



CDCPS ALUMNI NEWS

The newspaper for the Community Day Charter Public School alumni community

SPRING 2009

News from the Hill...and Beyond

2009 marks our 10th graduating class from Community Day Charter Public School! As in that year of our first graduation, we went through the rechartering process again this year—for the third time.

It has been a very busy and exciting year and the school is now featured in a film, *Beating the Odds: Inside Five Urban Charter Schools*. This film includes four Boston area Charter High Schools and only **one** elementary school. This film is part of a project by Harvard University to showcase the success of our students and to share our practices with teachers from over 25 other schools who have come to observe us “in action.” The school has also been selected to receive the EPIC award; we were selected from more than 140 Charter Schools **nationally** because of the measurable academic growth of our students.

-Sheila Balboni, Executive Director

Alumni Opportunities

Have you visited our website at www.cdcps.org and clicked on the “Alumni” link? We have been posting valuable information, including summer job opportunities. It is really important for you to stay in contact with us so we can keep you updated on opportunities. You can enter your contact information on the same website; remember to update us when your mailing address or email address changes.

Keep in Touch!

Please update us or share your news in our next alumni newsletter. Contact Joan Silverman at the following address, telephone, or e-mail.

Joan Silverman
Community Day Charter Public School
190 Hampshire Street
Lawrence, MA 01840
978.682.6628

jsilverman@thecommunitygroupinc.org

Annual Alumni Spring Fling

You are invited

Tuesday, June 16, 2009

4-6 p.m.

Parthum School

255 East Haverhill Street, Lawrence



Join us for an alumni/
staff basketball game
(play or just cheer)
and to catch up on
recent developments
with other alumni.



Interested in playing in the game?
Please email Mr. Lahaye at
jlahaye@cdcps.org by June 8.

Sorry, due to space limitations, this special event is for CDCPS alumni only.

Faculty News

Early Learning Center

Ms. Rivera-Dhungana (formerly Ms. Ramos) will receive her college degree this May and notes she has been part of CDCPS for nine years. **Ms. Feliciano-Castro (formerly Ms. Gonzalez)** is happily married and has “graduated” from kindergarten, now teaching in the first grade. **Ms. Teichman** has a new baby in her life...a Golden Retriever puppy named Molly who is taking up all her free time.

Lower School

Ms. Victoria continues to be central to the operations of the school. She is enjoying being a grandmother and she and her husband have opened a new restaurant in Lowell, “Time Out Café.” **Mr. Merten** got married in September; his wife is a teacher in a Charter school in Hyde Park. He is finishing his Master in Educational Administration at Boston College. **Ms. Xavier (formerly Ms. Fleming)** is teaching part-time in the Lower School and is enjoying her two children, ages 5 and 2. **Ms. Will** is teaching grade 5 and recently went to Colorado and Washington D.C.; she enjoys playing basketball and volleyball and reading.

Upper School

Mr. Costello is completing his fourth “fantastic” year at CDCPS and will be part of Teach for America this summer as a principal at a high school in Chicago before returning to us in the fall. **Ms. Schardin** is working with students in grades 4-8. She continues to sing with the Boston Symphony Orchestra’s Tanglewood Festival Chorus and performed with the Symphony in Europe last year. **Ms. Kelly** got married last year and traveled to the Yucatán Peninsula in Mexico, enjoying the white sand, Mayan ruins, and underground rivers. **Mr. Easley** reports that the biggest thing in his life right now is all the changes happening to his family. When he began as a founding teacher of CDCPS, his son was in second grade and his daughter was in preschool. Now his son is graduating from college and his daughter is completing her freshman year in college. Mr. E reports that he is “mostly going broke.”

Scholarship Recipients

Congratulations to **Fabian Rivera, Yumer Capellan,** and **Daniel Mugavero** on receiving the Lawrence Exchange Club’s Joseph L’Italien Scholarship. Each of these students from the class of 2008 received \$500 to help them attend private schools in the 2008-2009 school year.

2009 Charter School Cup

The 2009 Charter School Cup was a rousing success and ended with Kipp Academy sweeping both the men’s and women’s championships.

Twenty-four teams filled the Parthum School in March once again this year. The Community Day Women had the most impressive showing. The girls finished the tournament 4-1 and lost in the finals to Kipp Academy. The girls were looking for their third consecutive championship but fell short, losing 23-9. Yakaira Capellan, Elemetry Colome, and Andrea Vargas were standouts during the five games. The CDCPS men finished 1-3 in the tournament, but had a stellar Sunday, beating Boston Prep in their first game of the day (18-5). They fell to the eventual champion, Kipp Academy, in the quarterfinals (23-10). Jamal Martinez, Hassan Ng, and Joel Espinal had a great tournament.



