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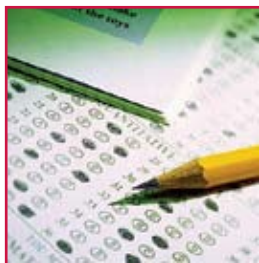
**RE-ENROLLMENT AND FINANCIAL AID NEWS**

by Jo-Ann Aranguren  
 Director of Admissions  
 and Financial Aid Coordinator

D E C E M B E R 2 0 1 0

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**Admissions testing PPK through 11th grade** starts in January by appointment only. All Pre-K and Kinder students who missed their admissions test in December, still can be tested in January. If you are planning to enroll a sibling call the admissions office to fill out an application as soon as possible.

**It's Time for Re-Enrollment!**

This year we had more than double the amount of attendance for the Open House. At the Admissions Office, we are working at full speed due to the tremendous amount of early admissions applications received for the academic year 2011-2012. I would like to remind you that new applicants have the same deadline for enrollment.

On or before February 28, 2011-	\$375.00
March 1st to March 31, 2011-	\$500.00
(If space is available)	
April 1st to April 30, 2011-	\$600.00
(If space is available)	
May 1, 2011 and after-	\$700.00
(If space is available)	

Re-enrollment packages containing tuition information, Information Update Form, etc., will be sent to you by the end of January. Once you receive the package, please make sure to complete the re-enrollment process as soon as possible since we cannot assure a space for your child after **February 28, 2011.**

**NEWS FROM FINANCIAL AID AND  
 CPS SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM**

Those families wishing to apply or reapply for financial aid should stop by the admissions office to pick up the necessary forms. Remember families currently receiving financial aid need to re-apply annually. The process is **NOT** automatically continued from year to year. Deadline for financial aid application and submission of Income Tax return, is **February 28, 2011.** Sorry, but requests made after that date will not be accepted. The financial aid committee meets only once, to discuss the applications in order to make a decision, and if you did not comply with the deadline, we cannot assure you of any disposition of allotment.

Continued on page 2

# Headmaster's Message

## Contextual thinking is essential to success

by F. Richard Marracino

Perhaps the most creative book I have read in recent years, *The Age of the Unthinkable*, by Joshua Cooper Ramos (New York: Little, Brown and Company, 2010), discusses why creative thinking out-of-the-box is so important to solving issues facing organizations, companies, governments, and educational institutions, among others. Ramos' explores historical leaders such as Metternich, Napoleon, Woodrow Wilson, Warrant Buffett, George W. Bush, Winston Churchill, Mikail Gorbachev just to name a few. And with groups such as Hizballah and Al-Qaeda to determine why and how some were successful, and others not.

One of the salient points in the book relates to the importance of making *contextual connections*. Professor Richard Nisbett, experimental psychologist set out to determine how cultural backgrounds condition the way we think. He discovered differences between Asian and Americans by an experiment that was conducted on fifty students from around the University of Michigan campus in Ann Arbor. While each student was looking at a computerized painting of a horse pictured in a field, an eye-tracker silently monitored eye movements for a specified period of time.

The results? Americans tended to focus mostly on the horse even when the background setting was changed, while Asians took in not only the main object, but also the *entire environment*. This study, argues Ramos, is significant because it suggests that American students tend to focus on the main object while the Asians took in the entire painting, not only the horse but in its environmental context.

Why is this significant? Because, says Ramos, it is important when looking at important issues that they be studied and analyzed within the context of their environment. The results will be much more credible, realistic, and successful! Ramos states:

*In a world of constant change, you need to try to connect with the environment around you any way you can: by sweeping your eyes, by opening your mind to uncomfortable ideas, even by trying to sympathize with historically noxious figures. Only then could you improve your chances of not missing the signs that something, something important, was about to change. (p. 164)*

How does this affect the CPS educational environment? Contextual thinking is vitally important to students in their development to face issues and circumstances in which they will be able to make important and successful leadership decisions, ones that are not myopic.

But contextual thinking is only one skill among a variety of important concepts. Commonwealth-Parkville School (CPS) is in the process of enhancing its curriculum by evaluating and adopting educational initiatives established for 21st century learning. Also known as Project 21, our aim is to provide our students with the knowledge, expertise, and necessary tools to master the skills that are indispensable to succeed in work and life environments. This is achieved through the integration of our core subjects and the 21st century themes and skills.

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### Continued from front page

For the **CPS Scholarship Program**, we are currently accepting applications. The purpose of this program is to attract new student, grades 7-12, who have special talents in academics, the arts, sports and/or citizenship. Remember that we are also accepting applications from 6th grade Parkville students. Those who are qualified to receive assistance from this program should be highly motivated and have talents that will add to the overall diversity and expertise to the student body.

If you know any families with students who qualify, please have them call me at the Admissions Office: 787-765-4411 or stop by between the hours of 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the CHS Campus.

**HAPPY HOLIDAYS!**

# Community Service at CHS COMETS going GREEN

by Wanda Alicea and Esther Alvarez

A group of students has joined the new club called **HUERTO CASERO**. Under the supervision and guidance of **Ms. Wanda Alicea**, students are cleaning, preparing the soil, planting the seeds and watering a variety of plants. Among the plants that have been planted are: Chives, Rosemary, Tomatoes, Culantro, Mint, Eggplant, Basil, and Papaya.

The students will learn:

- \* What growing organically is
- \* How to plan an organic garden
- \* How to choose the area and prepare the soil before they plant
- \* Help prepare and build the green house
- \* Learn about the tools needed for gardening
- \* Tips and gardening tricks
- \* Planting, transplanting and watering the plants
- \* Preparing organic fertilizers
- \* Growing from seeds
- \* Learning about overall garden care



Paola Casal



Angela Ursino



Boyd Blakeman



Daniel Quijano



Roberto Rivera



Laura Rivera



Isabella Cortés



Augusto Pérez



Coralie Escoda



Lottie Alfaro

*“Don’t judge each day by the harvest you reap, but by the seeds you plant.”*

Ralph Waldo Emerson

## Why Grow Organically? The benefits of growing and eating organic food

**by Dr. Tahir Mahmood**

The definition of organic food is very broad, but in simplest terms it is a way of producing food without using synthetic fertilizers and pesticides, thereby making little or no impact on our soil, water, air, or the environment in general. The word organic stands for a commitment to agriculture that helps conserve natural resources, reduces air, water and soil pollution, and produces healthy plants and better tasting produce.

Organically produced fruits and vegetables grow slowly, but they are full of nutrition, vitamins, and the best anti-stress compounds for human health. Materials used for inorganic crop production are causing severe damage to our environment, like soil erosion, water pollution, and air pollution. This damage is having an overall impact on our current health, while posing a threat to our future generations.



