

# THE PALMA FUND

ALL TOGETHER ONE



Nothing is insurmountable when people work together. That's another benefit of Palma School's all-boy student population; it promotes the kind of collaboration that cannot be duplicated at any other school. Working, playing and serving together forge strong bonds of brotherhood that elevate the entire student body in every way — academically, morally, physically and spiritually. Friendships are fortified and achievement rises when new and more challenging opportunities are introduced. Together, the entire Palma community accomplishes great things through the Palma Fund. Unequaled support is the reason Chieftains continue to push past boundaries and accelerate on a trajectory that's aimed directly at a great future.

Please send your donation in the enclosed envelope or online at www.palmaschool.org/support/onlinegiving

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The *President's Report* is produced by Palma School's Office of Institutional Advancement and Alumni Relations.

Tracy Jones, *Director* 

Writing Credits: Roger W. Rybkowski

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# From boys of promise to men of character.

Palma School is accepting applications for the 2018-2019 academic year. If you know a boy of promise who would benefit from, and make a contribution to, the Palma tradition of graduating as a man of character, please contact the Admission Office at 831.422.6391 or email admission@palmaschool.org.

**OPEN HOUSE**: November 5, 2017 12:00-2:00 pm

ADMISSION TESTS: December 9, 2017 8:00-11:30 am

January 13, 2018 8:00-11:30 am



## President's Message

We've been blessed with a good life here along the central coast of California. Life is good here at Palma, for our employees and, I'm sure, for our students and their families. While some of us do worry about earthquakes and the possibility of flooding and/or drought, our experiences with the ravages of Mother Nature are far and few between, thank God. What we have witnessed elsewhere these past several months should give us reason to pause, reason to consider our good fortune, reason to consider our response to those in the face of utter ruin. What's one to do? Can we go and lend a helping hand? Most of us simply can't get that engaged and wouldn't be in a position to abandon our own personal challenges of daily life, family obligations, and the need of steady employment. I've cited but a few examples of those struggling big time for the basics of life following natural disasters. Can we send a donation to the Red Cross or Catholic Charities or any of the other legitimate agencies vying to provide change and hope for the needs of the poor? That would be a great start. What will help affect a real change is for each of us to develop or focus our sense of compassion for those being tried like never before. Compassion calls for understanding and support. For some, that in and of itself will be a cultural challenge.

We are committed to provide our students impressive opportunities of engagement to make a difference in the lives of others as well as the chance to measure their mettle of personal growth and awareness with a challenging degree of response to the real needs of others. The key in that process has to be for the needs of others. We aren't talking about wants; basic human needs are a minimum. One's comfort zone is difficult to leave. Seeing the less fortunate is one thing as a picture is often worth thousands of words. Trying to teach little children from poverty how to do simple math problems or how to improve reading skills or how to speak English is not an easy assignment. Going beyond the many levels of security of a state prison to bring insights and freshness to the incarcerated can be overwhelming. Leaving the comforts of home to travel to Mexico or Peru to provide basic housing to the homeless is not for the faint of heart. If all of these efforts to expose our students to the challenges others face on a daily basis were a one-and-done deal, then we've not done too much in promoting the obligation each of us has to be of assistance to others. We aim to help form a culture of awareness that will be with each of our students his entire life. Our students will see much in the years they have on this earth; there will be other great disasters, other horrendous hurricanes and earthquakes, out-of-control fires and floods. While it is true that each of us simply cannot be there



at the moment of need for others, we can at least be sympathetic, filled with compassion, and at the ready to help in some manner.

There is plenty of opportunity today, right here in 2017, to see and believe in the need to assist others in great need. That calamity crying for response doesn't need to be thousands of miles away. We don't need to be coerced or shamed into responding. Perhaps it might be good to consider the weight of the situation were it me or you on the other side of that camera in our own moment of great need. Fortunately, most of us will never be on that other side of the camera. Equally fortunate, most of us will always be on the side that can help make a difference to and for others in their moment of crisis. As we make plans for our upcoming holiday season, we, individually and collectively as a nation, need to acknowledge that we do indeed have much for which to be thankful while others will still be in search of what used to be and trying to find a way forward with grace and dignity.

Sincerely,

Brother Patrick D. Dunne, C.F.C.

President

We are committed to provide our students impressive opportunities of engagement to make a difference in the lives of others as well as the chance to measure their mettle of personal growth and awareness...

## Board of Directors Chairman's Message

Greetings Palma Family and Friends,

As we embark on a new school year beginning, we are so thankful to all of the Families and Friends of Palma for making this new school year possible. The reality of a Palma education and experience for our boys is again off and running.

As we ended last year, I was fortunate to once again experience the senior graduation. As I handed out diplomas, I was reminded...again...of how amazing the young men are who walked across that stage and graduated. Attending a Palma graduation is always a moving and rewarding experience. When I ask myself why I do what I do in our community, that experience is certainly one of the strong reasons.

Palma is doing well but is always faced with the reality of changing times and the need to adapt to an ever changing financial landscape. The task of keeping a Palma education experience within reach of every family in our community is a challenge. A challenge the Board of Directors is up to. We can't do it alone, however, and we need all of our Palma Family and Friends to help in any way they can. **Remember our Palma Fund.** A fund that is specifically set up to offset tuition costs and fill the void between what it actually costs to provide a Palma education, and the amount of tuition that is actually charged and collected.

Your gift to the Palma Fund is what makes Palma viable going forward year after year. The truth is that if Palma charged what it actually costs to educate one student, the affordability rate would be reduced significantly, and the number of families who may miss the Palma experience would be much greater. It is truly the generosity of this community that makes the difference. Your help in keeping Palma affordable is truly the gift of a lifetime to so many of our young men in this community. After all, EVERY young man in this community should have the opportunity to attend Palma and finances should not be an impediment to achieving



that goal. Thank you for your generosity year after year. It is you that creates these life changing opportunities.