Elemetry Colome dribbling up court at the Charter School Cup

Thank you to all the staff, players, parents, alumni, and volunteers that made the three days hugely successful. We look forward to the 2010 Charter School Cup next March!

Graduation



The Class of 2008

Please join us for graduation on Friday, June 19, 2009 at 10:00 a.m. under the graduation tent at 73 Prospect Street. The featured speaker will be Pedro Arce, Vice President of Veritas Bank.

Alumni Updates

It is so good to hear from our alumni; many thanks to all who sent in information. Please keep in touch; we are all interested in what you are doing since graduating from CDCPS—you are the best!

Class of 2000

Natalie Loaiza was married to a police officer in January—congratulations Natalie! She is enrolled in the nursing program at UMass Lowell, expecting to graduate in 2010 and then become an active duty member of the United States Army. **Casey Sullivan** and his brother **Michael** (Class of 2001) have moved to California to pursue their musical careers.

Class of 2001

Elizaida Cruz is working for AmeriCorps Vista here in Lawrence. AmeriCorps Vista is the national service program designed specifically to fight poverty. Founded as Volunteers in Service to America in 1965 and incorporated into the AmeriCorps network of programs in 1993, Vista has been on the front lines in the fight against poverty in America for more than 40 years. **Felix Collado** is working on his degree from the University of Phoenix and working full-time at a metal manufacturing firm. **Erica Hajj** reports that she is graduating with a degree in nursing and will be taking her board exams this spring to become a registered nurse. **Temí Devers** attends Temple University and is majoring in both risk management and human resource management. He continues dancing and is the president of the University's dance club *Esencia Latina*. **Marleny Polanco** also attends Temple and is majoring in legal studies and risk management—Temí and Marleny even have had classes together!

Class of 2002

Arthur Gomez returned to Lawrence due to a family emergency after attending

college in Chicago and will continue his studies locally. **Edwin Guerrero** will be an engineering major at the University of Central Florida, where he plays intramural basketball and football. **Sara McGuire** attends the University of New Haven with a double major, Forensic Science and History; she is also active in the theater program and an editor for the campus newspaper. This summer Sara will be an intern in Washington at the Smithsonian's Museum Conservation Institute. **Channa O'Neill** is attending Hesser College and working at River Bank and volunteered at the Charter School Cup Tournament as the official schedule coordinator—many thanks Channa. **Chris Weeks** also volunteered as a scorekeeper at the tournament and is working at a trace detection firm that calibrates machines used to detect bombs and narcotics at airports. **Vanety Cruz** is attending Curry College and both Vanety and her sister Elizaida volunteered at the concession stand at the tournament. Thank you to all who volunteered—it is much appreciated.

Class of 2003

Gabriella Veguilla is attending Northern Essex Community College with a concentration in accounting. **Aileen Collado** is a student at Hesser College and works as a bookkeeper. Your former math teacher, Ms. Chance, is so proud of this very mathematical class! **Jeanna Sullivan** studied in Florence, Italy this past year and while there had an opportunity to travel to Spain, the Balearic Islands, Morocco, and Greece! **Rachel Hajj** is pursuing a degree in criminal justice at NECCO. **Jisel Rozon** attends NECCO and is majoring in business management and hospitality, with plans to continue her studies at UMass Lowell.

Class of 2004

Kathelin Lembert is attending the University of Massachusetts in Boston and has been cast in the college's

theatrical productions. **Nadjee Harrigan** is completing a year at Bridgton Academy in Maine and will attend Pfeiffer University in North Carolina on a lacrosse scholarship starting this fall. **Tiara Torres** and her Dad, Louie, worked hard as official scorekeepers at the Charter Cup tournament. Tiara attends Pace University in New York and is a DJ at the local college radio station. **Joseph O'Neill** is attending Fisher College on a basketball scholarship. **Nelson Castillo** is attending Salem State College, where he is a star pitcher for the Salem State Vikings. His sister, **Yesmarie Castillo**, is graduating from CDCPS this year; she will attend Notre Dame High School. **Jessica Soto** completed her first year at Emmanuel College, where she is attending on an academic scholarship. She will serve on the executive board of a campus club, *Huellas*, that promotes Latin pride and educational, social, and historical programs.

Class of 2005

Loren Duran is graduating from Lawrence High School, where he is president of his class and the recipient of the prestigious Adams Scholarship award for academic achievement. Loren will attend St. Joseph's University in Philadelphia. **Michelle Gentile** is graduating from Presentation of Mary Academy and will attend Mount Ida College this fall. **Karina Cruz** is also graduating from PMA and has decided to attend UMass Lowell. **Quianna Roy** is graduating from Central Catholic High School and will attend either Suffolk University or Emmanuel College in the fall. Quianna sang the national anthem at Fenway Park on April 25, 2009, when the Sox beat the Yankees. **Anna Sullivan** has been on the honor roll at Central Catholic several times and has danced competitively for years with the North Andover School of Dance. Anna will attend Westfield State College in the fall. **Mariel Guerrero** is graduating from North Star High School in Orlando and would like to pursue a course of study in

Alumni & Teacher Updates

child therapy at Seminole Community College in Florida. **Lourdes Ramos** is graduating from Notre Dame High School and will attend either the College of Holy Cross or Emory University in the fall. Lourdes was selected to represent Notre Dame at a meeting with Cardinal Sean P. O'Malley. **Joanelys Toro** is attending the Everest Institute in Chelsea, MA.

