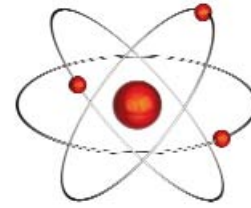


cps scene

O C T O B E R 2 0 1 0

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RAISING¹⁰

CPS ANNUAL GIVING CAMPAIGN 2010

Science Works

by Carmen del Río
CPS Board Member
Institutional Advancement Committee

Some people and organizations can repeat success, but not CPS,
WE CAN ONLY DO IT BETTER!

This year's Raising¹⁰ CPS Annual Giving Fundraising campaign is the one to contribute for. In science we've found success and this campaign has all the elements that scream exactly that.

Science Works is an engaging campaign with the science department teachers as well as the Institutional Developing Committee. Our goal this year is to raise \$100,000.00 to renovate the science lab at Parkville campus and renovate the physics lab at Commonwealth Campus.

Why we do it?

As a proud board member I have been involved in many campaigns throughout the 14 years I have been in this community and I can assure you we deliver what we promise. This is one of my motivations as part of this important committee. We can see our kids benefit from and enjoy our hard work.

As part of the innovation in this campaign, we have the matching funds program. We urge you to go to our website, www.cpspr.org, and verify if your company has such a program. It will be amazing to see how your investment will be doubled by the company you work for.

There are many ways to contribute, by check, credit card or by Internet. We would like your contribution to be as high as possible, however we understand that it might not be possible, this is why we have the fare share of \$375.00 per family.

We know we can count on you and your contribution to make the difference. Don't miss the opportunity to be part of the Raising¹⁰ where Science Works!



News from the Admissions Office

by Jo-Ann Aranguren, Director of Admissions

NEW PARENTS WINE & CHEESE

Greetings! Our New Parents Wine & Cheese was held on August 20th at the Plaza Provision Wine Cellar. It is a great pleasure for me to prepare this special event that gives me the opportunity to officially welcome “New Parents” to our ever-growing family here at CPS. The wine cellar was completely full, and the “New Parents” were very happy to have the opportunity to meet some of their children’s teachers, our headmaster, administrators and board members. This year we had the privilege to have as a speaker, **Raquel Merediz**, a graduate from 2002 and also the daughter of **Diana de Jesús**, our Director of

Finance and Operations. Her speech was one of great pride for the school; the teachers that motivated, inspired and guided her to pursue her passion in life. We all wish Raquel the best in reaching all her goals.

And as always, the food created by **Conchi Biascochea** was delicious and also the great wines donated by **Roberto Cimino** (CHS Alumnus) from Plaza Provision were exquisite. Special thanks to **Cecil Pedrosa’s** donation of the photos for the activity.

On behalf of the Admissions Office we want to extend our warmest **WELCOME** to all new parents. We hope to share many more activities with you and your family throughout the year.



Raquel Merediz and Diana de Jesús

Daniel Fernández, Michelle White,
Ana Marie Radosta, Adaris Pérez and
Javier Rivera

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Carmen del Rio, Aleida Mora, Richard Marracino
and Lily Ruiz



Left to right:
Back: Jorge Acebal, Mari Tere del Valle, Aida Portela, Julie Piñero, Vanessa Padilla, Emus Hernández.
Front:
Ella Quiñones, Vivian Ríos, Kathy Tervo, Diana Nazario, Beatrice Parga, and Melissa Hernández



Left to right:
Alex Nieves, Lilliam Fajardo,
Richard Marracino, Elsie
Calimano, Carmen del Río,
Kelli Killingsworth and Nicolás
Hernández

Ella Scholz

2010 CPS Scholarship Award Recipient

by Jo-Ann Aranguren
Director of Admissions

We are very proud to announce **Ella Scholz** as the recipient of our “2010 Scholarship Award”. Ella was enrolled in sixth grade at Commonwealth-Parkville School for the academic year 2009-2010 and she is now currently a seventh grader. She has been a straight A student since she was three years old when she told her mother – “I want to be a school girl.”

At Parkville, Ella made the Gold Honor Roll during the first quarter and has kept excellent grades since. Besides being an outstanding student, this sweet and polite young lady has excelled in sports (swimming, gymnastics and volleyball) and the arts (ballet, flamenco, theater and piano). Ella’s true passion from a very young age is reading, which is her favorite afterschool activity. She initiated “The Book Club for 4th Graders” at the Parkville Campus together with Laura Tavera from fifth grade. This shows her leadership skills as well as her care for her fellow students and their needs.



We look forward to continue witnessing great achievements from this well-liked and exemplary student. It is a joy for us at CPS to have Ella as part of our school community.

ADMISSIONS OPEN HOUSES

Our OPEN HOUSES are scheduled to be:

PARKVILLE CAMPUS

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 17, 2010 at 1:00 p.m.
Parkville Cafetorium

COMONWEALTH CAMPUS

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 24, 2010 at 1:00 p.m.
Gloria Shuman Theater

The admissions office cordially invites you and all your friends and families to these wonderful “Open Houses”. You will have the opportunity to meet the division directors that are giving their presentations, and the opportunity to tour our facilities. Don’t miss this opportunity to fill out your application early for the next academic year.

The admissions office is already getting applications and remember, spaces are limited.