I hope you will stop by and see first-hand what is going on at Palma. Stop in and say hi to Brother Dunne and the dedicated folks here at Palma. You too will be moved by the experience and the reality that Palma is changing lives and shaping our community for years to come. Keep in touch.

Proud to be your Chairman,

Don Chapin

Chairman of the Board of Directors

The task of keeping a Palma education experience within reach of every family in our community is a challenge. A challenge the Board of Directors is up to. We can't do it alone, however, and we need all of our Palma Family and Friends to help in any way they can.

## Principal's Message

Palma men walk the talk.

From twilight mornings on a given weekday's workouts to a 7:30am team Mass, beginning a full 45 minutes before the start of a first period class. From a demanding series of courses steeped in college prep curricula offering more than 35 Honors and AP courses to lunch time meetings in any one of 25+ clubs on campus. From late afternoon practice in a renowned sports program to late night homework, review, and preparation for an academically competitive environment. Palma men walk the talk.

Palma men are a cross-section of richly diverse backgrounds in nearly every way: place of residence, culture, ethnic heritage, feeder school preparation, academic or athletic interest, and socio-economic means. They are united in brotherhood by their commitment to that which is greater than themselves, by family core values with high expectations for their spiritual and intellectual growth, and by an acquired taste for service as a source for true joy. "To whom much is given, much is expected," they are oft reminded in the words of Jesus (Luke 12:36). I am grateful for them and for their families who have shaped them and supported them.

I stand in awe of whom each Chieftain is becoming, and I am not the only one. The nature of my office humbles me with many opportunities to hear from local dignitaries of Church and state who are genuinely moved by our young men of integrity with much promise of leadership. I will cite but a few examples.

For yet another consecutive year, the Salinas chapter of the American Legion has expressed its unapologetic bias for selecting as many Palma juniors as possible for the annual California Boys' State convention in Sacramento — Palma provided five delegates this past summer! Even other city chapters have asked for Palma boys living in their geographic boundaries to represent them at Boys' State. Area schools and charities often solicit Palma students to provide them volunteer services for any number of worthy causes; they add that there are no other more worthy students with the same respectful, well-groomed, properly mannered attention to others. Last spring Palma seniors undertaking four-day internships to job shadow a variety of career interests were followed up with numerous praises by employers and professionals who were wowed by Palma's seniors.



Perhaps the most gratifying compliment to our students was made by way of a gift from some of the most marginalized people in our society. Organized by a group of inmates at the Correctional Training Facility (CTF, Soledad Prison), prisoners rallied to create a scholarship donation to Palma. Despite earnings of only 17-19 cents per hour, inmates reached deep into their oversized denim pants pockets to donate. Their efforts have mushroomed into a donation of nearly \$15,000 to date and they have every intention to increase their support. Even prisoners are in awe of our Palma young men!

I am grateful for the generosity of spirit and financial support of the Palma Family for our young men. In turn, I am wowed by our students' response to that support. Palma men truly walk the talk. And they are worth it.

Go Chieftains!

David J. Sullivan Principal

... there are no other more worthy students with the same respectful, well-groomed, properly mannered attention to others.

## Advancement Director's Message

"Boys of promise to men of character" is not just a slogan — it is what happens every day on the Palma School campus. With your support, boys of promise learn that a better education is more than the acquisition of knowledge. It includes learning how to find value in those who are marginalized, learning how to think, how to work and how to lead.

The success of any effort on behalf of our school is rooted in the quality of the relationships that are forged as we pursue our common goals. Our school seeks to foster and celebrate those relationships through meaningful opportunities to participate in and contribute to school life.

It is our belief that those who have given and continue to give so generously to Palma do so because of their belief in the School's integrity. Your gift signifies your recognition of its merit and your desire to perpetuate the School's gifts for others. We are most grateful to all who share and support our values, to those of you who have volunteered time, given to the Palma Fund, or generously provided for Palma in numberless quiet ways.

The educational mission that was started over 65 years ago continues to be strengthened by the participation of all those we acknowledge in this *President's Report.* We thank you for your loyalty to our principles, your confidence in those who serve our school, and for your many gifts of time, wisdom and resources.



Tracy Jones

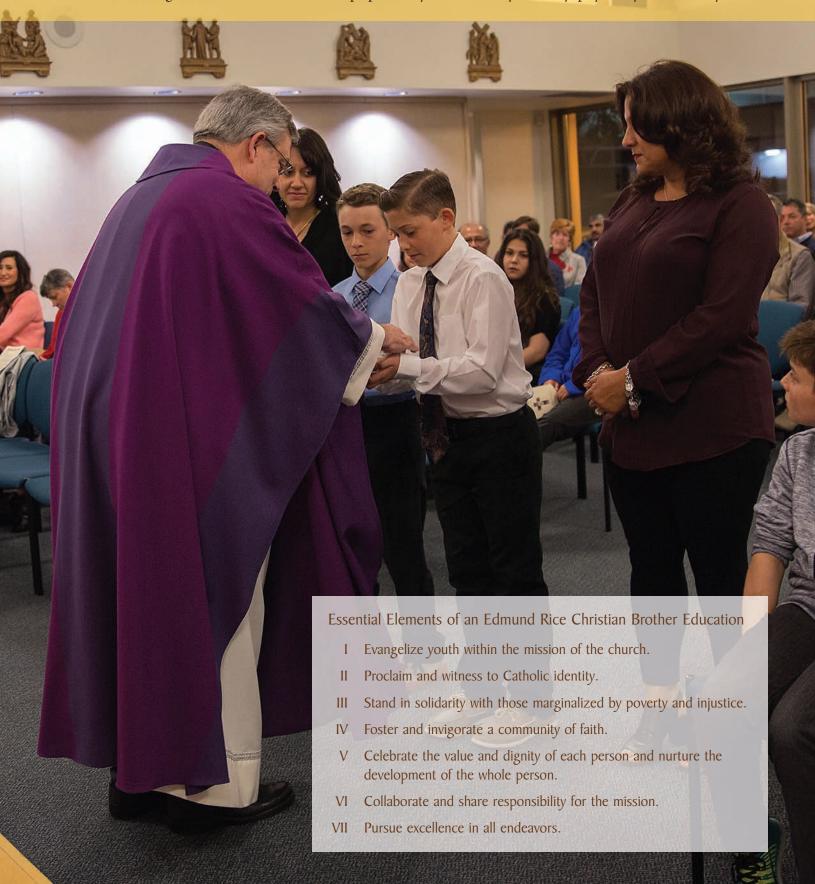
Tracy Jones

Director, Institutional Advancement

We are most grateful to all who share and support our values, to those of you who have volunteered time, given to the Palma Fund, or generously provided for Palma in numberless quiet ways.

