



San Pasqual Academy

Home of the Mighty Dragons!

Bulletin

As of April 30, 2006, 134 youth are living and studying at the Academy. School Days...

- ◆ On March 4th, the Boys Varsity Basketball team lost a tough game to Santa Fe Christian, 81-40, in the California Interscholastic Federation (CIF) Division V Championship game at the University of San Diego's Jenny Craig Pavilion. The Dragons had a terrific season and are taking pride in their accomplishment!
- ◆ The Girls Softball team kicked off their Spring 2006 season on March 6th against Escondido Adventist Academy. While the young ladies have not yet posted a win this season, they are learning to work together as a team and developing the foundation for future victories.
- ◆ Twenty-five female students attended the Jenna Druck "Young Women's Spirit of Leadership Conference" on March 11th at the Grand Hyatt Hotel. The girls attended two key note speeches, a mentor luncheon and two break-out workshops. Workshop topics included career exploration, conflict resolution, nutrition, communication, self-defense, time management and leadership.
- ◆ Houseparents, social workers, Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASAs) and teachers discussed student progress at the Quarterly Open House event on Tuesday, March 21st.
- ◆ On March 24th, five middle school students took in a performance of "Aladdin" at the California Center for the Arts in Escondido with their eighth grade class.
- ◆ Four juniors selected by the La Jolla Sunrise Rotary and the Rancho Santa Fe Rotary attended the Rotary Youth Leadership Awards (RYLA) Conference from March 31st to April 2nd in Idyllwild. One senior was invited back to RYLA to help plan and lead the conference with Rotarians.
- ◆ On April 5th, Academy students hosted a special Thank-You program for the Friends of San Pasqual Academy. Representatives from various student groups made presentations to over 65 Friends who attended and thanked them for their on-going support. A newly formed chorus sang while other students performed improv and skits. Juan M., the Associated Student Body President, spoke on behalf of the student body.
- ◆ Student Josue L. represented the Dragons in Palomar College's Second Annual All-Star Basketball Classic on April 7th. The Classic pits San Diego County All-Stars against Riverside County All-Stars. The San Diego All-Stars won the contest 85-83!
- ◆ Two middle school students had an exciting experience traveling to Washington D.C., Boston and New York for their eighth grade class trip from April 7th to April 15th.
- ◆ Four students attended the La Jolla Sunrise Rotary Officer's Dinner on April 14th. Each of the students spoke to the Rotarians and shared how appreciative they are for the benefits Rotary offers young adults. The students were very well received!

WHAT'S NEW

- ◆ Twenty-three students are set to graduate from San Pasqual Academy on June 22, 2006. The Class of 2006, the fifth graduating class from San Pasqual Academy, promises to be a successful one, as ten students have received acceptance letters to four-year universities and more students await theirs. Some have received multiple acceptances to four-year universities! And, many are also the recipients of scholarships to assist them with their higher education.

Residential Info...

- ◆ When school was out and students were done studying and working, there were plenty of activities to keep them busy. Here is just a sample of the exciting activities students enjoyed in March and April:
 - ◆ On March 4th, over 40 students and staff cheered on the Boys Varsity Basketball team in the CIF Division V Championship Game at the University of San Diego's Jenny Craig Pavilion. On the same day, 11 students and two staff attended a performance of a "Mid-Summer's Night Dream" by the California Ballet at the Civic Theater. The theater tickets were donated by Creating Safer Haven and President Donalda Sheppardson.
 - ◆ Students and staff enjoyed an impromptu game of softball on campus on March 5th.
 - ◆ On March 12th, three students and a staff saw "Into the Woods" performed by the Lamb's Player Theatre in Coronado. Everyone really enjoyed the musical!
 - ◆ Five students and staff enjoyed performances by The Casualties, Anti-Flag and the Unseen on March 25th at SOMA in San Diego.
 - ◆ Several students kicked off Spring Break on April 7th cheering on the San Diego Gulls hockey team at the ipayOne Center, while others started their vacation on April 8th with a dance hosted by the students and staff and a show at the Improv.
 - ◆ Spring Break (April 10th - April 14th) was a busy time for students, as they participated in numerous outings.
 - ◆ Visits to Disneyland, Knott's Berry Farm, Sea World, the San Diego Zoo, Balboa Park's Aerospace Museum, San Diego Historical Museum, Boomers and Mr. Paintball USA topped the "favorites" list.
 - ◆ Several students cheered on one of their peers, as she competed in the Junior Miss Pageant at the Shiley Theatre at the University of San Diego on April 9th.
 - ◆ Three students enjoyed an afternoon of closed-track racing at the Miramar Speed Circuit on April 12th.
 - ◆ Two students and a staff were the guests of Deanna LoCoco, a board member of the Escondido Performing Arts Center, for the production of Stomp on April 14th. They had a wonderful time at dinner before the performance!
 - ◆ A beautiful, sunny day was the perfect backdrop for five students and their houseparent who enjoyed the Earth Day Festival at Balboa Park on April 23rd.
 - ◆ Movies and rollerskating were also popular activities throughout March and April!

Health and Wellness...