AP and NHRP SCHOLAR



Alejandro Garcia

Alejandro was designated by the College Board as an **AP Scholar**. This means that he took more than two Advanced Placement courses during the 2009-2010 academic year and received the highest score of 5 on all three exams: AP Art History, AP English Literature, and AP Spanish Literature.

In addition, he was selected as a **2010-2011 National Hispanic Merit Scholar** (NHRP).

We are very proud of Alejandro!

Headmaster's Message

by F. Richard Marracino

Ken Robinson, author of *“Out of Our Minds: Learning to be Creative”* (England: West Sussex, 2001) presents a convincing case for promoting creativity in all academic disciplines, not just music and art. He argues that:

Formal education has mostly focused on intellectual development conceived in terms of deductive reason and propositional knowledge. The priority has gone to subjects that exemplify it, especially science and mathematics. ...In education there is an implicit distinction between hard and soft subjects, those that are thought to promote intellectual development, including the sciences, and those to do with emotions, notably the arts. (p. 143)

Ken Robinson's views may be true largely in very traditional school communities that place primary emphasis on subject content and testing. We at CPS believe that current thrusts in education dictate a more flexible and enhanced journey for students to include---as does Commonwealth-Parkville School--- the vast array of necessary personal skills such as global awareness, civic and health literacy, creativity, critical thinking, problem solving, communications and collaboration, information literacy (technology), media, flexibility, adaptability, accountability, leadership, and responsibility...simply called 21st Century Skills.

CPS is a leader in this movement to prepare students for the world in which they live by helping them develop skills which eventually will be extremely useful in being accepted into top universities and ultimately being employed by successful corporations

and organizations. The Commonwealth-Parkville faculty has been working diligently by interweaving these skills onto the core curriculum. The skills have become vital parts of our new mission (see website homepage: www.cpspr.org).

Additionally, during the month of August and September we have commissioned the work of Dr. Joachim de Posada, renowned motivational speaker, to present relevant seminars to our faculty, parents, and students. His presentations of August 2, September 2 and 3, respectively, have addressed six basic points:

- (1) delaying gratification (*Don't Eat the Marshmallow... Yet*),
- (2) shedding old, worn-out habits (*Let go of the Elephant*),
- (3) doing things that unsuccessful people are unwilling to do,
- (4) accepting responsibility,
- (5) promoting teamwork, and
- (6) applying knowledge for power.

The responses by all three recipient groups---faculty, parents and students--- have been extremely positive.

As CPS moves forward in our quest to remain the best educational college-prep, coeducational private school in Puerto Rico, we are tapping every conceivable source for input and support. This year, we are diligently addressing two additional areas: (1) **Re-accreditation**, and (2) **Challenge 20/20**. Stay tuned for an explanation of each of these important involvements in my headmaster column.

CHS Alicia Ramírez, participates in selective Journalism Program at the University of North Carolina

by Kathy Román

The Chuck Stone Program for Diversity in Education and Media of the University of North Carolina (UNC) at Chapel Hill identifies and brings to campus talented high school students from diverse backgrounds across the U.S. for an intensive one-week summer workshop in journalism and mass communication (all expenses paid). The program seeks rising seniors interested in journalism careers. In order to be considered these students must rank among the top five in their class in addition to submitting an essay and letter of recommendation along with other credentials. The process is very selective since **only 12 students** are chosen nationwide. We are proud to report that Commonwealth High School senior **Alicia Ramírez** was chosen and was able to partake in this program from July 11-17, 2010.

Alicia says the workshop *“was an insightful experience that allowed me to meet rising seniors from all over the United States and work with wonderful professors as well as get an idea of how studying at UNC would be like.”* She was also exposed to different aspects of journalism including blogging, writing for a newspaper, and broadcast journalism. She said it was a challenging week but very rewarding once she got to see that her articles were published in the university's newspaper! **Go Comets!**



Fly by Night 2010

by Saress Smith, Drama Advisor, producer and director

The eighth annual **Fly by Night** was held on September 24th and 25th with the cooperation of over 40 students from five schools: Commonwealth-Parkville School, Colegio Adianez, Colegio Rosa-Bell, TESIS Dorado and San Juan Educational School. The yearly collaborative theatre event once again produced high caliber one-act plays created by the students themselves in a 24 hour period.

Subjects of the plays this year were more serious than in previous years. The first four plays focused on incompetent detectives, intolerant religious sects, psychopathic killers, and sinners in limbo. The final play was a satire of popular television commercials and the viewer's reaction to the "sales pitch."

Students began the process with ice-breaker exercises and workshops on Friday night. Seven member teams made of combinations of students (one director, two writers and four actors) from all attending schools worked

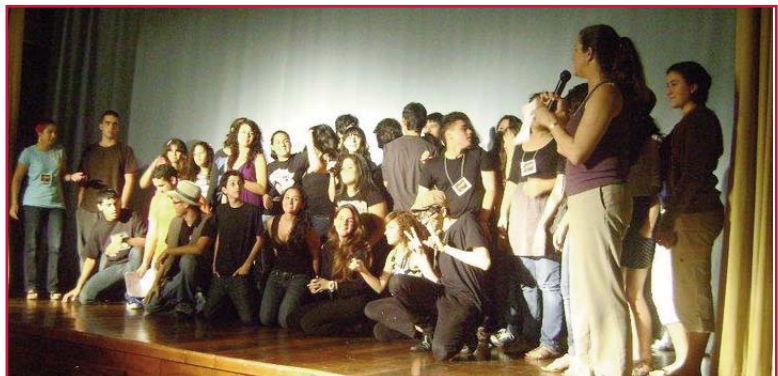
together to create a name for their group. We had the AAAAAAH! Team, the Bipolar Team, the Claustrophobic Team, the Do-nothings, and the Extinction team. After presenting a skit about their names, the teams worked on gathering ideas for possible plots through a musical exercise. **Nabil Revan**, CHS class of '09, led the group through an Improvisational Workshop which gave the groups insight into the talent and creativity of their members. After a snack break, the teams then went on to their individual team classrooms to brainstorm ideas before leaving their two writers to create a viable script.