Class of 2006

Christian Hbaiter is attending Central Catholic, where he is a member of the Honor Society and would like to attend the Massachusetts College of Pharmacy upon graduation. He works at Butcher Boy meat market and is a student ambassador. **Julian Lind** is a student at the Dublin School, from which he traveled to Spain this spring. Last summer, Julian attended the Walden School of Music, where he continues the violin studies that he began with Ms. Lier at CDCPS. **Brian Rivera** is a student at Notre Dame High School, where, as part of his work study program, he has worked at River Bank, NECCO, Verizon, and Mitre Corporation. **Chery Victoria** is in the top 20% of his class at Central Catholic, where he competes on the track and field team and works part-time at the Time Out Café. **Shantay Casanova** also attends Central, is on the honor roll, and writes that she got her driver's license. **Alex Cueto** will be a senior next year at the Pingree School, where he has been on both the lacrosse and basketball teams. Alex will again work at Pingree in the Prep at Pingree program held each summer as an academic enrichment program for middle school students—some of them from CDCPS!

Class of 2007

Esteban Rodriguez attends Austin Preparatory School in Reading and plays soccer. **Ricky Gonzalez** is a student at Notre Dame High School. **Francesca Polanco** attends Lawrence High School and works at Market Basket. **Michelle**

Ramirez is a student at Greater Lawrence Technical High School and **Hilary Cabrera**, a student at Lawrence High School, writes that she values what she learned at CDCPS and finds that the lessons learned translate even to a school that is so much larger.

Class of 2008

Fabian Rivera, a student at Notre Dame High School and a member of the Class of 2008, writes that he appreciates having learned the value of a firm handshake at CDCPS. **Rosalyn Pagan** now attends Presentation of Mary Academy. She feels that CDCPS does a "fantastic job preparing students for high school." **Stephany Gonzalez** attends the Governor's Academy and **Cordel McKinney** attends Greater Lawrence Technical School, where he is on the honor roll and after a 50 pound weight loss, has become quite an athlete. **Gerard Colome** is completing his freshman year at Lawrence High School and loves basketball and skateboarding. **Jorge Soto** is attending Lawrence High, where he was the manager for the boys freshman basketball team and he continues to be an active member of the Lawrence Boys and Girls Club.

Teachers... Where are they now?

Knowing that you might be interested in what is happening with teachers that you had at CDCPS, we have contacted some of your favorites.

Geoff Bruno has been the Assistant principal of the Middle/High School in Georgetown and will be the Principal of the Belmonte Middle School in Saugus as of July 1st. Mr. Bruno has moved to Newburyport, where he and his wife are the proud parents of 3 girls, ages 5, 4, and 1. To contact Mr. Bruno, email him at bruno9931@gmail.com.

Andy Hall is the History Program Director at the English School in Jamaica Plain, where supervises, designs

curriculum, and organizes and disseminates data. He reports that he really misses CDCPS and relies on what he learned with us. He can be contacted at ahall2@boston.k12.ma.us.

Uri Harel is the Principal of the Veteran's Memorial Elementary School in Saugus. He really misses Community Day and says that he draws upon the teaching strategies and lessons he learned with CDCPS every day!

Kathy Egmont is the Head of School at New York City's The Children's Storefront, which is a tuition-free, independent school in Harlem. The school is founded on the belief that all children deserve excellence in education—a philosophy that is a founding principal of CDCPS as well. Ms. Egmont is moving back to the Boston area next summer and reports that she is a grandmother and loving it. She would love to hear from her former students; her email is kegmont@hotmail.com.

Sarah Scrogin is the founding Principal of the East Bronx Academy for the Future in New York, which serves 600 students in grades 6-12. The school's focus is on technology and they are graduating their first class this year. Ms. Scrogin-Praveda and her husband are the proud parents of a 2 year old boy. Ms. Scrogin says that they are always looking for student teachers and volunteers, so if you are going to be in New York, please be in contact: sscrogin@eastbronxacademy.org.

Ms. Fink is teaching middle school science in Washington D.C. and is getting married this summer. Ms. Fink is in contact with some alumni and even came and volunteered at the charter school basketball tournament. To be in contact with Ms. Fink, email her at brifink11@gmail.com.