



Please join us on Saturday, May 10th to celebrate our 11th Annual Birthday Bash at the Cleveland Museum of Art. Your invitation and response envelope are inside.

SAINT MARTIN DE PORRES *High School*

A Cristo Rey Network School

Transforming urban Cleveland one student at a time

SAINT MARTIN DE PORRES HIGH SCHOOL NEWS • SPRING 2014



Who Would Have Thought We'd All Be Dancing Together?!

By Caitlin McDermott

Last year's Birthday Bash raised over \$520,000 and was attended by over 550 people. After the faculty & staff helped blow out the candles on our birthday cake, guests took to the dance floor. An alumnus from the class of 2008 was out with corporate partners, his former teachers, and board members and said, "Who would have thought that we'd all be dancing together?!" Saint Martin has truly brought together people from so many different walks of life around a common mission to transform lives and our city.

On May 10th, we will celebrate our school community and accomplishments at the world-renowned Cleveland Museum of Art. The evening will include a seated dinner, silent and live auctions, and an inspiring program. We will celebrate members of the Class of 2014 who have achieved great academic success and will be recognized at the following week's Academic Signing Day. (See list on page 3.) Many of our students will be the first members of their family to ever attend college, so their persistence and courage deserves great recognition!

We will also recognize the eight Corporate Work Study Program partners celebrating their tenth anniversary as supporters of our school

community. Their involvement with our school is vital to our success and also makes a lasting impact on our young men and women. (You can read a few examples from current students and alumni on page 4.)

Funds raised through the Birthday Bash directly support our operations and provide our current students with great teachers and a high-quality school and work experience. **I hope you will join us on May 10th. Your invitation is included in this newsletter.** As a friend of our school you have undoubtedly played a role in our students' lives and their success, and we should celebrate and (hopefully!) end the evening joyfully dancing together.



Caitlin joined the Saint Martin community in January 2011 as an Advancement Coordinator. In June 2013 she transitioned to the Director of Annual Fund & Special Events.

Caitlin earned her Bachelor's degree from Loyola University Maryland, a Master's in Nonprofit Administration from John Carroll University, and was a member of the 2013 class of Cleveland Bridge Builders.

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Corporate Work Study Program
Devon Lynch-Huggins-Szep

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Keri Grady

Assistant Principal of Student Success

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Vice President of Advancement

Keith Laschinger

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Mission

Saint Martin de Porres High School is Christ's enterprise dedicated to transforming urban Cleveland one student at a time.

Vision

We are committed to the values:
Work, Study, Serve, Lead, Pray.

Means

- An innovative college preparatory curriculum rooted in the development of habits of mind and spirit.
- A unique partnership with the business community reflected in our Corporate Work Study Program.
- A caring, Catholic community.

Please send questions or comments regarding the newsletter to Caitlin H. McDermott at cmcdermott@stmdphs.org

Principal Announcement

It is with great excitement that we announce the hiring of Mr. Gary Sardon Jr., the new Principal of Saint Martin de Porres High School.

Mr. Sardon was born and raised on Cleveland's east side in the Shaker Square neighborhood. He attended Shaker City Schools and served in City Year Cleveland during the 1996-97 school year. He graduated from Boston College in 2002 with a Bachelor of Science degree in Chemistry, and continued his education at Loyola University Maryland, where he earned an M.Ed. in Educational Leadership in 2009. From 2006 - 2011, he worked as a Science Teacher and Assistant Principal at Saint Ignatius Loyola Academy in Baltimore, MD. From 2011 - 2013, Mr. Sardon served as an Adjunct English Professor at the Pontifical Xaverian University in Bogotá, Colombia.

Mr. Sardon will be moving home to Cleveland over the next few months along with his wife, Kathleen, and their son, Xavier, who was born in December 2013. Gary is very pleased to be joining the administrative team at Saint Martin, and has a great deal of passion for the mission of our school. We are hoping to introduce Mr. Sardon in person over the next several months at upcoming Saint Martin events but his official start date as Principal with our school community is July 1st. We feel very confident that the community will welcome him with open arms and hearts.