#### MISSION STATEMENT

Palma is dedicated to providing young men an excellent college-preparatory education in a Roman Catholic environment that embraces *The Essential Elements of an Edmund Rice Christian Brother Education* and challenges each individual to develop spiritually, intellectually, morally, physically, and socially.



## **Dual Enrollment Comes to Palma School**

The concept of dual enrollment is not new, but one that is picking up steam in high schools across the country. Dual enrollment is a contract

made with a college or university wherein a course being taught on the high school campus conforms with the requirements of that same course being taught on the college's campus. Students who successfully complete the course will earn credit toward their high school graduation and also earn college credits.

This year, Palma School is offering Digital Art and Introduction to Engineering as dual enrollment courses through a contract with Hartnell College. Nearly 70 students are currently enrolled. Having the dual enrollment option offers a number of advantages that students, and their parents, will appreciate.

Graduates who list earning college credits while in high school will generally receive a one-point bump in GPA. This, when considered alongside other measurements that accompany a transcript to college admissions desks, can provide an additional edge toward acceptance.

Once accepted, the previously earned college credits count toward the total number of credits necessary to graduate, so students entering college can be a full semester ahead if entering with 12 or more credits

earned through dual enrollment. This may allow a student to graduate sooner and enter the job market ahead of his contemporaries.

One of the reasons many students need more than four years to graduate from college is impacted classes. By the time they are able to register for needed courses, the courses are already full. Many universities set a student's priority to register for classes based on the number of credits they

have earned. In other words, the more credits on your record, the closer to the front of the line you are when registering. This advantage goes a long way in ensuring college will be completed in four years or less.

There is also a giant financial component to dual enrollment. When you factor in the entire cost of a semester at college, including books and living expenses, the dual enrollment credits become a tremendous bargain. The average cost of a California State University (CSU), including living expenses is about \$10,000 per semester. That's what it will cost if a student needs to attend one more semester for just three more units.

Discussions are currently underway to expand the dual enrollment offerings at Palma School. Keep an eye out for more opportunities in upcoming course catalogs.



Francisco Arevala



Frank Campo



Dylan Dizon



Jacob Fajnor



Juan Gallardo



Omar Garcia



Amarjot Ghuman

# The First To Make the Grade As Scholars Stem Scholars

Congratulations to the members of Palma class of 2017 who became the first Distinguished Scholars. They each received special recognition for their extraordinary effort after successfully completing a rigorous set of scholar requirements.

STEM+ Scholars Frank Campo, Dylan Dizon, Omar Garcia, Saransh Rakshak, Isaac Thomas and Tristan Wahl



Pedro Gomez



Tristan Wahl

**Excellence in the Humanities Scholars** Francisco Arevalo, Frank Campo, Dylan Dizon, Jacob Fajnor, Omar Garcia, Amarjot Ghuman, Jason Griffin, Matthew Mercurio, Brandon Ng and Saransh Rakshak

**Certified BilingualScholars** Francisco Arevalo, Dylan Dizon, Juan Gallardo, Omar Garcia, Amarjot Ghuman, Pedro Gomez, Richard Hernandez, Robert Hernandez, Victoriano Penera and Isaac Thomas



Jason Griffin



Isaac Thomas



Saransh Rakshak



Victoriano Penera



Brandon Ng



Matthew Mercurio



Robert Hernandez



Richard Hernandez

## **High School Graduation Awards**

Omar GarciaMonsignor Thomas J. Earley Gold Medal for Scholastic Proficiency ValedictorianDrew DalmanMonsignor Thomas J. Earley Gold Medal for Scholastic Proficiency SalutatorianDylan DizonMonsignor Thomas J. Earley Gold Medal for Scholastic Proficiency Salutatorian

 Pedro Gomez
 Palma Gold Medal in Theology

 Branden Werner
 Palma Gold Medal in English

 Drew Dalman
 Palma Gold Medal in Social Studies

 Branden Werner
 Palma Gold Medal in Mathematics

 Pedro Gomez
 Palma Gold Medal in Foreign Language

Saransh Rakshak Palma Gold Medal in Science
Anthony Speciale Palma Gold Medal in Fine Arts
Chase Kesecker Palma Gold Medal in Music

Omar Garcia Palma Gold Medal in Computer Science

Francisco Arevalo Palma Loyalty Award

Drew DalmanPrincipal's Leadership AwardFrank CampoPalma Leadership Award

**Dylan Dizon** Monroe Award for Proficiency in Mathematics

Omar Garcia Brother Martin D. Cunningham Award for Excellence in English

**Jacob Fajnor** Brother Frank Luke Dalton Memorial Award for Excellence in Social Studies and Service

Drew Dalman W.H. "Hank" Muller Outstanding Scholar Athlete Award

Emilio Martinez Brother M.L. Crumlish Athlete of the Year Award

## Junior High School Graduation Awards

**Louis Lavorato** The Reverend Monsignor Thomas J. Earley Award for Religious Studies

**Kevin Martinez** English Award

Blake Iverson Mathematics Award

Jayson DaSilvaMusic AwardBlake IversonLiterature AwardBlake IversonSocial Studies AwardDarius AmadorScience Award

Marshall Boutonnet Foreign Language Award

**Dino Lazzerini** Fine Arts Award

**Blake Iverson** The Gerald D. Flowers Golden Chieftain Scholarship Award for Service

John Amaral Brother Charles McManus Award for Scholarship, Leadership, Citizenship, and Sportsmanship

 Christopher Sepka
 Palma Investors Club Scholarship

 Carlos Esquivel
 Blessed Edmund Rice Service Award

 Louis Lavorato
 Father Vic Farrell Memorial Scholarship

## **College Bound**

The students in the graduating class of 2017 will be attending some of the finest universities in the country. We are proud to announce the colleges in which our graduates are enrolled this fall.



























