requires a combination of cooperation and competition, which in the Lego world, is referred to as "coopertition". Our group was very open with our ideas and offered advice to the other groups. Although we didn't want others to mimic our approach, we wanted our classmates on the other teams to succeed as well!

The main focus of Team GOATS was not winning. Instead, we placed our focus on making sure that all of our missions (like the shark, pig, and seal) were pitch perfect because they were the most reliable missions to gain us points at the competition. We knew if we didn't

become consumed by the desire to win, and instead focused on the necessary steps to create a good robot, we would achieve an outcome to be proud of. Even though we tried to keep a good mindset, we still faced challenges.

Programming proved to not only be an essential part of this competition, but a very challenging aspect as well. There was a lot of "trial and error". We had to make many educated guesses throughout the process. The design of the robot was another important part of the competition. Our team was not judged on its aesthetic look, but rather the accuracy in which the robot was able to perform certain missions. Even though we had to make some guesses in regards to programming and design, we guessed accurately because they helped us earn a score of 50, which got us to the state championship! An impressive feat for a first year team.

For this final competition, we designed a robot that was both complicated and simple. When it came to building various attachments, like the food dispenser, a clawlike structure was needed in order to grab the food, so we created prongs. Once that was accomplished (and the food was then in our crate), we had to get our robot safely back to base. Not an easy task — yet we were able to succeed!

All-in-all, our experience with robotics led us far outside of the classroom. Through teamwork, determination, discipline, and *coopertition*, something that started as an internal project brought us all the way to the state championship, which taught us a skillset and cultivated a disposition that we will carry with us far beyond the walls of San Miguel. Thank you Mr. Mac, and donors, for providing us with an educational experience that we will never forget.