On Saturday morning, actors and directors returned for the arduous task of converting the written words to an understandable, entertaining production. Rehearsals took place in the classrooms, in the patio, in the cafeteria, and for a brief period – on stage. For the General Rehearsal at 4:30, all students gathered in the auditorium to run through the show with props, music, sound effects

and lights. After a dinner of lasagna and salad, students met with family and friends for the 7:30 performance.

As always, during the actual show, students pushed to get the best out of the scripts. What had bombed at the earlier rehearsal now made sense. Lines which had been dropped suddenly appeared. Cues were on time and the curtain ran smoothly and on time. Once more, all the hard work paid off!

A special thanks to **Nabil** who spent so much energy – and his voice – in getting the most out of the improvisation sessions. A thanks to **Gloria Smith**, **Nilda González** and **Rubén Padilla** for their support and hard work. A thanks also to **Alicia Ramírez** for her help with the program and managing the house (and early bird parents). Thanks also to the moderators **Mitzy Martínez** from Rosa-Bell, **Beatriz Riefkohl** from Adianez and **Madeline Gómez** from TESIS for trusting their students to the process.



HIGHLIGHTS * HIGHLIGHTS * HIGHLIGHTS * HIGHL

Lower Elementary

PPK

This week we talked about a very important topic; "Who's in my Family?", part of the "All About Me" thematic unit. Our PPK students learned about their own family characteristics, their family members, relatives and how important they are. The week ended up when they dressed-up and role-played as Moms and Dads, as they became a very important family member. We surely had a lot of fun, especially when we paraded around school with mini-moms and mini-dads.



by Annie Sánchez

Cooking in PK!

Our **PreKinder** students started off the year participating in the development of the Welcome Back to School thematic unit. They enjoyed reading the story *The Little Red Hen*. They identified feelings while making the connection to self-concepts and the importance of being a good helper.

Several hands-on activities were presented including shaping balls with playdough and preparing a delicious corn bread which they gave to their parents on Parent's Night. We all had lots of fun during our cooking activity!



by Ety del Valle & Sonia Alfaro

During our first weeks of school, students have been enjoying themselves very much! To celebrate our first week of school, students prepared their own puppets and special hats for their very first **Kindergarten** parade. They

worked together in pairs suggesting ideas in how they should decorate their puppets and crowns. To show their creations, the children walked around the school wearing their special props and singing ABC songs along the way. To end their parade, they shared their first snack together in the front patio. Experiences like these allow them to develop important socializing skills that pave the way for future success in life. By sharing this special time together, they are practicing the critical social skills they have been learning in whole group meetings such as listening, taking turns and using manners. We are proud to have such a special group of children that show much enthusiasm when sharing amongst themselves!



by Gladys Guzmán and Melissa Martínez

In **First Grade** we have been very busy getting familiar with our new routine as "big kids". We go to Spanish by ourselves, we now have electives where we go to a different class everyday and have a great time! We are learning how to read and write and numbers 1-100, as well as beginning addition. We have done social studies, learning about our communities and rules. In science, we are beginning our unit on living things, animals and plants. We made collages and we will be having a surprise visitor in our classroom! We will fill you in with details in the next issue of the *CPS Scene!*

We have been enjoying our parent readers who read to us on a weekly basis. Our parents enjoy spending time with us in our classrooms. The moms are busy preparing for Unicef where we will be representing the Country of Russia. They have many wonderful ideas in store for this magnificent European and Asian countries! Our teachers have many awesome activities planned for us this year in First Grade! Stay tuned for all the upcoming events in your *CPS Scene!*

On August 27 all **second grade** students gathered to share the beginning of a new school year. With the help of all the room mothers, the students shared their favorite ice cream flavors, with their favorite toppings. All the students had a great time in the front patio during the activity. We are all very excited to begin this New School Year filled with new experiences and challenges!

by Wanda Rivera, Vivian Torres, Diana Nazario, Anneliese Cruz

Upper Elementary

The students in **4th grade yellow** are learning about the scientific method and the importance of following specific procedures when doing some investigative work. For this lesson, the students are investigating the best way of keeping bread fresher. Words like control, variable, dependent and independent variables, and hypothesis are being used.



by Rubén Nieves

On August 20th 2010 the **fifth graders** had the opportunity to attend and enjoy a concert of "Instrumentos típicos de Puerto Rico" (cuatro, guitarra, güiros, bongoes) given by **Jorge Hernández's** grandfather and uncle. They enjoyed the explanations about the origins of each instrument and how they are built. This activity gave our students cultural awareness about how important they are in our daily life.



by María Urrutia

HIGHLIGHTS * HIGHLIGHTS * HIGHLIGHTS * HIGHL

Commonwealth Campus by Evelyn Collazo

Our school year began with an enthusiastic assembly, directed by the **Student Council** under the guidance of **Albert Muñiz** and **Tere Durán**, and Student Council President, **Karen Miranda**. The senior Class of 2011 made its grand entrance to the music of the FIFA World Cup and the symbol of the Central American Games. The entire student body demonstrated its school spirit by cheering with such enthusiasm that could only be a reflection of what will certainly be another exceptional year at CHS.