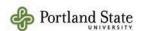
















# ongratulations Class of 2017

100% OF GRADUATES ARE ENROLLED IN COLLEGE!





















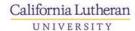
























## Sarah DeSantis: Empathy and Engagement

As is common with many teachers, Sarah DeSantis' first months in front of a classroom were more misery than mastery. But years of experience have honed her teaching philosophy into two simple exercises when working with students: empathy and engagement.

Descended from local ranchers, Ms. DeSantis is a fifth generation Salinas resident. A graduate of Salinas High School, she received a Bachelor's of Arts in Art from the University of the Pacific. She continued her studies at UOP earning a secondary teaching credential in English.

Ms. DeSantis' teaching career began at Colton Middle School in Monterey in 1991. After two years of teaching art and English there, she was hired by Br. Dunne to come to Palma. Here, she taught art and a few English classes. Nine years into her Palma tenure, the English teacher, who also had an undergraduate degree in art, asked if they could switch assignments moving Ms. DeSantis into the English Department where she would eventually become the Chair.

Her years at Palma have taught her that for boys to be taught, they first needed to be heard. A cooperative class starts with engagement along with a healthy dose of empathy. Ms. DeSantis speculates this philosophy is borne of a quote from one of her favorite books, To Kill A Mockingbird by Harper Lee. Atticus Finch, the lead character, reveals to Scout one of his guiding principles of life, "You never really know a man until you understand things from his point of view, until you climb into his skin and walk around in it."

Add books with subjects that are relatable to boys and English becomes a class that, maybe is not quite desired, but certainly less dreaded. Ms. DeSantis created a short-story strategy whereby stories could be consumed and analyzed quickly giving her students a short lesson in how to use the tools they would need to dissect longer, more complex texts.

#### Disruptive thinking

A key component to Ms. DeSantis teaching style is engaging her class in "disruptive thinking" when discussing what they have read. Disruptive thinking challenges the readers to focus more on generating reasons "why" or "how" rather than answering closed-ended questions or a regurgitation of what happened. Disruptive thinking awakens the mind and forces students to use their own experience to form hypotheses about characters' motivations.

This manner of analysis has far-reaching implications for her students, for few, if any, great things in a person's lifetime happen without disruptive thinking — without having the courage to step beyond the status quo and push past self limitations. Disruptive thinking forces one to be bold without fear of rejection or failure.

A similar philosophy is used when Ms. DeSantis selects books for her classes. There are meaningful stories to be told, but those that appeal particularly to boys and are capable of eliciting a visceral response more than feeding the intellect are the texts she prefers to select. Stories with main characters who are likable — almost heroic — but who will do something to make the reader uncomfortable is a juxtaposition ripe for disruption. There are great lessons, that go beyond the point of the story, to be learned when attempting to reconcile the palatable with the abhorrent. These also become lessons in discernment — lessons lost or under-appreciated in the public sector.

Book selection, however, is becoming increasingly difficult. The social climate that has been building over the past decade is presenting, perhaps, the most significant challenge to the public's perception of acceptable literature. Books that have long been considered "classics" are now under scrutiny for their content. Books that school districts once

> designated "required reading" are being pulled from shelves. Although there is no internal pressure to remove these works, the ramifications beyond the campus are giving the English Department pause.

> One of Ms. DeSantis' must-read texts is The Kite Runner. The story centers around the search for redemption and the love and tension that is common between fathers and sons. It takes place in Afghanistan before and after the Soviet invasion and the rise of the Taliban in the Soviet's wake. After reading the book, you will find Ms. DeSantis' students in the practice field flying their kites; usually in a vain attempt to get them airborne.



Ms. DeSantis in the classroom

In addition to classroom time, Ms. DeSantis accompanies Palma students when attending reading events off campus at the Steinbeck Center or through the Panetta Institute and was a longtime organizer of the summer school program. Ms. DeSantis is a regular volunteer with the Chieftains and was even recognized for her work at Dorothy's Kitchen and for her fund raising efforts by being named Citizen of the Year in 2001. When not on campus, she can be found enjoying time with her family (when they can be all together), reading, cooking and traveling. She is very grateful for the life she leads and the position she holds, citing only the northern lights from Iceland and an African safari as remaining on her list of things to accomplish.

Sarah DeSantis has mastered the art of teaching young men and has successfully turned a passion for reading into a career that allows her to share that passion. Awakening a love for reading and an appreciation of a good, well-told story in students is the reward for a teaching vocation that could have ended after the first year without her perseverance. Palma has been blessed to have Ms. DeSantis in the front of a classroom for nearly two-and-a-half decades. Despite the unique challenges presented by changing public attitudes, she is still able to bring meaningful literature to her students, broadening their perspectives and changing their lives.



## New Student Center Opens on Campus

As difficult as this is for anyone over 40 to accept, libraries are going the way of the buggy whip. It's not that people of today's generation don't appreciate great works of literature or relish a well-stocked reference center, but more the result of technology and its effect on our world. Just as powerful computers no longer need to occupy entire rooms, everything found in a library is now available with a commonly owned device and internet connection. And, just like hand-cranked car windows, we now must bid a fond adieu to Dewey Decimal.

Over this past summer, the Cislini Library on campus has been transformed into the Cislini Student Center. The new center is divided into four distinct areas: an area for students to study and gather socially, a private area where students can meet to work on group projects, an area that allows for individual-focused study, and an area for the Resource Program to conduct lessons on study skills such as time management, learning styles, dealing with stress, asking for help and many other learning strategies.