There are advantages/benefits to eating organic food:

- \* Organic food has certain compounds that increase our resistance against several disease.
- \* Organic food will cut down the intake of chemicals in the human body. It does not use pesticides, growth hormones, fertilizers, or toxic artificial additives.
- \* Growing vegetables, fruits and grains organically provides beneficial nutrients like iron, magnesium, phosphorous, and vitamins.



# PE WEEK ETHICS and CHARACTER COUNTS WEEK

by Wanda Alicea

During this year's P.E. Week, Ethics and Character Counts Week the students participated in a series of activities designed to improve their wellness. Among this activities an Indoor Cycling Class given by **Mr. Siaca** (parent of **Alicia Reyes**) was a success among the students. They were challenged to be active for 40 minutes of pure effort and adrenaline which they experienced for the first time in the sport of Indoor Cycling or Spinning.

Middle School participated in a Salsa and Merengue Dance Workshop introducing the history of both Latin dances. Zumba workout and Wii Fit with personalized instruction and feedback was performed by other groups using videos and technology to develop important fitness components like:

- Cardio respiratory fitness
- Muscular Endurance
- Muscular Strength
- Flexibility

Also the Wii Tennis Tournament between students of the same grade embraced a healthy competition promoting:

- Game involved self-imposed goal setting
- Intrinsic competition
- Extrinsic competition
- Improving scores on fitness tests
- Accountability

Other activities done were body mass composition laboratory, flexibility test, ethics skits, judo and track & field by **Mr. Alexis Méendez** and a Sports Injury Prevention Seminar. In relation to the health area, middle school students from the F period participated in a Poster contest about Alcohol Effects on People.

Based on the information the students have collected they designed and made a poster warning people about alcohol consumption.

First Place  
**Raúl Contreras** and **Martin Nazario**  
(Alcohol and car accidents)

Second Place  
**Andrés Guerrero** and  
**David Acevedo**  
(The science of alcohol)

Third Place  
**Coralle Escoda** and **Carla Mirabal**  
(Creativity)

Wii Tennis Tournament B Period Phy. Ed.

First Place  
**Claudia Aliff**

Second Place  
**Rafael Rivero**



# UNICEF Campaign

by Dina de Pablos, PKS Librarian

On Friday October 1st, the Parkville Campus community gathered in our center court to form the Love Chain that officially marks the start of our annual **UNICEF** campaign. It was then when we committed ourselves to provide a whole community with a water pump. We realized it only costs \$500.00 for many children and their families to have clean and accessible water every day. Clean water is something we all take for granted, but this year we chose to acknowledge our blessings and go beyond a beautiful and colorful parade. By the end of the month we had the first \$500.00 check. A community in Port Au Prince, Haiti will be the recipients of the water pump through UNICEF. Somehow this year our campaign felt more close and meaningful. **We imagined, we became and we achieved one of our goals.**

This year, for the month of UNICEF, we decided to represent Europe. We learned about nine different countries. In each classroom the students worked on projects related to the geography, culture, symbols, traditions, foods, music, dances, stories and their history. Music and dances from each country were incorporated by **Ms. Magda** and **Ms. Vanessa**. Stories from these countries were read in the library by volunteers guests from our school community. **Richard Marracino**, Headmaster, **Diana de Jesús**, Director of Finance, **Elsie Calimano**, Lower Elementary Director, **Judith Rivera**, Upper Elementary Director, **Noemí Ramírez**, Academic Dean and I shared and enjoyed the diversity of folkloric elements found in European children's literature.

cultural differences that divide us as human beings. We learned many things but more importantly, we learned that **ALL CHILDREN HAVE RIGHTS**, and that **UNICEF PROTECTS THESE RIGHTS**. We have been working hand in hand with UNICEF for the past 13 years so we can proudly say that CPS/Parkville Campus surely protects children's rights...

**WE MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN THE WORLD!!!**



Diana de Jesús reading to the Pre-K students



Kick-off Campaign



1st grade - Russia



PKKinder - Monaco



6th grade- Turkey



4th grade - Greece



PreKinder - Spain

# HIGHLIGHTS \* HIGHLIGHTS \* HIGHLIGHTS \* HIGHL

## Lower Elementary

Students at **Commonwealth-Parkville School (CPS)** are introduced to the wonderful world of computers through a variety of activities using innovative products and interactive educational software. At the age of three, preschoolers discover the magic of shapes and colors, play with familiar animals and objects, and recognize various sounds and emotions as they begin to explore the use of the mouse in conjunction with the keyboard. Students are exposed to a variety of language activities that enable them to acquire extensive vocabulary, enhance communication skills and stimulate language comprehension.

The greatest benefits occur when children use computers side-by-side or when they work with adults. In these situations, preschoolers develop cooperative problem-solving skills and improve manual dexterity. They also have the opportunity to interact with others, encouraging social skills, which enhances their overall learning.

Learning and development take place naturally, through a comprehensive curriculum presented through thematic units. The Language Arts, Math, and Social Sciences components are intertwined with Art, Music, and Physical Movement. Meanwhile, The Early Childhood Program focuses on the development of Cognitive, Physical, and Social Emotional skills while exposing our students to unique learning experiences. The use of technology serves as an important learning tool and is integrated throughout the instructional program enriching their learning of curriculum content and concepts.



classroom gives our students access to the magical world of computers, in a simple and natural way, acquiring familiarity with computer skills through play.

by Elsie Calimano

The **Pre-Kinder** students proudly represented the country of Spain at our traditional UNICEF Parade. We learned lots of exciting things about our "Madre Patria". Children and parents made it possible by recreating some of the best characters in literature, arts, sports, music, and culture. Students had the opportunity to learn about Spain's geography, map skills, and its flag. After the parade, we enjoyed delicious "Tapas" while listening to traditional Spanish music. We had lots of fun sharing this wonderful experience with our families!



by Ms. Eddy Del Valle and Mrs. Sonia Alfaro

In **kindergarten** we have been learning like real Comets! We have been exploring Portugal through fun, hands-on educational activities that have allowed our students to develop phonemic and oral language awareness. We have brought students into 21st century by providing a technological learning environment that integrates basic language arts and math concepts. In this environment we foster curiosity towards learning, inviting them to view and interact with computers in a dynamic and active way



by Ms. Melissa Martínez and Ms. Gladys Guzmán

October has been a very eventful month in **First grade**. First of all, we adopted the country of Russia for UNICEF. The moth-

ers were busy working on the costumes and the props for the parade as we have been busy learning about Russia: its history, culture and traditions. We had a wonderful activity in the classroom where we made beautiful FABERGÉ eggs. We also made Russian pancakes or oladis with the help of a mom; they were yummy! In the classroom the thematic unit of Russia was exhibited using Power Point presentations, videos and Google Earth. It was a fun month in First grade. The month culminated with the UNICEF parade, where all grade levels donned their beautiful costumes, paraded and danced in front of the whole school. It was quite a spectacular sight!