The search for a new Saint Martin Principal was long and thoughtful. The departure of our founding principal, Mary Ann Vogel, created a void that could not be quickly filled. We are so grateful for the work of Keri Grady, who has served as our Interim Principal. We are also grateful to members of our faculty, staff, and student body who participated in the search and interview process. We feel blessed and thankful that our patience and faithfulness have been rewarded so richly.



Several of our young men and women served on the interview committee and had enthusiastic and thoughtful comments after meeting with and talking to Mr. Sardon:

"I have the word love circled on my paper - he said it so many times!"

- Tiana Ortiz, 11th grade



"He seemed to really care about what we were saying - like - I liked how he was taking notes on what WE were saying."

- Gloria Oajaca, 9th grade



"He was telling us that anything can be done if we work together."

- Niyunbuntu Desire, 10th grade



Finding Joy in the Journey

By Emily Klein McFadden

“Find joy in the journey.” My friend shared this quote with me as we welcomed the cold, snowy new year in January. Ironically, at the same time, Saint Martin faculty and staff were challenged to consciously increase our joyfulness through an aptly, informally titled “Community Happiness” project.

We adults in the Saint Martin community received bingo-like boards full of activities ranging from sharing a piece of fruit with a student to bringing coffee to a coworker to having a one-minute dance party with a class to posting inspirational quotes and poems throughout the school. We were invited to participate by checking off any activity we had completed to bring more joy into our school community.

For many of us, myself included, it might be easy to brush off such a challenge. As teachers, we don’t find “students will feel joyful and loved” in any of our standards. As employees, we don’t find “do random acts of kindness for your coworkers” as part of our job descriptions. When there are goals to meet and benchmarks to hit, there just isn’t time for a one-minute dance party.

Yet, taking part in this initiative showed me just the opposite. It showed me that in order to do a

better job at whatever our role is in a given community, being joyful and spreading that joy is essential. For the students we work with, for our coworkers and for life in general, joy is so important. Without it, we get stuck in a cycle of toil and stress. We feel overwhelmed by challenges we must overcome. We feel alone in the work we have to complete. We can lose sight of just what it is we are called to do—to love one another as Jesus loved.

But with joy, we feel the companionship and support of a community. We sense the pressure lessen. We get a boost to reach for what it is we are striving.

And so, this community-wide effort to “find joy in the journey” reminded me that it is important to purposefully infuse joy into each day—whether it is by checking off a bingo board square or not. Because life is just that—a journey. Sometimes



Juniors in Mrs. Marissa Siebert's Social Studies class ended their day with a short dance party (and plenty of smiles!).

the journey is easy. Sometimes the journey is hard. Either way, joy gives it meaning.



Emily joined the Saint Martin community in 2012 as a 9th grade Theology teacher. Emily earned her Bachelor of Arts in Religious Studies and a Master of Public Administration, both from the University of Dayton. Emily and her husband, Jonathan, welcomed their son, Patrick Joseph (“Paddy”) in July 2013.

Academic Signing Day

At Saint Martin, Academic Signing Day is our version of the more familiar College Signing Day so popular with our country’s student athletes. We choose to honor our students who have distinguished themselves in the classroom by earning a cumulative GPA of 3.5 or higher. Eleven members of the Class of 2014 have earned the academic distinction to be honored at Academic Signing Day. The students being honored will be celebrated before an assembly of their peers and family and met on stage by representatives of the colleges or universities they plan to attend in the fall. This year we will honor the following students (listed with Corporate Work Study Program job site):

Rachel Reeves	United Way
Summer Soltis	Parker Hannifin
Laquell Campbell	University Hospital
Julia Cedeño	Tucker Ellis
Max Colon	Hyland Software
Richard Colon	KeyBank
Ana Ilisinovic	The Sherwin-Williams Company
Ashante Irvin	Hahn Loeser
Danielle Mayne	Lutheran Hospital
Tatianna Smith-Lewis	KeyBank
Lydia Welchans	CGI Federal



The pride and joy at Academic Signing Day is inspiring!

Join us for Academic Signing Day!