To achieve this rebirth, the old library was gutted and transformed into the specific areas separated by glass. New paint and carpet livened the space while new furniture accommodates all the specific uses. The Center is still a work in progress as research is conducted and proposals are made for how best to utilize the wall space. A lot of time and thought is going into how best to complete the Center while making a conscious effort to ensure every element contribute to the study atmosphere that has been created. The project is scheduled to be completed by the end of this school year, but students are already benefitting from their new dedicated Center.

There is much appreciation to express toward the visionaries of this new gathering/work space for students. It is quickly becoming the center of student life on campus.





Students study, collaborate or relax

A dedicated space is available for small classes or groups to work on projects

## Palma's First Capstone Projects Set A High Bar

The Capstone Project has been in the making at Palma for more than four years. Guided by Jim Micheletti, Palma's Campus Minister, the capstone committee set out to create an opportunity for seniors to reflect on their years at Palma and create a presentation on how they have grown spiritually, intellectually, morally, physically and socially in light of the Integral Student Outcomes (ISOs) set forth by the school. The committee also decided that each senior would spend several days near the end of the school year job shadowing at a local business, a report on which would be part of the presentation. Each capstone presentation was to be approximately 10 minutes long and was digitally recorded.

The capstones presented in May were everything the committee had hoped. Teachers who evaluated the presentations were gratified to hear students elaborate on lessons they had learned while at Palma. Each senior spent nearly equal amounts of time discussing his maturity and expressing his appreciation. In addition to putting into words how meaningful the past years have been, the students also gained valuable experience in presenting themselves, a skill that can often make the difference in job and other important interviews.

The capstone committee, made up over the last two years of Rob Viarengo, Jim Micheletti, Sarah DeSantis, Willie Beesley, David Cunha, Martha Tonkin, Mia Mirassou, Jeff Carnazzo, Simon Hunt, Sean Pyne and Scott Corner, is busy at work gleaning the best aspects of last year's presentations while discussing ways to improve the process.

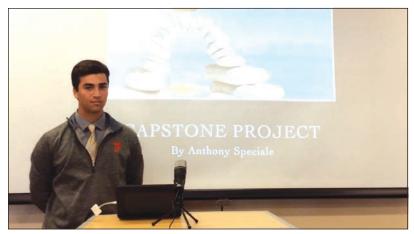
The committee would also like to thank the local businesses that welcomed a Palma student, many of which reported that the experience was beneficial to their business and that they looked forward to participating again. Overall, local business managers were impressed with the Chieftains during their shadow days.

#### Employers who accepted job shadows said...

"Justin Parra is an outstanding young man who was very professional and represented Palma well."

— Sam Pacheco, History Instructor, Hartnell College

"Saransh was very professional and a real pleasure during his job shadowing. Very positive experience for me." — B.J. Wahl, MBARI, Moss Landing



Anthony Speciale '17



Jamaree Bouyea '17



Stanley Smith '17

## Phoenix Alliance Creates A Scholarship For Palma

Members of the Phoenix Alliance, a program run by inmates at the Correctional Training Facility (CTF) in Soledad, presented a check to Palma School to provide financial aid for a student in need. The \$6,564.30 gift is part of a commitment made by the Phoenix Alliance to fully fund a student through high school at Palma in gratitude for Palma's involvement at the prison.

During the evening ceremony on Friday, August 18, 2017, that included inmate testimonials, music and even cake from the prison bakery, the Phoenix Alliance presented the check to School President Br. Patrick Dunne, C.F.C. and School Principal David Sullivan. Two recent Palma Alumni who had participated in the Steinbeck readings, Oliver Mirassou '17 (UC Santa Cruz) and Nick Ottone '16 (University of Notre Dame), were invited to speak along with Director of Campus Ministry Jim Micheletti, Assistant Director Mia Mirassou and Lt. Roland Ramon, prison information officer and the spearhead for many of the inmate groups. Staff members and parents were also in attendance.

In 2014, Dennis Donahue '72, former Salinas mayor and member of the Palma School Board of Directors, suggested to Campus Ministry Director, Jim Micheletti, he contact prison officials to see if any collaboration could be made between the prison programs and Palma's campus ministries.

Meetings with Warden Marion Spearman, Capt. Ed Borla and Lt. Roland Ramon determined that the Life C.Y.C.L.E. inmate program might benefit from student participation. Life C.Y.C.L.E. (Careless Youth Corrected by Lifers' Experience) is an inmate program wherein those serving life sentences use their knowledge and experience to mentor younger offenders who will eventually be paroled and return to society. The first series of discussions

initiated by Palma School were about father-son relationships. Including students in the meetings had an immediate and profound effect on all who participated — more so than anyone could have imagined.

"Our students are challenged to push themselves outside of their comfort zones when serving a marginalized population," said Micheletti. "This collaboration is exactly in line with the goals of the school's Founder, Blessed Edmund Rice, and with what we hope to achieve through campus ministry."

The students found themselves immersed in an environment that evoked both curiosity and anxiety. The discussions with incarcerated men were frank, honest and sincere and often the topics were so raw one could not avoid feeling it in his gut. All the while, the demeanor on both sides remained polite and respectful. The result of their five-week collaboration was a student-created book, *Brokenness and Blessings*, wherein stories contributed by students and inmates are presented without author to highlight the dichotomy between the upbringing of the two groups.

"Empathy" is the word that best describes these collaborations. As Palma campus ministry puts it, "empathy is your pain in my heart." At the center of this partnership is the willingness to embrace each other as brothers, regardless of race, economics, or opportunities seized or lost. These "exercises in empathy" are ultimately about restorative justice with an emphasis on the needs of the victims and victimizers to find possible correction in addition to mere punishment. Respectful dialogue on an equal footing on the themes that matter — sitting in circles and reporting out — is healing and humane.