Ms. Ginny Owens and Ms. Vivian Ríos

During the month of October **second graders** have been learning about the culture of Italy. This is the country they represented in the UNICEF parade. Our students have learned about many aspects of the Italian country including the flags, anthem, most important cities, buildings, and famous artists. Lessons were presented through the use of the imager and the Encarta Kids program. After reading about the contributions of great artists like Michael Angelo Buonarroti and Leonardo Da Vinci, the students experienced a virtual tour through the interior of the Sistine Chappelle in Rome by logging to the link:

[www.vatican.va/various/cappelle/sistine...](http://www.vatican.va/various/cappelle/sistine...)

The students were amazed to see the wonderful paintings done by the great Italian painter Michelangelo in the 1400s.



by Wanda Rivera Torres

# HIGHLIGHTS \* HIGHLIGHTS \* HIGHLIGHTS \* HIGHL

## Upper Elementary

### THIRD GRADE MATH CHALLENGE ACTIVITY

What a great idea! Mrs. Patty came to the **third grade** team and gave us the wonderful idea of challenging the different classes.



First Mrs. Patty challenged **Mr. Emus** and then all of us got involved. Mr. Emus with his creativity prepared a wonderful Power Point Presentation. All third grades got very enthusiastic and prepared themselves for the challenge. During the month of September, we went to the cafeteria and four members of each class participated. All of them had a great opportunity to review and practice their math skills. We encourage all the classes to plan an activity like this. We reviewed addition, subtraction, math vocabulary and multiplication. Let's continue motivating our students to accomplish these skills. This experience proved that all of our students are winners. Keep on memorizing your multiplication, addition, and subtraction skills. You never know when the next challenge will be!

by Marilia Colón

The **4th - 6th grade students** at Parkville were invited to participate in the Fourth Annual Spanish Spelling Competition hosted by the Municipality of San Juan. This took place on October 28th at the School of San Juan. Two students from the Parkville campus accompanied by **Mrs. Mona Kenderish**, attended the competition. Our students are **Gabriella Torrellas** from 5th grade and **Gabriel Jiménez** from 6th grade. Each of them did an outstanding job. Gabriella went to the 5th round and Gabriel took 5th place in a tie, out of 71 participants from public and private schools in the San Juan area. Special thanks to Mrs. Kenderish for making it possible for our school to participate. Our students' accomplishments speak highly of the entire Spanish Department. **Congratulations!**

## Commonwealth Campus by Evelyn Collazo

On October 15th the **CPS Parents Association** honored 133 students who made the Silver and Gold Honor Roll for the first quarter at CHS. These dedicated mothers served a succulent breakfast in a beautifully decorated Gloria Shuman theatre with music reminiscent of the past.



On October 22 the **Model UN Club** celebrated the anniversary of the UN by raising the UN flag with a simple ceremony in the center patio followed by a more formal ceremony during which René Díaz presented three global issues: abuse of women, abuse of children and child labor as explained and dramatized in a power point presentation.

The **junior class** celebrated its second highly successful Halloween dance in an incredibly spooky environment that evoked the spirit of the holiday.



Preparing for the dance



11th graders



### IN MEMORY Of JAVIER MIRANDA GONZALEZ

On November 10th the entire CHS community dedicated a garden next to the Comet Café to the memory of our own, **Javier Miranda**, who passed away in June. The garden was donated by the Class of 2010 and prepared by Albert Muñiz's OER class.

As part of the emotional ceremony Karen Miranda, the Student Council President, spoke of her feelings for Javier and her personal regret of his passing. Freshman class president, Daniel Rodríguez, offered a heartfelt musical reflexion on his guitar as the entire student body and Javier's closest family members very respectfully looked on as a beautifully engraved stone was unveiled.

A mural prepared by the class of 2011 was also dedicated to those who are no longer physically with us with the words: "*Our memories of loved ones are as eternal as the stars.*"



David Hakins' quote read by Karen Miranda:  
"*You can remember him only that he is gone, or you can cherish his memory and let it live on.*"

*You can cry and close your mind,  
be empty and turn your back.  
Or you can do what he'd want:  
smile, open your eyes, love and go on."*



### RICARDO RIVERA

It all started with a writing assignment for Mrs. Sylkia Chique's class. Students were learning about the elements and mechanics of poetry. They were assigned to write ten original poems. To our surprise, there was a 9th grader who decided to write about his life-changing traveling experiences rather than any other topic. He titled his anthology "Barren Landscapes" inspired in his own view of the world and its reality.

Several months later and now a 10th grader, Ricardo Rivera found out that his creativity and inspiration had been published in *Hotel Abismo 6* along with other Puerto Rican authors such as Aurea Maria Sotomayor and Eduardo Lalo. His poem *Little gods*

## UNICEF Honors CHS Student

by Sylkia Chique, English Teacher

*making fire in Caral*, because of his powerful message against child labor and poverty, has been selected to represent the UNICEF 2011 Unite for Children Global Campaign. This honor, bestowed upon Ricardo, means the world to him. He says: "It feels as if I made it. I never thought it would be such a great deal that something that started as an assignment has turned into such an honor." The release date for the campaign is still a secret but we know it will be in the upcoming 2011.

CPS congratulates Ricardo Rivera Aponte for his outstanding accomplishment. As his English teacher I feel extremely proud and honored to have witnessed how such a talented young man turned into a promising Puerto Rican writer. Because of students like Ricardo, CPS transcends our academic community into new international forums; proving once more that Comets light up the sky.

*Little gods making fire in Caral  
old tires against the rocks:  
the granite mines of Peru.  
Small children carrying dynamite  
with their small hands.*

*Small children carrying tires  
with their small hands.  
It was not Vulcano, nor Ogun.*

*But these small children  
who ignite fire  
Is not Hercules nor Manco Capac but  
the children who carried the huge granite  
stone,  
the children who sold them in the highway,  
the children who will be tomorrow there  
again:*

*Granite, tires, dynamite, and fire  
The air is sour  
and I ask myself  
if childhood is only  
for a few.*

## CPS Board of Directors

by Michelle White, Chairperson

I hope everyone had a safe and happy Thanksgiving with your loved ones. It's hard to believe that the Holiday break is almost here. The CPS Board of Directors has been working very hard these past few months on different projects. One of our most important projects is the *Raising 10 Annual Giving Campaign*. With donations received CPS can improve both campuses. This year's campaign will help improve the science lab (Parkville Campus) and the physics lab (Commonwealth Campus). Our children will benefit from this project by having state-of-the-art science and physics labs. Please help enrich CPS programs and improve our campuses with voluntary contributions.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank all current Board members for their commitment and dedication to the board and

to welcome to the CPS Board of directors four new board members.