- ◆ On March 16th, the Maxwell International School presented the Maxwell Baha'i Youth Performing Arts Workshop for students, teachers, campus staff and guests in the school auditorium. The performers, an international troupe from Vancouver, Canada, use emotionally captivating, dramatic dance presentations to offer hope and a vision for the future, provide tools for confronting drugs, racism, abuse and violence, promote the elimination of all prejudices, inspire positive personal and social change, and enhance understanding and appreciation of cultural diversity.
- ◆ Lauri Walsh, with the Center for Community Solutions, presented a Women's Self-Defense and Rape Prevention workshop on March 28th to students and staff.
- ◆ Yoga and karate classes continue to take place at the Health and Wellness Center on a regular basis.
- ◆ Recreation Therapist, Jon Richards, has encouraged students to participate in a number of physical activities on campus, including soccer, softball, water balloon dodge ball, ultimate ball and hiking.
- ◆ Sixteen students participated in a camping trip to Joshua Tree with San Diego County's Department of Parks and Recreation from April 11th to April 12th.
- ◆ On April 12th, Dr. Wendy Ross from the University of California, San Diego presented a Nutrition and Behavior workshop on campus.

Work Readiness and Self Sufficiency...

- ◆ Twenty-seven students are working on- and off-campus in internships and paid employment.
- ◆ Job search and scholarship workshops continued throughout the month of March and April.
- ◆ Dan Radojevic and Jackie Taylor of the Youth Empowerment Services (YES) Program were invited to a behind-the-scenes tour of the San Diego Wild Animal Park on March 2nd to learn about job opportunities and recruiting processes for Academy youth.
- ◆ The YES Program supported 12 alumni and current students with incentive funds and internship dollars to work at the March 15th Agriculture Program Open House. Students prepped food, cooked, served and cleaned up for the event.
- ◆ On March 24th, the YES Program provided an Income Tax Workshop to assist students who worked last year with completing their income tax forms.
- ◆ The Dragon's Lounge is back in business and open after school from 3:00 to 5:00 p.m. Smoothies, coffee drinks, as well as healthy snacks and drinks, are on the menu. The Associated Student Body is in charge of operations and the YES program is providing training, support and internships.
- ◆ On April 20th, Marcus Martinez of Palomar Pomerado Health's Red Shirt Program toured the Academy and met with staff to discuss student participation in the program. The Red Shirt Program offers high school students classroom and first hand experience working as volunteers at Palomar Pomerado Health facilities. Mr. Martinez will meet with students interested in the health care field on May 4th.

Alumni Housing Program...

- ◆ Eighteen young adults are participating in the Alumni Housing Program. Of the 18 participants, four reside at their college during the school year and return to campus for weekends and school breaks.
- ◆ Two of the participants will complete high school at the Academy in May/June 2006; eight are enrolled in college, seven are employed and six are job searching.
- ◆ Two new staff have joined the Alumni Housing Program. They are Jessica Thomas, social worker, and Krista Read, case manager. With the additional staff, the program is able to expand services in mental health, case management, transition planning, transportation, in-home support and other groups geared toward independent living.
- ◆ The program is preparing to open another house in time for graduation to accommodate the growing number of applicants. Twenty-three Academy seniors expect to graduate in June 2006 and several have submitted applications to the Alumni Housing Program.
- ◆ On March 27th, Keri Brookshire and the volunteers from the Callaway Golf Community Giving Program performed phenomenal work on one of the Alumni homes. They helped clean, landscape, paint, organize and perform final touches on the home to make it move-in ready!
- ◆ On April 29th, the La Jolla Sunrise Rotary, along with the National Charity League and Friends of San Pasqual Academy, were able to makeover one of the new alumni houses -- painting inside and outside, landscaping the front and back yards, assembling donated furniture, restoring cabinetry, replacing light fixtures, and performing other general maintenance work. Over 65 volunteers worked throughout the day preparing the house for new tenants!

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

- ◆ There are currently 13 grandparents participating in the SPAN program.
- ◆ Several grandparents have been involved in the new Agriculture Program on campus and contributed to the planning of the Agriculture Program Open House, which took place on March 15th. The grandparents look forward to planting with the students in the one-acre Student and Community Garden.
- ◆ Craft classes and poetry slams hosted by the grandparents continue to be a popular attraction for the students. In addition, students enjoyed watching educational films with one of the grandparents; the most recent viewing was a Mohammed Ali documentary.
- ◆ California Connected, an award-winning and innovative public affairs news program produced by a unique collaboration of four Public Broadcasting Stations, filmed the Academy's intergenerational program at work in March. A film crew captured interviews with grandparents, the students with March birthdays celebrating with the grandparents and the grandparents teaching students handy skills such as cooking and fixing a bicycle. California Connected, featuring the Academy's program, will be aired on Friday, May 26th, 9 p.m. on KPBS-San Diego.
- ◆ After meeting with School Principal Tom Allison, the grandparents will take an active role in the student-run Dragon's Lounge. The grandparents will support the students in the Associated Student Body (ASB) enterprise of selling smoothies, snacks and juices. Grandmas Kay and Jackie have already been busy with the Dragon's Lounge.
- ◆ Grandma Jean, along with nine students, has formed a chorus. After just a few practice sessions, the chorus performed at the thank-you celebration for the Friends of San Pasqual Academy.
- ◆ Grandmas Donna and Kellie continue to help students prepare meals as part of their independent living skills training, while Grandma Kay continues to tutor students in the Cyber Café and library.



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!

“a bridge to knowledge, support, and hope”