Since the collaboration's inception three years ago, Palma School students, parents and faculty have met with Life C.Y.C.L.E. to examine the works of John Steinbeck. Steinbeck's books speak to the downtrodden and misunderstood while most of his stories are told right here in the Salinas Valley. The parables found in Steinbeck's themes are relatable to everyone, but especially to the men behind the prison walls.

Through The Grapes of Wrath, Of Mice and Men and The Pearl, the

groups engage in conversations that begin with the books' characters and progress into personal stories. The students have a front row seat to a life unimagined. The inmates revere the students' maturity and intellect and deeply appreciate the respect with which they are treated. Seeing themselves on equal footing with students who are destined for some of the most prestigious universities in the country gives the inside men a sense of purpose and self worth. Many of the inmates have never had a visitor after decades of incarceration which adds even more meaning to the meetings. Through these collaborations, the men who thought of themselves as rejected develop hope, a commodity in short supply behind bars.



Br. Patrick Dunne, C.F.C. addresses the group

The Phoenix Alliance is another leisure activity group at CTF that is comprised of many of the same members as Life C.Y.C.L.E. Their purpose is to affect positive change. The men named their scholarship "Men Built for Others" to reflect what they aspire to become. To fund the scholarship, they raised money from within the inmate population. Through an outside advocate, they were also able to create a crowd-funding website, (https://www.crowdrise.com/men-built-forothers-scholarship-fund/fundraiser/CROP) through the Careering Responsible Opportunities Programs (CROP) Foundation. The website has raised \$7,961 to date.

Life C.Y.C.L.E. and the Phoenix Alliance are two programs at CTF Soledad that illustrate when inmates make a commitment to restorative justice and making amends through programs they initiate and conduct, they can affect positive change for themselves, the inmate population and the surrounding communities. Palma School has been blessed to be part of these groups which continues this semester with the reading of *East of Eden* with the men of Life C.Y.C.L.E.

## Palma's Top Ten Men of 2017

Part of Palma's mission is to instill in its young men a passion for learning and provide a solid educational foundation on which to build. Each year we salute the seniors whose outstanding performance in the classroom exemplifies this mission. Congratulations to the following 10 seniors who had the highest grade point averages in their class and received noteworthy nods from universities across the nation.



Omar Garcia
Santa Clara University
Computer Science
Music Theory minor



Jacob Fajnor UC Berkeley Economics and Applied Mathematics



**Drew Dalman**Stanford University *Undeclared* 



**Dylan Dizon**USC

Engineering



Branden Werner UCLA Psychology Journalism minor



Frank Campo
Cal Poly San Luis Obispo
Computer Science/
Computer Engineering



**Kyler Crone**San Francisco State *Kinesiology* 



**Isaac Thomas**Montana State University
Bozeman Honors College *Civil Engineering* 



**Jason Griffin**Portland State University *Undeclared* 

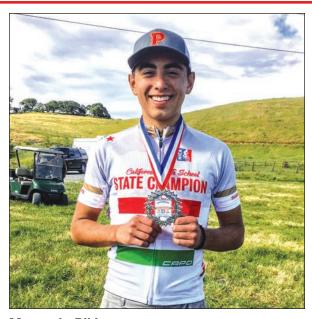


**Saransh Rakshak**UC Berkeley
Computer Science
Business Administration minor

## **Chieftain Spring Sports**

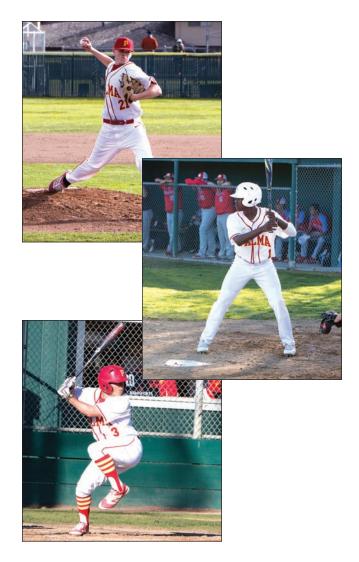
#### **Varsity Baseball**

Palma baseball, under second-year head coach Pete Ruiz, had another strong showing but fell short of a second Gabilan Division title in as many years with a loss in the final season game to San Benito after dominating the beginning of the season. The sting of the defeat was somewhat lessened when the Chieftains came back from a 6-0 deficit to knock San Benito out of the CCS quarterfinals. All season, the team rallied around the play of Chieftain ace **Sam Stoutenborough '18,** whose 0.55 ERA and 75 strikeouts made the Chieftains 10-1 when he was on the mound and earned him MVP of the league and the Monterey Herald's Player of the Year title. Following Stoutenborough's prowess on the mound was the play of Dominic Scattini '18 with a .410 batting average, Danny Carnazzo '17 with 22 RBIs, and University of Kansas baseball scholarship recipient Anthony DeSantis '17 hitting .390 with 20 RBIs. Rounding out the Herald's All League First Team was Eziah Cortez '17. Four other players: Jackson Meuter '17, Victor Penera '17, Anthony Speciale '17 and Will Van Ruler '18, were named to the All League Second Team. Palma came up short against Serra in the Semifinals to end another outstanding season.



#### **Mountain Biking**

All of the Chieftains riders made it onto the podium after the first race of the 2017 CCCX XC MTB. **Matthew Saldaña '19** took first place, **Isaac Thomas '17** second place, **Evan McNiel '17** first place, **Chase Kesecker '17** fifth place and **Noah Anderson '22** second place in their respective categories. By season's end, **Saldaña** made it five first place finishes in a row, becoming the JV Champion and qualifying for State. On Sunday, May 14th, **Matthew Saldaña '19** rode his mountain bike to victory and became a State Champion at the High School MTB State Championships held in Petaluma. Other Chieftains competing in the state championships included **Evan McNiel '17** and **Isaac Thomas '17. Saldaña** finished 17th at Nationals.