**James Badrena** was elected in this past election as a High School representative. He is the father of José Fernando currently a student in the eleventh grade at Commonwealth High School. He is the President at Badrena & Pérez, Inc. a manufacturers representatives firm of industrial products that has been serving industry in Puerto Rico for 58 years since it was founded in 1952.

**Dr. Javier Rivera Zayas** was elected as an Upper Elementary representative. He is the father of two sons: Roberto who is in the 7th grade and Andre in 4th grade. He currently works at Clínica de Terapia Física de Manatí, Inc. and Grupo Fisiátrico de

Cidra.

**Jeanette Mendoza Montes** was elected to a Middle School Position on the CPS Board of Directors. She has two sons, Alvaro who is in the 6th grade and Francisco (class of 2009). Jeanette works for F. J. Ramos & Associates, C.S.P. as a Lawyer however; she is also a Certified Public Accountant.

Professor **Angel Arzán** has been appointed to the CPS Board of Directors. He is the father of Alejandro, currently an 12th grader at Commonwealth High School. Prof. Arzán is currently a Professor in the English Department, College of General Studies, at the University of Puerto Rico. He has a distinguished career in the academic field, with many publications and research projects in the fields of education, linguistics, and

# NOCHE PUERTORRIQUEÑA at CHS

by Alex Cerqueira

Participants know that what takes place behind the scenes of an event is the core of what makes that event successful. This is the case with the annual Noche Puertorriqueña that takes place at the Commonwealth campus.

Students and teachers dedicate months of hard work and committed effort to make it all happen. In 2010 ShowTime was scheduled for Friday, the 12th of November. What a show! In true Puerto Rican style, students entertained audiences with various displays of cultural manifestation. From skits to dances, Noche

Puertorriqueña came alive to the sound of Batuplena, who were accompanied by the dancing of the "cabezudos". Additionally, palates were enriched by delicious traditional dishes offered by the National Honor Society.

CHS History teacher, actress and theater director Mrs. Natalia Prats describes our Noche Puertorriqueña as "a reflection of our society in terms of what we were, what we are, and where we are going." She adds that "it is also a time to have fun with who we are and our many cultural features." Mrs. Prats, along with Mrs. Zayra Gotay were key figures in the

development of several skits created by CHS students. As a Spanish teacher, Mrs. Gotay treasures the event and sees it "as an opportunity for our students to discover their identity as Puerto Ricans through their history and the arts, and to feel proud of what they discover."

The large audience composed of parents, students, teachers and loved ones brought cheers and laughter to what was truly a night to remember. The level of creativity, talent and enthusiasm displayed by the students made all present feel proud to be part of this brilliant Comets family.



## Scouting at CPS

### Somoas or Thin Mints?

by Jennifer Tasch, CPS Parent

Did you know that Thin Mints is the most widely sold Girl Scout cookie in the United States, followed closely by the favorite here in Puerto Rico...Somoas? While our local culture's taste buds may differ slightly from the national trend, the seven **Girl Scouts of Troop #155** who meet weekly at Parkville School are proud to share the same wonderful experiences as the over ten million Girl Scouts who participate in troops in over 145 countries worldwide. Celebrating 85 years in Puerto Rico, Girl Scouts is the largest organization dedicated to empowering young girls.

Most of the girls began together as Brownies two years ago, and this year started with a bridge crossing ceremony to mark the beginning of their journey as Juniors. Their uniforms now match the organization's motto this year, "Always Green," in support of raising environmental awareness. One of their first steps back in September on the Junior journey was the handing out of ribbons to the Parkville School community displaying the words, "I've always been green... now it's your turn."

We are fortunate to have recently welcomed a new member to our Girl Scout family. This year still holds many wonderful opportunities to come for our little leaders, including camping trips, community service activities, and, of course, the annual Girl Scout Cookie Sale. Preorders can be placed with any of the girls, and cookies will be delivered and sold starting in January. So whether you are a Thin Mint or a Samoa, support all local Caribe Council Girl Scout activities by buying cookies for friends and loved ones!



### Boy Scouts of America

By Gustavo Melero  
Scoutmaster of Troop 35

The Boy Scouts of America is all about fun! Scouts get to participate in camping, kayaking, biking, hiking, climbing, community projects, and to visit historic places among other activities.

Boys who have earned the Arrow of Light Award and are at least 10 years old, or age 11, or has completed fifth grade can join. Boy Scouts can participate until 18 years old.



Starting as a scout you have to develop the skills required for each rank in order to progress through the ranking system. The ranking moves through Scout, Tenderfoot, Second Class, First Class, Star, Life and the highest rank is Eagle Scout.

In the Boy Scouts of America there are other programs for older members such as the Venturing crew in which young men and women age 14 (or 13 years of age and have completed the 8th grade) and less than 21 years of age can do high adventure activities. Any Venturing crew interested in the sea can participate in Sea Scouting. And Varsity Scout teams are male scouts 14 to 17 years old that participate in a certain sport and go against other varsity teams.

Besides local expeditions during the past years Troop 35 scouts had the opportunity to participate at Space Camp or X-Camp at Huntsville Alabama, canoe for 50 miles at the beautiful boundary waters between Minnesota and Canada, and participated along with 44,000 scouts at the 2010 National Jamboree Centennial Celebration in Virginia. Next summer Troop 35 will hike for 50 to 75 miles at Philmont Scout Ranch New Mexico and camp at Camp La-No-Che in Central Florida.

Come on and join Troop 35 or Venturing Crew 35 at Parkville CPS Campus. Meetings are scheduled on Wednesdays at 7:00 pm.

## Parkville Campus Glee Club

by F. Richard Marracino

The Parkville Campus Glee Club under the direction of music teacher **Magda Ramos** was featured at the Christmas Bazaars at the Union and Second Union Churches of San Juan on November 13 and December 4, respectively. To the delight of the audience, the Glee Club with thirty members sang many holiday songs in both English and Spanish. The annual bazaars have attracted many holiday shoppers to support the churches and their community outreach programs. CPS is pleased to assist in these worthy causes while simultaneously providing excellent opportunities for our students to perform publicly. Congratulations to all students, their parents, and especially to Ms. Magda Ramos.