New students received an orientation on August 4th. Thanks to **Saress Smith** and **Tere Durán** this activity included a lively scavenger hunt, which introduced them to different areas of our campus and the different people they needed to see during the year.

The **seventh grade class** was given a "Survival Workshop" organized by **Magali Sánchez, Esther Alvarez,** and **Christy Rodríguez**. The workshop introduced the students to organizational strategies that they will need throughout the year including proper care of their lap top computers. At the end of the activity the Student Council advisors gave them an orientation on the election process of which they would be participating the following week.

On Aug. 11th **Tere Durán**, our college counselor, met with parents of the senior class for a complete orientation on the college application process.

On Aug. 18th CHS parents had the opportunity of sharing with their children's teachers at a very successful Parents Night. During the evening parents were able to see the technology available to our faculty and students, meet with the different teachers, receive valuable information related to the specific courses and tour our facilities, especially The Comets Café, our remodeled cafeteria.



On Aug. 22 the **NJHS** led by advisor, **Sylkia Chique** sponsored a community service field trip to Refugio de Animales San Francisco de Asís near Mayagüez. The NJHS students as well as members of the NHS accompanied by advisors, **Laura Feigelmüller** and **Cristina Medina** and other faculty members, **Jorge Acebal, José Galiñanes, José Plúguez, Ramón Chinae** and **Zayra Gotay** as well as many parents supervised students as they bathed dogs, painted parts of the building, cleaned the yard area, sold pet articles to collect funds for the shelter and took cleaning materials and food products for the dogs and cats presently there. Despite the hard work, and suffocating heat, students expressed satisfaction and hoped to return again this school year.



On Sept. 10, 2010 CHS received the visit of the **sixth grade class** from PKS. After receiving a general orientation by **Mr. R. Marracino**, our Headmaster and **Ms. Evelyn Collazo**, CHS Director, as well as participating of the enthusiastic cheers by **Albert Muñiz**, students had the opportunity of attending three classes and sharing with CHS students during snack.

Commonwealth-Parkville School Volleyball Tournament

Our traditional Volleyball Tournament was held on August 27 and 28. It was a very balanced one in terms of competition. Unfortunately our teams did not have the opportunity to reach the finals.

We played 26 games in total, including 4 categories. These were Girls Juvenile, Girls Junior Varsity, Girls Varsity and Boys Varsity. In Girls Juvenile, the Championship game was played by St. Mary's School and Baldwin School. They played two sets and St. Mary's was the winner.

In Girls Jr. Varsity the champions were St. Mary's after defeating Wesleyan Academy in a very exciting game. In Girls Varsity, Maestro Ladí, a Public School from Vega Alta defeated Robinson School to carry the Championship trophy. This game was the best game of the finals involving three emotional sets.

The Boys Varsity Finals were played by Colegio Lourdes and Maestro Ladí. It was a great game in which both teams showed a great level of competition. The Championship trophy went to Colegio Lourdes.

The Athletic Department wants to thank all the student body and class advisors for their hard work during the weekend and to the Administration for the support to our coaches and staff.



by Mundi Báez, CHS Athletic Director

Comets Attend Leadership Workshop

by Evelyn Collazo

In our constant quest to develop the full leadership potential in each one of our students all seniors and members of our Commonwealth Student Council participated of a leadership workshop led by Dr. Joachim de Posada and Student Council advisors, **Tere Durán** and **Albert Muñiz**, as well as fellow faculty member, **Christy Rodríguez**.

During the morning session students listened attentively to Dr. Posada as he presented principles that if properly applied, could help our students be more successful now and in their future professional and personal lives.

These principles included:

- Being patient and delaying gratification in order to reach a desired goal
- Letting go of habits and beliefs that delay our progress in life
- Moving out of our comfort zone
- Doing what others are not willing to do
- Working effectively within a team
- Realizing that applied knowledge is power
- Finding what we truly enjoy doing
- Finding satisfaction in doing things for the good of others
- Discovering one's talents

In the afternoon the members of the **Student Council** applied some of these principles through bonding exercises that demonstrated the need to work as a team emphasizing trust in each other and taking on a specific role as part of a group.

The student's enthusiasm and willingness to participate in each of the day's activities reflected what Dr. Posada emphasized throughout his presentation: "None of us is worth more than the sum of us." Together we will continue making a difference!



Professional Development

by Sonia Colón

During the week of June 26 to June 30, 2010, Esther Alvarez, Christy Rodríguez, Lourdes Colón and I had the opportunity to go to Denver, Colorado for the International Society for Technology Education Convention (ISTE). Thousands of educators including students from the area of Colorado attended this Convention.