#### Golf

The 2017 Palma Chieftain Golf team had a challenging season. Although the Varsity won our 15th consecutive League (now MBL) Championship, we fell short by a stroke of advancing to the CCS Finals (top four teams at the Regionals) for the first time since 2006. Junior **Joey Burlison '18** advanced as an individual to Finals but was unable to put together a NorCal qualifying round. Joey missed much of the golf season as a result of the basketball team making a great run to the NorCal Finals. Three Chieftains made first team all-MBL — Juniors **A.J. Fitzgerald '18** and **Michael Carrillo '18** along with Sophomore **Jose Calderon '19.** Senior Captain **Blake Mitchell '17** and Junior **Hansi Hell '18** made great con-



tributions along the way but were each hampered by injury and illness (pleurisy and pneumonia!). With the absences and injury it allowed many others the opportunity to compete at the Varsity level this year. Senior twins (football scholarships to Hastings College) Richard and Robert Hernandez '17, 3rd generation family member Carson Souza '17, Junior Grayson McGrew '18 and Sophomores



Alex Moret '19, Matt Bennett '19 and Dario Cano '19 all earned Varsity blocks for play during the season. Assessing the season Coach Clem Richardson '67 noted; "it was a very difficult year as we had to overcome

the loss of longtime coach and great friend of mine, **John Oliverio '69.** It seems that every week something came up to keep us from gelling, but we are confident that the life lessons learned will serve us well moving forward. We return five of our top six players for next year so there is much for which to be hopeful. At the end of the day, the opportunity to coach with a great staff and help these fine young men is the reward."



Our JV team finished third in MBL and achieved a 7-7-1 record. Along with the many JV players mentioned as Varsity contributors we had the blessing of many players learning this great game. Sophomores **Sean Gonzalez '19, Adolfo Campos '19,** Freshmen **Kevin Cortopassi '20, Steven Said '20, Lucas Barba '20, Simon Bosch '20** and **Robert Weissberg '20** each made great improvement in their games from the start of the season. Seven different players shot the low score for the team in various matches this season. The JV MVP was **Alex Moret '19.** We look forward to continuing improvement from these golfers and hope their enjoyment of and passion for golf grows. Palma is blessed to have a fantastic group of coaches working to instill values, enthusiasm and excellence in our players. The outstanding coaches helping to develop the Palma golfers are Dr. Kimble Cater, Kurt Dillard, **Danny Duncan '03** and our newest coach, Dr. Curt Montgomery.



#### Lacrosse

The Varsity lacrosse team battled through five wins and 11 losses, with one win and nine losses in league play. The team points leader, Senior midfielder **Tristan Wahl '17**, along with the three other Seniors **Keegan Mottau '17**, **Brian Alarid '17**, and **Blake Johnson '17**, led the Chieftains through the intrepid season. Junior **Liam Short '18** at attack, and Freshman **Luke Brigantino '20** at midfield, were key players with goals and assists, while Junior **Santo DeFranco's '18** presence on the field kept the defense sharp. Junior goalie **Douglas McDougall '18** had an incredible record of saves, and was the vocal hub to the long poles. Coaches **Vince Brigantino '82** and **Jeff Rianda '83** showed solid resolve and dedication throughout the season.



The JV team gained 16 freshmen and, with grizzled veteran sophomore and junior players, allowed for a winning season, carving out five wins and three losses for the year. Stand-out players were midfielders **Jack Busch** '20, Casey Edwards '18, Sam Koster '18, and **Joe Nino** '19. Grant **Johnson** '18 at attack, defender **John Sutherland** '18, and goalie **Anton** Strasser '20 rounded out the top talent for the JV squad. Second year coach and Palma dad Greg Beach excelled in his leadership role, his clear drive for top conditioning and stick skills, and his will to win.



#### **Swimming**

A small but mighty team of 12 swimmers placed second in the upper division of the MBL at League Championships. All 12 swimmers scored points at the championship meet with many of them placing first and second in the events. Palma swimming earned qualifying times in all three relay events at CCS bringing seven swimmers to the meet. **Nick Sullivan** 

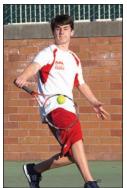


'18 and Sam Given '17 qualified for individual events with Nick Sullivan making finals in the 200 and 500 freestyle earning consideration times for the state meet. In swimming 12 events are offered. 2017 Palma swimmers broke seven school records (two relay records and five individual records). Most Valuable 2017 Swimmer was Sam Given '17. Swimmers participating at CCS Championships: Nick Sullivan '18, two individual events and two relays; Sam Given '17, two individual events and two relays; Pedro Siguenza '19, three relays; Mateo Trujillo '20, three relays; Christian Gomez '19, one relay; and Doug Jackson '17, one relay. MBL All-League was awarded to Nick Sullivan '18, Sam Given '17, Pedro Siguenza '19, and Mateo Trujillo '20.



#### Tennis

The 2017 Palma Tennis began the year with a lot of change. There was the transition of losing our number one player **Nicholas Ottone '16** and a change in leagues. The Palma Varsity Tennis team was coming off a tough 2016 year. The Spring Season started off well with the team starting



practices much earlier than in years past. In addition, we added an assistant coach Eugene Paulo. We added three freshman from our 8th grade team that helped create depth. Individually, the team was led by Senior Captains **Ben Snow** and **Chase Kesecker.** The star in the league was Palma's Most Valuable Player **Finian Rawson '18.** Finian won a number of key matches and went on to the MBL individual championships falling one match short of CCS. The Palma Varsity Tennis Team

became the first team in the School's history to go undefeated and win league with a 10-0 record. The team was eventually stopped by power-house Carmel in a CCS playoff match. The match went 2-5 and at the mid-way point all matches were ahead on the scoreboard for Palma. This coming year the Palma Tennis Team will have lots to build off the league title. We are very excited for the upcoming season and look forward to a bright future for the Palma Tennis Program.





#### Track and Field

The 2017 version of the Palma Track and Field team was different than those from the past...but with the same result! Palma hung their sixth league title in a row and 26th overall title...second only behind football at Palma. While losing to San Benito in our dual meet for the third year in a row, the boys came together and prevailed when it mattered at the MBL Championships scoring 156 to 132 over second place San Benito. The theme for the team was balance...scoring points in 15 of the 16 events.