## CHS Holidays Card Contest

Our winner this year is 10th grader **Natalia Ramirez**



Congratulations!

# Football Championship

by Ramón China, Football Coach

## Comets: Back to Back

This season our beloved Comets Football Team won their second consecutive Island-Championship. It is the first back to back Championship since 2000-2001. Our team led by league MVP **Ryan Acosta**, best offensive lineman **Joshua Levene**, and best defensive back for the second year in a row **Ernesto Acosta**, went undefeated for a record of 9-0-1.

It was a very exciting season because we had the pressure to defend our Championship plus with the roster we had, we knew we had not just to win, but go undefeated.

Now we turn the page and look forward to next season and what it might bring. We will defend our title and proudly represent the Comets one more time.



## Health Week

by Alexandre Cerqueira



Roman poet Publius Vergilius Maro, a.k.a. Virgil, is known for saying that “the greatest wealth is health.” Indeed. This is the concept behind health week at CHS, organized by **Mrs. Aniris Berdecía**, the Science and the Physical Education Departments. Health Week included a series of conferences that touched on diverse aspects of human well being. Berdecía describes the annual week-long event as “an encouragement for students to lead a healthier lifestyle in all aspects: nutritional, mental, and physical health.” **Mr. Albert Muñoz**, **Mr. Alexis Meléndez** and CHS school psychologist **Carlos Barys** held conferences that touched on themes which included cancer prevention, self control and stress management, exercising and sports injury prevention. Students also participated in a nutritional workshop, checkups at a health clinic set up at the auditorium and a field trip to the “Brain: The World inside Your Head” exhibition in Caguas.



Veteran CHS teacher **Wanda Alicea** promoted health consciousness through a series of poster projects about the physical and emotional effects of alcohol and tobacco. In full support for Health Week, Ms. Alicea enthusiastically stated that as a CPS teacher she feels proud to be part of an event that provides our students with knowledge and tools that enable them to make better choices about their health. To end on a Roman note, Virgil’s counterpart Marcus Valerius Martial leaves us with the wise saying that “*Life is not merely to be alive, but to be well.*”

## CPS Scholarship Endowment Fund

by F. Richard Marracino

The Commonwealth-Parkville School's Endowment Fund is a permanent fund created to provide future scholarships and financial aid to students who meet CPS admission criteria but whose families simply cannot afford the cost of an excellent CPS education.

Students who meet the requirements for admission and financial aid, and provide evidence of financial need, may apply, but currently the fund is not large enough to generate sufficient interest. At the present time, all scholarships and financial assistance to families are accomplished through money from private citizen donations earmarked for such use, and from the operating budget.

The CPS Scholarship Endowment Fund is charitable trust created to receive donations and is managed by an elected Trust Governing Board that invests the funds in secure income-producing instruments.

The principal from the fund cannot be touched and the generated interest is re-invested into the fund until at which time enough principal is achieved to use the interest to support scholarships and financial assistance.

The fund is self-perpetuating, providing a unique opportunity for CPS to grow in achievement, excellence and reputation by attracting additional, well-qualified applicants to its student body.

The annual CPS Scholarship Golf Tournament will be held at Bahía Beach Resort on Friday, April 8, 2011.

## PR Discovery Week at PKS

by Judith Rivera  
Director of Upper Elementary School

There was a festive atmosphere in celebration of the Discovery of Puerto Rico at the Parkville Campus during the week of November 15-19. It began on Monday with a parade representing 21 towns, followed by workshops for the students some of which were :

Juegos infantiles  
Taller de música  
Taller de maracas  
Elaboración de guanín  
Elaboración de sorullitos  
Elaboración de mantecaditos  
Elaboración de arepas

On Friday, November 19th the center patio was transformed into areas where Vieques, Culebra, Guánica, Aguadilla and Arecibo were represented. There were students dressed as outstanding citizens from each of the towns, offering information.

The week ended with festivities that included the entire Parkville Campus, including parents. The 5th grade put on a play about "Juan Bobo", the Jr. Student Council, as well as the 6th grade danced. **Alejandro González** from the 6th grade sang "Preciosa", **Paula Vargas** from the 3rd grade sang the "Padre Nuestro Taino" and a trio of musicians played typical Puerto Rican music on the "cuatro", that got everyone singing. It was an exciting week full of learning and fun!

Special thanks to the **PKS Spanish Department, Mr. Emus Hernández, the social studies teachers, maintenance workers** and outstanding group of **parents** who collaborated to make the events a success.





## ALUMNI CORNER

by Kathy Román  
Director of Alumni

### Spotlight on: Gabrielle Vázquez, Attorney at Law class of 2000

Gabrielle Vázquez attended **Princeton University**, the number one school in the Nation and her first choice. She majored in Politics and earned two certificates (the Princeton equivalent of a minor), one in Latin American Studies and one in African American Studies. Her senior thesis was on the cultural, social and political issues surrounding Puerto Rico's unresolved political status, titled "*The Prospect of Puerto Rican Sovereignty.*" After graduation from Princeton in 2004, she went straight to **Fordham Law School** in Manhattan, and graduated in May 2007, the recipient of the Lawrence J. McKay Prize, a very prestigious award for excellence in appellate oral advocacy. She was admitted to the **New York State Bar Association** in June 2008, having passed the bar exam on her first try. Those who have sat for this exam know it is quite an accomplishment!

While at Fordham, Gabrielle worked with criminal defendants and served as an Associate Editor of the Intellectual Property, Media and Entertainment Law Journal. Right after law school she joined the law firm of Hughes, Hubbard & Reed LLP in New York City as a litigation associate. She left the firm for a federal judicial clerkship for the Honorable Stephen C. Robinson in the Southern District of New York,

until June 2010. Gabrielle is now back at Hughes Hubbard as part of the litigation group where she is focused on White Collar Crime.

Gabrielle was also heavily involved (and still is) in the **Fordham Moot Court Program**, ultimately competing as the swing (arguing both sides of an issue) in the National Moot Court Competition. She also participated in the Cardozo/BMI Entertainment Law Competition, where she was a Finalist and won an award for Runner-up Best Brief, and the I. Maurice Wormser Competition, where she was a Finalist and won the award for Best Brief. Gabrielle also participated in trial advocacy competition at Fordham as part of the Brendan Moore Trial Advocates.

A lifer at CPS (started in Kindergarten all the way through to 12th), Gabrielle feels that Commonwealth (CHS) provided a challenging and rewarding education. Most importantly though, it was a well-rounded education that extended beyond the classroom and that allowed each student to find his/her niche, explore it and master it. During senior year, she was voted "most likely to succeed" and "most school spirited", and upon graduation won the **Leadership Award**. She feels Commonwealth's major strength is in the diversity of opportunities available to each student, allowing for his/her involvement in leadership positions, in her case, from Captain of various sports teams, to President of the National Honor Society

and ultimately becoming President of the Student Council.