9 a.m. Friday, May 16th

Please RSVP to Sarah Lautenbach at 216.881.1689, ext. 342

Celebrating Ten Years of Corporate Work Study Program Partnership

The financial support from the Corporate Work Study Program helps to sustain our school community and is integral to our school's success. Equally important is the student growth and development that is enhanced by our CWSP partners and by the people with whom our students get to work.

At the Birthday Bash on May 10th, we will honor and recognize our Corporate Work Study Program partners who have been committed to our mission for ten years. Each company or organization has made a lasting impact on our young men and women and contributed to their individual success, as can be read through the comments from alumni and current students working at each Corporate Partner company:

Admiral Products



Since day one everyone welcomed me with open arms. But if I had to choose one person who not only taught me what it was like to be in a work environment but also taught me valuable life lessons that would be Mr. Scott Eitman. He was an amazing supervisor and always pushed me to the best I could be. He's made a huge impact on my life and I do not know how to ever begin to thank him for the opportunities he has given me.

– Holly Warren '13

CGI Federal



The people I get to work with at CGI Federal are all helping to mold me into the man I want to be when I get older.

– Justin Lupton '15

Fifth Third Bank



My coworkers at Fifth Third have helped me to grow as a young woman in the corporate world. I have always felt very welcomed and loved at work. I've grown as a person and want to thank my coworkers for their wise and helpful advice and, of course, all of the memorable laughs!

– Angelica Berrios '14

Junior Achievement



My supervisors made my time at Junior Achievement very special and memorable. Every morning that I went into work I was always greeted with a smiling face. It just made every day great being around them.

– Ra'janae Williams '12

Parker Hannifin



Words cannot convey the degree of gratitude I hold for the men and women at Parker-Hannifin. Their invaluable advice and endless encouragement are memories I will cherish for a lifetime. The guidance and support that I gained through them aided my success through college and ignited the fire in me to find a career path. When I am asked about what I seek in life, a memory of Joe Pophal and his family at the dinner table comes to mind.

One night when I was invited to their home for dinner I witnessed Joe's greatest achievement of all: family. The sheer look of excitement and love on his wife and children's faces when he walked through the door, made me realize that I look forward to the day when I can be that role model in my family's life. Growing up, I wasn't as lucky to have this type of family time. To this day this is the image I will work to obtain in my future.

– Gary Martin '08, Fairfield University '12

The Sherwin-Williams Company



My supervisors fostered my workplace and personal development, while encouraging my academic success from Saint Martin, all the way through college matriculation out of state. Year after year, the department generously allowed me to temporarily rejoin their team over holiday and summer breaks. My experience at Sherwin-Williams gave me valuable office skills and helped to establish the work ethic that I have now as a graduate student, not to mention the wonderfully supportive relationships that have developed as a result of my time there. I cannot thank Sherwin enough for being more than just a job, but also for the role they have played in my achievements.

– Sunni Wenson '09, Spellman College '13

Third Federal Savings



When I think of my time at Third Federal Savings, I think of people that were very kind and straightforward. They were very nice and helped me improve my skills to gain experience in the professional world.

– Jason Jones '11

Tucker Ellis



Working at Tucker Ellis has been an amazing and beneficial experience. I have learned to open up to people with the help of my coworkers who talk to me every day. It took a long time for me to really be comfortable in a new setting, but they were very patient and helpful. I feel accepted and appreciated. I come into work every week with a smile, excited to be there.

– Julia Cedeño '14

Clap On, Clap... Backwards

By Andrea Wade

Those clap on, clap off lights aren't as easy to make as one might think, as my Robotics students found out when they started a new challenge last semester. Their task was to make their robot move forward on the sound of one clap and then backward with the sound of two claps, five different times. Robotics is just one of the classes Saint Martin offers as part of its STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) initiative to better prepare students for the college environment.

As the new Robotics teacher, I have the privilege of witnessing ten senior students learn about computer programming, engineering, and problem solving in this senior elective course. I have done my best to really challenge the students to find innovative solutions to complicated problems and that is exactly what Shayla Morris and her teammate Max Colon did with this particular challenge.