ISTE offered a huge selection of workshops for a wide variety of professionals. As educators we chose the topics dealing directly with education. The following are some of the conferences that we attended; Empathy: The 21st Century Skill; From Video game to Visualization: Teaching 3D Technology is Easy; Creating a Google-Enhanced Classroom; The ABC's of Digital Content for the

Classroom; 1 to 1 Laptop Program Success Stories among many others.

The purpose of many of these workshops was to show the initiatives of how some states are integrating technology in their schools. We can proudly say that CPS is on the right track in the use of technology and moving our students and teachers forward along with the 21st Century Skills.

PEACE ONE DAY

by Alex Cerqueira

Eight white doves flew high and followed the tropical breeze that was blowing on a beautiful, sunny, San Juan morning. It was **Peace One Day** at Commonwealth High School! After being released from the hands of students from both CPS campuses, the Eleanor Roosevelt School, and Mrs. **Irma Garriga**, wife of San Juan mayor, the Honorable Jorge Santini, the doves embodied a familiar yet commonly absent symbol in human societies - Peace. Nevertheless, eight hundred and seventy students alongside faculty members, staff and public servants joined hands to make a statement about the contribution that each individual can make towards a more peaceful world.

We will never know whether the eight doves glimpsed back down to where they took off from, but had they done so, they would have seen a huge circle of humans holding hands to form the universal peace symbol. As planned, every participant styled the same Peace-One Day T-shirt, but it was the unplanned, naturally occurring smiles that really

brightened the day. These were followed by inspiring words shared by faculty members, **Mrs. Zayra Gotay** and **Ms. Ingrid Otero, Mr. Richard Marracino**, CPS Headmaster, and **Mr. Rafael Díaz**, English teacher at the Eleanor Roosevelt Elementary School.

To top off the event, our student DJ's made sure that the message was in the music and the music was in the message by playing timeless songs such as "Imagine" and "We are the World". In the words of Albert Muñiz, who coordinated the event along with our College Counselor **Tere Durán** and Student Council President, **Karen Miranda**, "aside from promoting confraternity, the goal of this event is to allow students to assert the right they have to live in peace." So be it. Starting by the promotion of peace in one's own internal world this much-desired state of being can flourish. We at CPS look forward to the continuous promotion of peace in every corner of our campuses, our communities and our worlds.

Peace!

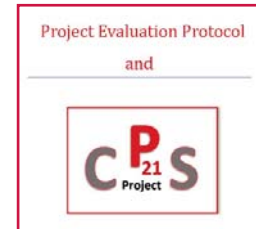


Accreditation Process

by Mari Tere del Valle, Accreditation Coordinator

The Commission on Secondary Schools, the Commission on Elementary Schools, and the Committee on Institution-Wide Accreditation have been renamed the Commissions on Elementary and Secondary Schools to more accurately reflect the continuum of services that Middle States Association provide to schools and educational institutions PK through non-degree granting post secondary programs and educational service providers. The Accreditation process is:

- a voluntary peer-driven activity,
- devoted to a mission,
- student oriented.
- accepts objective evaluation and seeks validation by a recognized authority,
- a standards-driven process,
- self-correcting and continuously plans for the future,
- a continuing capacity to increase quality, student learning, and instructional effectiveness, and



An accredited school must not only meet the rigorous Middle States Standards, but it must also demonstrate that it is committed to continuous improvement through strategic planning.

As the reaccreditation process approaches, CPS decided on a ground-breaking protocol known as Project Evaluation. CPS project: Develop Critical Thinking Skills Across the Curriculum. The Project Evaluation protocol allows a school to:

- Focus the energy of the community on a particular aspect of current academic research (research/creation of the project)
- Demonstrate application of that research in the living laboratory of the school (implementation/application).
- Share that body of knowledge and its application with other school communities (evaluation/peer review)
- The school community chooses an area of current educational research that speaks to an acknowledged need or a shared vision for the future of the school.

The Project Evaluation Protocol (PEP) does not use a traditional self-study guide for its renewal activities; rather, the school community, using guidelines issued by Middle States Association (MSA), designs the major steps of proposal, implementation, peer review, and sharing. Additionally, Project 21 learning initiative is an integral and fundamental component of the accreditation process.

The Project Phases - **Proposal Phase - Implementation Phase - Peer Review Phase - Sharing Phase**

By December 2010, CPS will be submitting the Project Evaluation proposal to Middle States Association. After its submission, it may be approved as submitted or a request from MSA for further development and re-submission may occur.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR...

Comets are heading to San Juan!

on December 26, 2010

for their annual

Alumni Holiday Party

NEW PLACE:

**Sheraton Puerto Rico Convention Center Hotel & Casino
at The District Lobby Lounge**

Date: Sunday, December 26, 2010 at 8:00 p.m.

For more information call us at 787.765-4411 x240 or visit our Alumni website at: www.cpspr.org



EE Ford Grant helps CPS achieve Goal

by Diana de Jesús, Director of Finance and Operations

Of curriculum integration with technology

CPS today is in the cutting edge of technology thanks to the vision of the Board of Directors who supported in 2007 that we invest heavily in technology to create "smart classrooms" and the initiative of our Headmaster to apply for the EE Ford grant. This project involved not only major expenditures in the hardware but also in software and professional development. The Headmaster, with the efforts of Board member at the time, Jorge López and a group of administrators, completed the application for the EE Ford Foundation Grant which required matching funds from our school in order to get the funds. We can't thank enough those parents who donated towards the \$50,000 matching grant and the hard work of those involved in the process that concluded in an approved proposal by the EE Ford Foundation and provided CPS with a \$100,000 fund to invest in the project.