These experiences, in her view, prepared her for life by giving her skills that she still uses today. "The activities I was involved in at Commonwealth were absolutely the foundation for my love of the courtroom and for my success as an oral advocate in law school. The leadership skills I developed through Student Council, the National Honor Society and through my participation on various sports teams were essential to my own development as a leader and team player. Additionally, the coaching I received as part of the **Forensics** team was invaluable to my development as an oral advocate, as were the weekly assemblies that I led in front of the whole school, which were key to developing my speaking abilities and learning to command an audience. I am eternally grateful for the many passions and skills I took from Commonwealth that have driven me to where I am now."

This busy **attorney** makes time and feels it is very important to be involved in her community and in trying to improve herself. Gabrielle is constantly looking for the next challenge on the horizon. She loves sports and still plays softball, which she started at CHS. She enjoys snowboarding in the winter and loves to cook and bake and even belongs to a cooking club that meets once a month. How's that for a **well-rounded Comet!**

## Comets @ Central American and Caribbean Games and Beyond

**Michelle Romero**, class of 2008 has always been determined and a hard worker. A lifer at CPS, she worked her way to become **class president** in her senior year while also being a member of the **National Honor Society**. Parallel to her academic achievements, she maintained a rigorous lifestyle in the very competitive and demanding equestrian world. Michelle began riding at the tender age of 7 on her own initiative when she chose to participate in a summer camp at Bosque Ecuestre La Sebastiana. This sparked a passion for riding which marked the beginning of what would be an ascending career culminating in the opportunity of representing her country in the recent Central American Games held in Mayagüez in the Three Day Event Category.

Right after summer camp she began training under the guidance of Canadian coach Patrick Grimard. By the time she was 13, Mr. Grimard and her dad purchased a thoroughbred for her right off the racetrack, Apollo. Apollo and Michelle had a successful run over the years moving up from 1.00 meter fences to 1.30.

In the summer of 2006, she flew with Apollo to Wellington, Florida to train with Venezuelan Grand Prix rider, Pablo Barrios. She spent two years (flying back and forth between Puerto Rico and Florida) riding and traveling with Pablo. Then in the summer of 2009, she went from Jump ring to the world of Three day events. This required that she change trainers and location. She began training with Jonathan Holling, a very successful international three day event competitor who had completed the Rolex Kentucky several times and other three and four star events. Michelle and Apollo started training at Willow Run Farm owned by the Jon and Jenn Holling based out of Ocala, Florida. She wrote "I must admit in the beginning the transition was very hard on us, learning and understanding the different disciplines and the expectations for each. While I was still a little confused by all the dressage movements, I learned about the sturdiness of the cross-country jumps and the uncomfortable feeling of galloping to fences at 450 plus meter per minute. I decided I wanted to give it my best shot."



Pictured here: Michelle Romero & Pikadilly, a.k.a. "Pickles"

In September 2008, Michelle moved to Alabama where she was accepted at **Auburn University**, her first choice, to form part of its prestigious equestrian team. But as fate would have it, shortly thereafter she had to put her college plans on hold to pursue full fledge her dreams. This required that she officially move into the Willow Run Farm which she did in December 2009. She then started working as a student for Jon and Jenn Holling. A typical day started at 6:30 am, feeding the horses and switching their turnout. Throughout the day she tacked up horses for Jon and Jenn, rode several horses and in the afternoon took lessons with her horse. The day ended around 6 pm, when all the horses were fed, the tack was clean, and the barns looked tidy.

Unfortunately, just after completing two novice level competitions with Apollo, he had a minor injury and had to retire from his short lived eventing career. In January, she began leasing the Hanoverian thoroughbred cross Pikadilly, from Dorothy Crowell (silver medalist in the 94 WEGS and member of the USA team at the Olympics). "Pickles" as he was referred to in the barn became an outstanding partner for the winter season, finishing in the top 10 placings at the Rocking Horse and Poplar Horse Trials. With "Pickles" she learned about dressage and cross-country and moving up to the Preliminary Level at The Fork in North Carolina.

With her hard work, skilled trainers and her "Pickles" she qualified to compete in the Central American Games in the eventing category where she performed exceptionally well. She says "There are no words to describe the excitement that ran through me on the day of the opening ceremonies at the Central American Games. I left Puerto Rico with the dream of participating at the games but had no idea what the following months would hold for me. My horse Pikadilly and I traveled all over the United States in preparation for these games and it was proven on the first day of competition that our hard work and perseverance paid off. We won the first division with a score of 44.7. I got dressed that morning with more butterflies in my stomach than I ever thought I could handle and with the flag on my chest I set out to do the best I could."

Right after the games in Mayagüez, Michelle and Pikadilly were offered to move to Kentucky to the estate of Dorothy Crowell to undergo extensive training Ms. Crowell has taken Michelle under her wing which is an opportunity of a lifetime. Now Pikadilly and Michelle are getting ready for their next challenge: the **Pan American Games** in Guadalajara 2011. We look forward to Michelle's continued success. If you would like to sponsor Michelle in her ascending career, please contact Carmen del Río, her proud mom at [cdelrio@prtc.net](mailto:cdelrio@prtc.net).



## Comets @ Central American and Caribbean Games and Beyond (continued)

**Oswaldo García, class of 1982**  
**Category: Racquetball, Member of Puerto Rico Racquetball Federation**

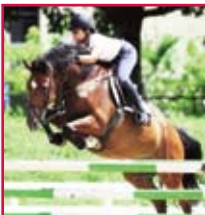
Currently **National Champion** in Puerto Rico (ranked #1 in Singles)



- Participated in this sport: For over 20 years, started when he was 14 yrs old while living in Panamá
- Experience at Central American Games: Overall favorable, but admits not his best performance, says that competing at home (i.e. Puerto Rico) allowed too many distractions.
- Other venues: Three World Games, Panamerican Games and Central American Games
- Sports/Clubs while at Commonwealth: Football, Baseball, Basketball and Track and voted CHS 1982 Athlete of the Year
- College: **East Stroudsburg University**, PA – BA concentration: Marketing
- Current Occupation: Online Marketer of High End audio Equipment and E-bay Trading Assistance (Top Rated Seller)
- Awards/prizes at this or any other event: 2002 Central American Games : won 1 Silver medal Doubles, 1 Silver medal as a Team

Note: racquetball is a “family affair” (picture above) with his wife Kim Venegas winning a Bronze Medal in Women’s racquetball during 2010 Central American Games. Daughter Kio Val (only 10 years old) is also an avid racquetball player.