High point leaders and league champions included **Emilio Martinez '17** (first 100, first 200, first 4x100, fourth LJ for a total of 24 points), **Isaiah Blanco '17** (first 400, first 4x100, second 200, fourth 4x400 for a total of 18 points), **Sam Lavorato '19** (first 3200 and second 1600 for a total of 18 points), **Jack Fling '17** (first PV, third HJ, sixth TJ for a total of 17 points), **Drew Dalman '17** (first discus, fourth SP for a total of 14 points), **Reno DiTullio '18** (first HJ) **Kevin Telford '17** (first 4x100, third 400, third 300lH, fourth 4x400 for a total of 12 points), **Vianni Fratangelo '17** (first 4x100, fourth 100, fourth 200 for a total of 8 points) **Tommy Padilla '19** (second 3200, fifth 1600). Also scoring and helping to that title were **Octavio Rubio '18** (fourth 800), **Christian Galardo '17** (sixth 300lH), **Stanley Smith '17** (sixth SP, fifth D), **Beau Winslow '17** (fifth SP), **Colby Caudill '19** (sixth HJ) and freshman **Micah Olivas '20** (first 4x100).



The JV team finished fifth in league as we pulled two freshman and three sophomores up to varsity. The team was led by **Andrew Rivera '19** (third 4x100, fifth LJ, fifth 300H), **Matthew Morales '19** (third 4x100, fourth LJ), **Ben Eastman '20** (third 4x100, third HJ), **Brent Eastman '20** (third 4x100), **Dane Golden '20** (third LJ), **Diego Guajardo '19** (third SP) and **Caspar Silvania '19** (sixth 800). Another great season and looking forward to 2018!

#### Volleyball

A year of growth and competitive play was the story for the Chieftains this year, earning a top half finish in league with a record of 6-6. The season was a solid platform to build on for upcoming years. Taking on the task of training his young team, **Leo Lagrimas '17** shared setting duties with freshman **Ben Wood '20** and played almost every position in the course of the season, in an effort to always make his team better. Returning



outside hitter **Nate Leavitt '18** led the offense with power hitting and kills, while outside hitter **Matt Morasca '19** racked up the digs in the back row when not finding his share of kills in the front. Libero **Joe Lynn '19** led the defense with solid dig numbers, and middle **Cody Laycock '18** was a force at the net both offensively and with solid blocking. The Chieftains will be back in 2018 with more experience and a drive to find another title.



## 2016-2017 Annual Report

Palma School sincerely appreciates those individuals who generously made annual, capital and endowment gifts between July 1, 2016 and June 30, 2017. To accomplish the school's goals, it takes the support of the entire community — alumni, board members, businesses, faculty, foundations, grandparents, parents, parents of alumni, staff and friends. Through their contributions, these valued constituents ensure that our students continue to have the very best educational experience possible.

Thank you for your support.

# Total Income \$8,020,996

# Educational / Institutional \$5,402,504 Plant and Maintenance \$1,037,366 Financial Aid and Scholarship \$876,740

Administrative \$769,810 Athletic Council \$333,624

Parents' Club and Sober Graduation \$87,232

## **Giving for 2016-2017**

#### Fiscal year July 1, 2016 through June 30, 2017

We are privileged to witness the generosity of the extraordinary Palma community who believe in our future as much as they honor the past. The success of our programs and their constant improvement to the highest degree of excellence and innovation depends on your support. The future is bright for Palma School and it is Palma people (students, faculty, staff and you) who are the key to fulfilling our promise and realizing our vision. Thank you for helping us on that journey. I trust I can count on your involvement and generosity again this year! Go Chieftains! It's going to be another extraordinary year!

Br. Patrick D. Dunne C.F.C.

President

\$6,886,693 Tuition, Fees and Auxiliary Income

Br. Patrick D. Dunne

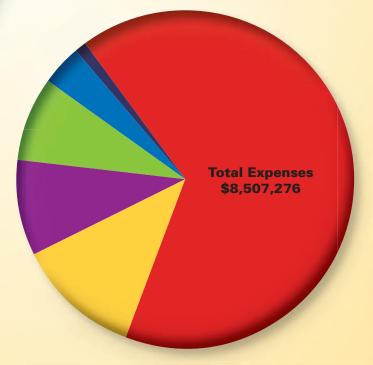
\$439,017 Palma Fund and Other Unrestricted Donations

\$289,272 Athletic Council

\$77,010 Scholarship and Other Restricted Donations

\$137,795 Parents' Club and Sober Graduation

**\$191,209** Bingo (Net)



#### 2016-2017

# The President's Circle

The President's Circle, established in 2008, gives special recognition to those Palma supporters who have made gifts of \$1,000 or more during the preceding fiscal year. Many families, alumni and friends choose to continue their membership in the President's Circle year after year in recognition of the superior achievements of the school. We salute the following members of the pace-setting group and hope that the power of their example will serve to encourage others to consider investing in Palma School.

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# **The Palma Fund**

Year after year, unrestricted support is critical to sustaining and expanding Palma's commitment to unparalleled teaching and learning, while helping to address the full financial needs of all students. Tuition alone does not cover the cost of education at any private institution, and Palma is no exception. Palma's annual giving campaign, *The Palma Fund*, ensures that all of today's students have the same unequaled experience as the generations of students who came before them.

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(\$10,000 or more)

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Allison & Joseph Campos
Cislini Fund of the Community
Foundation for Monterey County
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Mission Ranches Fund of the Community Foundation for Monterey County

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Pebble Beach Company Foundation
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Linda & Bruce Taylor

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The newest Chieftains are greeted by members of CORE during orientation.

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Ann Stoutenborough

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Cindy & John Winslow Anastasia Wood

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(past & current)

Grandparents believe in the purpose of Palma School, the strong foundation & well-rounded education it provides for their grandsons.

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Joseph Corner '10
Jonathan Garibay '15
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