Initially when the two started the task they thought it would be easy. Programming a robot to respond to sound is a fairly simple technique—you simply ask your robot to wait for a “loud sound” and then tell it what to do afterwards. However, a clap has more variation than one might think. Add the sound of the robot motors and ten students in a room clapping and talking at their robots (a very funny sight I might add!) and the background noise poses a significant challenge.

When the team of two figured out that there was not a simple solution the frustration started to rise— as did the frustration of the other eight students. After a day of working fruitlessly, I asked students to freeze and reminded them that in order to solve this challenge they needed to start thinking differently.

The next day the creativity started flowing. Some students started rebuilding their robot to make the sound sensor high above the motors erasing that complication. Another group used a bell instead of a clap to control the variation of the clap sound. They were thinking now, and beginning to achieve success as a result.

Shayla, now alone because Max was sick for the day, was still struggling. She had a rough start to the year and now found herself alone trying to solve this difficult problem. She asked to go work in the hallway, a quieter environment, and I let her. At the end of class I was unsure of her progress, but the next day was Challenge Day so I would find out soon enough.

The next day students were frantically trying to make last minute changes and test-runs with their solution. We then all sat in a circle and watched as each group attempted to make their



Max Colon and Shayla Morris proudly display their robot before Challenge Day in robotics class.

Through the generosity of the Alcoa Foundation, Saint Martin students were introduced to an innovative educational STEM curriculum during the 2013-14 school year that increased their interests in the STEM areas while at the same time encouraged them to dream of a future as a microbiologist, a software developer, an architect, a biochemist or even an anthropologist!

robot go forward and backward. Each group had some success, but with various levels of efficiency. It was clear that there had to be a better solution.

Shayla and Max were last to go. Shayla had done something that in my mind definitely would not work—she had put her sound sensor facing the floor directly next to her robot wheels. Max was nervous. He, like me, thought that the interference of the motor sound would make this idea totally unsuccessful. Instead of clapping, Shayla hit the floor with her fist. It worked perfectly. Shayla solved the problem in a way that no one had even considered.

This challenge is just one of many that happen on a regular basis in my Robotics classroom. I love seeing students think in new and exciting ways!



Andrea joined the Saint Martin community in 2013 as a 12th grade Math teacher. Andrea earned her Bachelor's in Mathematics from Miami University and her Master's in Education from Providence College.

Andrea is happy to be back in her home state of Ohio after teaching Mathematics for the past two years in Worcester, MA.

I Got Accepted!!!

By Keith Laschinger

One recent Friday afternoon, I stopped by the office of admissions to check in on director of admissions, Monica Lawson, and assistant director, Elizabeth Beldon. They were busily putting acceptance packets together for the young women and men who will become members of our Class of 2018. I used to work in admissions, and I knew enough to get out of their way. They were doing important work and the stress in the room was palpable.



An accepted student for the class of 2018 showing his Lion pride!

The pressure an admissions officer feels can be caused both by the “business” of school and by the belief that the work you are doing can change a young person’s life. The business pressure is felt because increased enrollment leads to increased revenue. This revenue enables the school to attract and retain great teachers, implement impactful programs, and provide students with a rewarding high school experience.

All of this clearly connects to more students graduating from high school and going to and graduating from college. This was the root of the stress Monica and Elizabeth were feeling. They knew the mail they were sending was consequential, and that the young people receiving acceptance packets were being invited to participate in a transformative experience.

This year, 150 young women and men will be accepted to Saint Martin. They will come from over 100 charter, Catholic, and public schools, about 75% will be African American, about two-thirds will be young women, and 90% will qualify for free or reduced lunch. They will join a community that will include over 500 alumni and 300 upperclass students next year. The Class of 2018, along with the 10 classes that came before them, and the ten classes that will follow them, represent Cleveland’s future. It would seem that this was not lost on at least one young man who received his acceptance packet.

The Monday after packets were sent out, Monica Lawson sent an email to the community which perfectly captured this. Her email featured a Facebook post from a young man proudly displaying his acceptance packet, which contains a poster bearing an image of “Marty” the lion mascot and the words, “Congratulations, you’re a Lion!” The caption this young man posted under the picture, in social media language, read: “Succeeding in life #success #blessed I Got Accepted!!!”