**Gruschenka Mojica, class of 2001**  
**Category: Equestrian, Member of Puerto Rico National Equestrian Team**



- Participated in this sport: For over 20 year, has been riding since she was six and competing

since nine, domestically and internationally

- Experience at Central American Games: She trained with the PR team up to the day of the games as a reserve athlete (a binomial with her horse Lux) but did not actually compete in the official games.
- Other venues: Many domestic and international competitions including 2002 Central American games en EL Salvador in equestrian showjumping and most recent Copa Olímpica San Juan, PR (2009), **1st, 6th place & Silver Medal** 1.00m, **2nd place & Bronze Medal** 1.40m, **3rd place** 1.30m and Blainville International at Montreal Canada (2008) - **1st place** Low Amateur Jumper
- Sports/Clubs while at Commonwealth: Honor Society, Literary Magazine, Community Service
- College: **Cornell University College of Arts and Sciences**, Ithaca, NY, Bachelor of Arts in Psychology & Spanish Literature w/concentration in Latin American Studies
- Current Occupation: First semester of **Medical School, UPR**
- Awards/prizes at this or any other event: In 1997 qualified for the FEI Children's World Final Competition in Cape Town, South Africa, placing her 6th in the world. Received prize for most outstanding female equestrian athlete in 1998 by Channel 6 and awarded **Most Outstanding Equestrian Athlete by the Olympic Committee** for the following years: 1997, 2000, 2001 and 2002, among many other prizes. Her team won 2nd place in World Jumping Challenge 1995.

**Patricia Casellas, class of 2008**  
**Category: Swimming, Member of PR Swimming Federation** (Breaststroke)

- Participated in this sport: 17 years
- Experience at Central American Games: The best experience of my life.



Won 2 medals: **Bronze**: 50 breast individual and **Silver**: 4x100 medley relay

- Other venues: 2004 CISC (Caribbean Island Swimming Championships & CCCAN (Confederación Centroamericana y del Caribe de Natación), 2006 Primer Mundial Juvenil en Río de Janeiro, Brazil, GRAND PRIX since 2009
- Sports/Clubs while at Commonwealth: track and field, cross country & swimming
- College: **UPR** Río Piedras
- Current Occupation: Training in Florida
- Awards/prizes at this or any other event: **Most outstanding female swimmer** by category at my club, swimming MVP (most valuable player) at Commonwealth.

**Richard Huntley, class of 1996**  
**Category: Water Polo, Member of the PR Water Polo National Team**



- Participated in this sport: 21 years and played for the PR National Team since 1998.
- Experience at Central American Games: Participated in Four Central American Games ('98 Maracaibo [**Silver Medal**], Venezuela / '02 – San Salvador, El Salvador [**Silver Medal**] / '06 – Cartagena, Colombia and '10 Mayaguez, PR) and Three Pan-American Games ('99 Winnipeg, Canada / '03 – Santo Domingo '07 – Río de Janeiro, Brazil)
- Other venues: As part of the PR Water Polo National Team, participated in the only PR team that has made an appearance in a Pre-Olympic Games (last competition to qualify for the Olympic Games – It was in Río de Janeiro, 2004)
- Sports/Clubs while at Commonwealth: '92-'96 Football, Basketball – Jr National Water Polo Team (private clubs, etc.).
- College: '96-2000 **UMASS** – Amherst, BA in Business Management-Isenberg School of Management. While in UMASS, played Water Polo (goalie) for the Varsity



Division 1 Team since a Freshman. Won the ALL EAST TOURNAMENT for three out of four years of college, qualifying his team for the Final Four Tournament.

Named **All American Water Polo Player** (Season '98 & '99) in junior and senior year.

- Current Occupation: President of WEKANDO Construction, Inc., dedicated to commercial construction.
- Awards/prizes at this or any other event: Central American Game in 1998 - Maracaibo [**Silver Medal**], Central American Game 2006 - El Salvador [**Silver Medal**]

Note : Father of two (Marcelo D. Huntley and Sebastian A. Huntley), wife Yariza Yulian is the owner of Gimnasio Zonactiva (Adult Fitness Center) & Zonactiva Kids (Kids – Gymnastics and Fitness Center).

**Julia Toro, student at CHS, class of 2012**

Category: Synchronize swimming

**Champion in PR Nationals** for the past 4 years

- Participated in this sport: 7 years
- Experience at Centroamericanos: As the 2nd youngest athlete in the PR Synchronize Swimming National Team, 16 years old, it was a great challenge to compete at a Senior level and an honor to represent our country. I got to meet other athletes and coaches from different sports and countries.
- Other venues: Age group Synchronized swimming competitions: **Gold** solo, duet, and team PR Nationals 2009, **Bronze** in duet and team routine CCCAN Venezuela 2009,



Nationals Swimming Competitions in Back, Freestyle and Meltly.

- Sports/Clubs while at Commonwealth: Swimming, Softball, Volleyball, Cross Country, Track and Field, Drama, Spring Musicals, Red Hot Dancers, Junior and National Honor Society.
- Current Occupation: Student- 11th grade at CHS
- Plans for the future: Keep swimming and dancing in college and thereafter. Hopes to compete at the Olympics and be the second set of Puerto Ricans in synchronized swimming to reach this level of competition. Wishes to combine swimming with her passion for theater, arts, and sciences.
- Awards/prizes at this or any other event: Central American Games: **5th place** in Free Team Routine, **Bronze** medal in Combo Team Routine.

In order to accommodate the varied itineraries of our alumni, we have set up the following rule of thumb: when the year ends in an odd number, the holiday party will be held on the 23rd of December. For years ending in even numbers, the holiday party will then be held on the 26th of December.

Save the date and the planet...Hard copy invitations will not be mailed.



**You're invited**  
 by the  
**Comets Alumni Association**  
 of Commonwealth-Parkville School  
 to its annual  
*Comets Holiday Party*  
 on December 26, 2010 at 8 o'clock p.m. at the  
**Sheraton Puerto Rico Convention Center**  
**Hotel & Casino**  
**at the District Lobby Lounge**  
Donation \$10.00  
 Free parking for 3 hours / Happy Hour all night long  
 DJ and other surprises and amenities

For additional information visit our website at [www.cpspr.org](http://www.cpspr.org) (click on Alumni) or call us at 787.765-4411 x240 



# GET TO KNOW US at CPS

## **NOEMI RAMIREZ** **CPS Academic Dean**

Noemí has a BA in Art History from UPR; post graduate studies from Universidad de Sevilla, Spain; post graduate studies in Educational Psychology from NYU; post graduate studies in Special Education from Bridgeport University; MA in Bilingual and Bicultural Education from Phoenix University. She has 29 years experience in the field of education; 12 as a teacher at Parkville and 10 as Lower Elementary School Director. Noemí is now our Academic Dean. She is a member of the Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development. Noemi's special interests are: reading, listening to classical music and practicing Yoga. Her two sons are CPS alumni: Josean Laguarda Class of '97 and José Laguarda Class of '99.