EE Ford approved the use of funds as follows: "to augment the effectiveness of the teaching-learning process in grades 9-12 by attracting and retaining excellent teachers through professional development training in digital educational programs that enhance student-faculty connections." EE Ford gives money for high schools only, but this has freed money from our budget in order to accomplish this goal for all grades.

With the use of the technology fee, which helps with the operational support of technology, the annual giving 2007 and 2008, and the capital expenditures budget, we have accomplished the following major purchases involving technology in the past three years:

A one-to-one laptop program for 5th and 6th grade where each student has a laptop and the teacher integrates the lesson in the

computer with the classroom set up to promote project learning; wireless campuses; a laptop for each teacher and a ceiling projector and screen in each classroom, computer learning centers in Pre-Pre K and Pre-Kinder; Smartboards; additional computers in the classrooms, and state-of-the-art computer labs at both campuses among others.



The only way you can use the hardware efficiently is with the proper training. EE Ford funds accelerated the process to provide the teacher with the necessary professional development and software to integrate the curriculum into the technology provided.

During 2008-09 we used \$26,000 of the EE Ford Funds towards: a one week summer institute where courses such as, Movie Maker, Clicker, Publisher, Edline, Power Point, Webquest, Excel and other tools as accessing the Web for educational purposes were presented; two faculty members from CHS and one from PKS attended the ISTE (International Society for Technology Education) summer convention in Washington DC., educational Software such as Lynda.com for professional development and Brainpop, Adobe Creative Suites, Mathletics, Vernier (Biology), Dynamic learning photoshop, Math Detective and others for all subject areas were purchased.

For 2009-2010 we used \$22,000 to purchase software including the new class offered at CHS (Media Production) and professional

development which included local training in MAC, Computer Assembly and Trouble Shooting for a class taught this year and nine employees which attended stateside conferences to ISTE (International Society for Technology Education, ASCD (Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development), FETC (Florida Educational Technology Conference) and the Integrated Tech Symposium for School Leaders by Center for Innovative Technology of the Urban School.

We have available \$52,000 balance of the EE Ford grant for 2010-11. We are planning on bringing a group of professionals from Urban School, pioneer in the one to one laptop program, to address most of our faculty in the different subjects among other professional development.

The exposure to teaching methods using technology has created an amazing enthusiasm among faculty. You can see the projectors on in most classes and can feel the excitement among teachers and students. At the same time, the employees that have attended the conferences recently have mentioned that CPS is way ahead of many schools stateside and that we are going in the right direction based on the information received in those conferences.

The integration of technology into the classroom is a continuing project which involves huge efforts on the part of administration and faculty to accomplish it. Last year we started a new project to implement the 21st Century Skills into our teaching and you are beginning to see a more project-based learning to emphasize those skills.

To educate our students for the 21st century, CPS administration is committed to provide our faculty with the tools to do so, and in order to do so, technology must be ubiquitous in both campuses.



RAQUEL MEREDIZ

class of 1998

Guest Speaker at New Parents Wine and Cheese

by Kathy Román
Director of Alumni



CPS recently had the honor of having alumna Raquel Merediz, class of 1988 who traveled from her home in Miami, Florida to speak at our New Parents Wine and Cheese, held at Plaza Provision, presided by alumnus Robert Cimino, class of 1974. Raquel's speech was interesting, motivational, and very humorous. Her ability to weave her personal experiences with themes relevant to CPS parents, such as, camaraderie, opportunity to participate in clubs and sports, family environment, preparedness to enter college of choice, etc., were key to her effectiveness. Our parents were reassured that they had made the right choice and that giving the opportunity to their children of attending the high school will further boost their confidence helping advance their success in college and life.

On graduation day Raquel was the recipient of the much acclaimed "Silver Bowl" award. This is the highest honor bestowed upon the student who best exemplifies the ideals of CPS. In addition to being academically outstanding, this student must be involved in the extracurricular life of the school including service to the community. While at Commonwealth, she managed to be on the Honor Roll and be Class Treasurer for all 4 yrs. She also participated in Forensics winning second place in her junior year and 1st place in senior year in the Humor Category. So it comes as no surprise that her deliverance during the Wine and Cheese was so secure and

witty. She pointed out the small size of the school as a strength which allowed her to participate in varied activities with cheer-leading being a favorite throughout high school becoming the captain of the team in junior and senior year. She was also a member of the softball team in her junior and senior year and participated in Pep Rallies and school plays including: "El Aguacero", "The Wizard of Oz" as the Wicked Witch of the West... Powder Puff (Jr yr) and in school Fashion Shows.

As any graduate of Commonwealth High School, Raquel masters both English and Spanish. But she is also fluent in Portuguese, which she learned as a child and perfected at Tulane (New Orleans), her first choice university. She graduated in May 2002 Cum Laude from the A.B. Freeman School of Business with a Major in Business Management and Minor in Theater. While at Tulane, she was the recipient of the following honors: Anna A. Mayer Scholarship, and the Garvin Shands Saunders Foundation Scholarship.