Keith joined the Saint Martin community in 2006 as the Director of Admissions. In 2010 he transitioned to his current role as Vice President, Advancement. Keith studied business as a marketing major at Ohio University and did Master’s studies at Fairfield University in American Studies. Keith was a member of the 2011 class of Cleveland Bridge Builders and serves on the

Board of the Jesuit Retreat House. Keith and his wife, Beth, reside in Highland Heights with their three children, Paxon, Alex & Cecily.

Teaching Enduring Skills & Concepts

By Angela Wade

“You are a great mathematician!” This is what I tell my freshmen Algebra students on the first day of school. However, not every student believes this, and I would have never thought that implementing interim assessments could help me teach my students this important self-concept.

Saint Martin’s new initiative to use interim assessments, cumulative tests administered every six to eight weeks, followed by data analysis and re-teaching, has helped my students believe in their abilities. The initiative has also challenged me to be a better teacher and it has given me leverage to encourage students not to give up.

I struggled through my first two years of teaching, often trying to figure what to do when students had not mastered essential content. This became an even greater challenge as Algebra has a nature of building on itself. When I reached key parts of the Algebra curriculum, such as solving systems of equations, I found that some of my scholars were struggling due to the fact that I had failed to help them master pre-requisite skills needed to be successful.

When I realized that what I teach in August has to still be mastered in June, I started to teach differently. I started to focus on how to teach enduring concepts, not just skills with isolated “steps.” I started to think ahead to how different topics and units are connected. I started to have students write about the process and make judgments about the method being used. After looking at the data from the assessments I started to weave in review items. Re-teaching challenged me to teach the old content in a new way. This has made me a better teacher, and this is where I started to see students improve and refine previously taught skills.

The best part about implementing interim assessments is that it has changed how I tutor students after school. When students come after school for tutoring I no longer can justify the “quick fix” because I know that they are going to be responsible for really *knowing* the content, not just memorizing it for the next test. This meant that I had to teach students to not give up on math, and more importantly, not to give up on themselves. This is a challenging mindset for my struggling math scholars, but I have seen many students make huge strides as they have realized that the math “isn’t going away” and that my encouragement isn’t going away either!

Interim assessments have taught me to teach for the long-term, not the short term. They challenge me to teach students not just how to solve an equation per se, but to begin to believe that they really can be great mathematicians.



Angela joined the Saint Martin community in 2011 as a 9th grade Math teacher. She earned her Bachelor’s in Math Education from Miami University, and is currently pursuing a Master’s degree in Educational Leadership with a Catholic school concentration at the University of Dayton.



PLEASE JOIN US

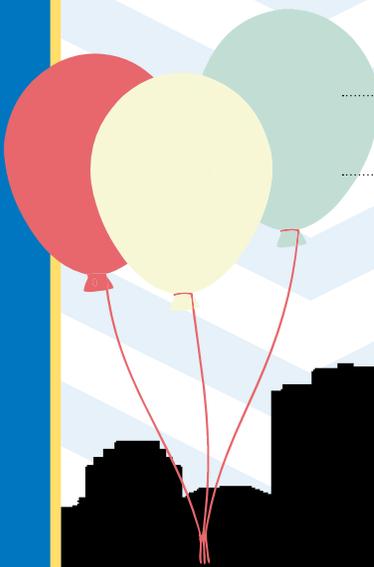
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11TH ANNUAL
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MAY
10
2014

6 O'CLOCK IN THE EVENING

PRESENTED BY FOREST CITY ENTERPRISES



Join the Honorary Event Committee, our Corporate Work Study Program partners celebrating their 10th Anniversary with our school community:

Admiral Products

CGI Federal

Fifth Third Bank

Junior Achievement

Parker Hannifin

The Sherwin-Williams Company

Third Federal Savings

Tucker Ellis LLP

Cocktails, Hors d'oeuvres, & Silent Auction

followed by

Dinner, Live Auction, & Program

Individual tickets \$150

Registration is available online at SaintMartinCleveland.org

Valet parking provided. Cocktail attire suggested.

Please RSVP by April 26th.

Table purchases available as well as sponsorship opportunities.
Contact Caitlin McDermott for more information 216.881.1689, ext. 320.



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