## **ALEXIS MELENDEZ MARTINEZ** **Health, Ethics and Fitness Teacher**

Alexis has a BA in Sciences in Health and Physical Education from Huron University in South Dakota 2001, a MA in Educational Administration from Ana G. Méndez Institution (Universidad del Este in Carolina) 2006, and is a Doctoral Student in Education- in Administrative Leadership for Teaching and Learning from Walden University Online Program 2009. He has eight years of teaching experience (2 years at Colegio Marimée in Guaynabo and 6 years at Commonwealth High School). Alexis has been Commonwealth High School Fitness Center Coordinator since 2007 and Assistant Athletic Director since 2006. His extra-curricular activities include: CPS Athletic Department Coaching Staff for the past six years in baseball, track and field and cross country. Alexis is the current tennis coach. He is also the advisor of the Student Athletes Tutoring Program. As a PE teacher, Alexis love sports and spending time with his family; his wife Omaris and his two boys Axel and Adiel.



## **VANESSA PADILLA** **PKS Dance Teacher**

Vanessa has been PKS Dance teacher since 1996. She began ballet lessons at the young age of seven with Nana Hudo and then continued studying with Lotti Tischer of Ballet Concertantes de Puerto Rico and Lolita San Miguel of Ballet Concierto de Puerto Rico. She has participated in many productions such as operas, zarzuelas, Jazz and Ballet. Vanessa participated in the first workshop for choreographers sponsored by Ballet Concierto de Puerto Rico in 1986. She began Ballet Encantada Dance Studio in Trujillo Alto in 1992. Vanessa loves to play tennis. Her two children are CPS Alumni; Radamés, Class of '05 and Viveca Santisteban, Class of '08.

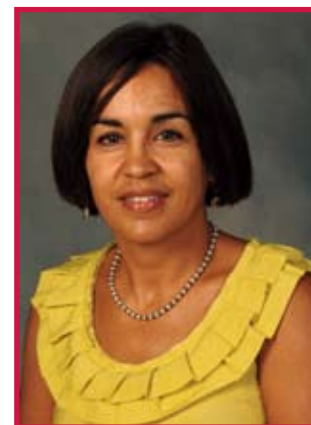


# GET TO KNOW US at CPS

## KATHY ROMAN

### Director of Alumni and Special Projects

Kathy has a MBA from University of New Orleans, a BA from University of Puerto Rico, Río Piedras Campus and is a CPA, Certified Public Account licensed in New York State and Puerto Rico. While living in Puerto Rico she worked as an auditor for a major accounting firm and internal auditor. A native of New York, Kathy later relocated to NYC and became the controller for an executive health provider firm. Upon the birth of her first child, she moved back to Puerto Rico and stayed home for several years. As a volunteer parent she worked on budgets for the 50th Anniversary of CPS. As fate would have it, shortly thereafter she was recommended to work at the school in the position of Assistant to the Director of Development and Alumni, later becoming the Director of Alumni and Special Projects. She has worked in the school for 7 years. She is currently enrolled in Mandarin class in our CHS After-School Program. Her recent hobbies include reading and doing exercise. Kathy loves to travel and go to the beach. She especially cherishes spending time with her family; which becomes a real challenge the older the girls get! Her daughter, Claudia Aliff is in 10th grade and Laura Aliff in 8th grade.



## GLADYS GUZMAN

### PKS Kinder Teacher

Gladys has a Bachelor's degree in Preschool and Elementary Education and possesses three teaching licensures, Education in preschool, Education in K-3 and Education 4th-6th grade. She is currently working on her Master's degree in Curriculum and Instruction design. Gladys has been a teacher for five years. Her first year she worked as an ESL teacher for special needs students in grades from first to seventh. Then, she spent two years in Colegio Santísima Trinidad as a Spanish teacher in grades fourth through seventh. She is now happy to say that she has been a proud member of the CPS faculty team as a kindergarten teacher for this past year. This is her second year at Parkville Commonwealth School. Gladys enjoys traveling, reading and spending time with family and friends. During her spare time, she sings at church and also works with deaf children by interpreting sign language to them.



## JOSE REYES

### CHS Custodian

José joined the PKS custodian staff last February and was transferred in July to CHS. He has a high school diploma from Río Piedras City Academy, 1993. Later he took computer courses as well as electrical and refrigeration courses. He has three years experience as an electrician and one and a half years experience in the refrigeration area. He is CHS' handy man. He used to play basketball and pool and enjoys going to the beach. José is a family man. He has a 4-year old son and a 1-year old girl. We welcome José to the Commonwealth Campus.





## CALENDAR

### December 2010

- 22 - Holiday Recess begins
- 26 - Alumni Party
- 28 - Central Office Open

### January 2011

- 4 - Central Office Open
- 10 - De Hostos Day - NO SCHOOL
- 11 - Classes Resume
- 21 - 5th grade and new prospective students visit CHS
- 22 - SAT/Subject Tests

### February

- 5 - PA family Day/Heart for Haiti
- 11 - Regional Spelling Bee  
People We Love Day  
Valentine's Day Dance at PKS
- 11-12 - Basketball Tournament at CHS
- 12 - ACT Test
- 14-18 - CHS Semana de la Lengua  
PKS Scholastic Book Fair
- 21 - President's Day/Luis Muñoz Marín Day - NO SCHOOL
- 22-25 - CHS Math Week
- 28 - Last Day for Re-enrollment Discount  
CHS Technology Fair Week

### March

- 1 - Horizons Parents Meeting at PKS
- 4 - Professional Day - NO SCHOOL  
Final Spelling Bee Competition at Channel 6
- 7-11 - Standardized Tests at PKS
- 8 - Career Day
- 9 - End of Marking Period
- 12 - SAT
- 17 - Student's Day - 11:30 a.m. Dismissal  
Employee Recognition Day
- 18 - Teacher's Day - NO SCHOOL
- 19 - "Oratoria" Competition
- 21 - Abolition Day - NO SCHOOL
- 22-25 - PKS Semana de la Lengua
- 23-24 - Standardized Tests at CHS
- 25 - Kinder Thank You Breakfast



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**Happy Holidays!**

**Classes Resume on January 11, 2011**