Soon thereafter, she joined the corporate world working in different capacities including Building Manager and Sales Coordinator at International Aircraft Associates until 2007, when she decided to take some time off her ascending career to pursue her passion for acting. Since then, she has been steadily working on commercials including industrial venues, television and film, theatre, dubbing, and voiceovers. It is evident that she has been fine-tuning her talents since

high school, but is also runs in her family—Raquel is the niece of Olga Merediz (also CPS alumna, class of 1974), famous actress and currently, the adored Abuela Claudia in the Broadway smash hit: *In the Heights*.

Her latest engagements include : Just wrapped Indie feature film "Callous" where she is the lead female (due to premiere in Fort Lauderdale Film Festival Oct. 2010), recorded voiceover commercial for Bud Light & McDonald's, and was recently the Lead antagonist role on the soap opera "The Clone" for English Dubbing.

For those who attended the Wine and Cheese and noticed how toned this young lady was—well yes, good genes help – her mom is Diana de Jesus, our Director of Operations and Technology -- but mainly, is the result of hard work as a Zumba Instructor who also enjoys dancing (from Two Step ballet to Merengue) Belly-Dancing, Aerobics, Pilates, Yoga.. And if you are gasping just by the thought of all this exercise... she also plays Beach paddle ball. But when she needs to rest she adds "I love going to the Theatre for a little rest."

We thank Raquel for accepting our invitation to speak at the Wine and Cheese and for being so friendly and approachable with our parents. We wish her continued success in all her future endeavors. And, in line with her closing statement that day:

Go Comets!



From the Academic Dean's Office

by Noemí Ramírez

A new school year always brings opportunities of growth for everyone in the school community. I must say that this one has been very special for me as it has meant a new beginning in terms of responsibilities. Being assigned to the position of Academic Dean, after all these years at Commonwealth-Parkville School has given me the opportunity of contributing to the school from a whole different perspective.

My first acquaintance with the school, as most of you have experienced, was as a parent looking for the best educational environment for my own children. In my search I found that all the academic, social-emotional and physical needs of my sons could be fulfilled at CPS. But the story does not end there; after a few years I had the chance of getting to know the School from the inside, since I was hired as a teacher. For twelve wonderful years I learned all about the school culture and its philosophy. During the past ten years, the experiences obtained as a teacher were very valuable in the administrative role as Lower Elementary School Director.

Currently as Academic Dean, my perspective of CPS has been magnified; the spectrum is much wider now. I have the opportunity to work at both campuses serving as a link, working with all the common issues that make us a solid educational institution.

I feel very fortunate for being in this position at this precise moment of change in the field of Education. CPS has definitely joined the avant

garde of schools going in the direction of looking for new forms of educational practices. We are aware of the imminence of upgrading our curriculum and programs to prepare the students to succeed in work and life in the 21st Century. This summer I attended the ASCD (Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development) Conferences, where I was able to get more information on changes in methodologies and programs. All the topics of the conferences were related by their relevance for the 21st Century Education. They all targeted the objective of structuring programs and updating curricular formats conducive to support the 21st Century learners, thus providing the students with the skills needed to interact within a global economy and the challenges it entails.

At this time, I would like to share with you some information about the Challenge 20/20 Program. This is only one among other educational initiatives that CPS has adopted in the process of enhancing its curriculum. The Challenge 20/20 Program is one of the global initiatives of NAIS (National Association of Independent Schools), which brings us closer to our goals for our 21st Century learners.

It is an Internet based program that pairs classes at any grade level (K-12) from schools in the United States with schools in other countries. A team consisting of a class in the U.S. with a foreign counterpart of the class of the same level works together to tackle real global problems. The objective is to find solutions that can be implemented at the local levels and their communities.

The book of Jean Francois Rischard: "20 Global Problems, 20 Years to Solve Them", provided the foundation for the creation of this educational initiative. The problems listed on his book comprehend three main areas which are: Problems Affecting the Planet, Problems Affecting our Humanity and Issues That Need Regulatory Approach. At the moment two of the teachers who accepted the challenge to participate have been partnered with schools in China and Canada.

Through the participation in Challenge 20/20 the students and their teachers will be sharing experiences that match the objectives of the 21st Century learning direction that our school has adopted. Some of these are: developing a global perspective, developing critical thinking and problem solving skills, communication and collaboration with students and teachers from other countries, use of technology and preparing students to learn why and how to move toward a healthy sustainable future, just to mention a few.

CPS is definitely moving forward in the direction of 21st Century Education. Initiatives like Challenge 20/20 put the teachers and the school at the "cutting edge" of the educational trends which are also reflected in our School's Mission.

As Academic Dean I commit myself to being instrumental for the achievement of the goals entailed in our Mission. I am proud to say that Commonwealth-Parkville School has opened to the world and mankind in order to create the most effective learning environment to prepare our students for work and life environments!



GET TO KNOW US at CPS

ELSIE CALIMANO

Director of Lower Elementary School

Elsie has a BS degree in Elementary Education from the University of Massachusetts-Boston and an MA degree in Early Childhood Education from Wheelock College-Boston as well as certifications in Supervision and Management, Bilingual Elementary Education 1-6, and Early Childhood Leadership. She has over 17 years of experience working in the field of education. For the past eight years she directed the Parent Participation Preschool Program in Guaynabo. She was for three years the Director of Instruction at The Learning Apple Tutoring and Language Center, servicing 17 schools in San Juan and also has ten years of experience in San Juan and the Boston Public School System, including preschool, elementary grades and ESL. Elsie is the mother of CPS grade 8 student, Ricardo Dip. She loves to read, travel and enjoy exotic foods, but what she enjoys the most is watching Ricardo play soccer, and basketball, and participate in track & field and cross country. She likes to attend the most events possible and live those moments as if she were playing. We welcome her.



MARISEL DE VARONA

Grammar & Writing teacher for 5th and 6th grades

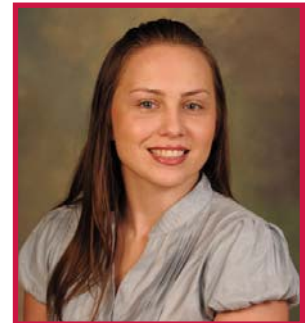
Marisel has a BA in Elementary School Education with a major in English from Universidad del Sagrado Corazón. She has ten years of experience, nine of which she taught English, Math, Social Studies and Science at Mater Salvatoris. She directed the Science Fair for second grade, and extracurricular organizations such as “Amiguitos del Ambiente” which encourages students to conserve and protect our natural resources. She was also an advisor to the “scrapbook club.” She is a dedicated educator with the ability to motivate and attract students’ attention. She used to dance ballet, likes to go to the movies and enjoys going to the beach and having a nice time with friends and family. Welcome!



TATIANA TORRES

PKS Nurse

Tatiana is a Registered Nurse (RN) with a degree from Colegio Universitario de San Juan. She has four years of experience in the nursing department at Hospital Auxilio Mutuo in the pediatric emergency room as well as in the maternity ward. Tatiana is certified in Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR), Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA) and in Breastfeeding. Tatiana says that she has the ability to stay calm when involved in crisis intervention. She has the ability to handle the queries and problems of patients and their families. She loves dealing with children, and welcomes the opportunity to work at CPS. We are happy to have her as part of the CPS staff at the Parkville Campus.



ANGEL HERNANDEZ

PKS Custodian

Angel, best known as Angelo, joined the PKS custodian staff during the summer. He has a diploma from Escuela Superior Papa Juan XXIII. He has 19 years of experience which includes: plumbing, electricity, masonry, as well as installation of floors, windows and doors--- a true handy man. He is married and has two boys and a girl. Angelo’s passion is basketball, but also enjoys baseball. Welcome!





GET TO KNOW US at CPS

MARI TERE DEL VALLE

Accreditation Coordinator and CHS Spanish Teacher

Mari Tere has a BA in Education from UPR Río Piedras Campus in Elementary School level with a major in Special Education and a MA in Curriculum and Instruction from the UMET, Cupey Campus. Mari Tere taught Spanish and Math at CPS at both campuses prior to becoming the Academic Dean from 2003 until school year 2009-10. As CPS Accreditation Coordinator, Mari Tere has led CPS through re-accreditation using the Accreditation for Growth protocol and most recently the Project Evaluation Protocol, thrusting CPS to new academic and institution-wide heights. She also has led academic and curriculum committees, faculty and school licensing, federal grant programs, professional development opportunities, and has been our liaison with the Consejo General de Educación and the PR Department of Education. She enjoys watching old movies and musicals and loves to travel whenever is possible. Mari Tere is the mother of CPS grade 10 student, Maité Rolón del Valle.



JESSICA MORELL

CHS Math Teacher - Middle School

Jessica has a Bachelor of Science in Adolescence to Young Adult Education with a concentration in Mathematics and a minor in Sociology from the University of Dayton, in Dayton, OH. She has two years of experience when she taught Geometry, Algebra I, and Pre Algebra at Northmont High School in Clayton, OH. She collaborated with her colleagues to develop and refine the curriculum, incorporated technology to further enhance students's learning experience, and volunteered to create a new Math III class with two other teachers. She is the advisor to the class of 2014 and sponsors the Math Bowl Junior Club for 7th, 8th, and 9th graders. Jessica moved to Puerto Rico in July, so she is exploring the island and learning about the country and its history. She enjoys reading, hiking, and traveling. A warm welcome to PR and to CPS!



SARESS SMITH

CHS English and Drama Teacher

Saress has a BA in English with a concentration in American literature from Clemson University and a MA in Education, Curriculum and Technology from the University of Phoenix, Online campus. She also has a BA in Fine Arts with concentration in Studio Art, College of Charleston, SC, and a Commercial Art Technician Diploma from the Art Institute of Houston. She joined CPS in 1977 until 1982 when she moved temporarily to the States. She worked there at American Capital Financial Services as a communication specialist. Saress returned in 1987 and has been since then with CPS. For 28 years she has taught composition, vocabulary, grammar, and literature. Her extracurricular activities include: Drama Club Advisor and producer/director of the annual Spring Musical, co-advisor of the Network of Complementary Schools, CPS Middle States Project Evaluation team, Copy Editor of the CPS Scene, and Island-wide Scripps Spelling Bee pronouncer and moderator since 1987. Saress enjoys reading, theater, technology, and being around her children; Isabel (2000), Gloria (2003), Enrique (2007), Adrian (2009), and Danny.





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**Classes will be held on
Veterans Day - November 11 and
Puerto Rican Day - November 19
so that the
Thanksgiving Break
will be the entire week of
November 22-26, 2010**

**School Resumes on
Monday, November 29, 2010**