

PALMA SCHOOL TODAY

MAGAZINE

SPRING-SUMMER 2021



TAKE THE NEXT STEP

*invest in the young men who will carry
Palma's tradition of achievement*

\$8

MONTH

*launches a
sustaining source
of support*

\$19

MONTH

*enriches students'
educational
experience*

\$50

MONTH

*a significant
contribution to
our Chieftains*

\$100

MONTH

*an incredible
investment in
our young men*



Cross
& Shield

palmaschool.org | 831.422.2309



Inside

| | |
|--------------------------------------|-----------|
| Letter from the President | 2 |
| Letter from the Principal | 3 |
| Fare Thee Well, Brother | 4 |
| Award Created by ERCBNA | 7 |
| A Sixth Grade Rises | 8 |
| A Campus Without Students | 10 |
| Around (and off) Campus | 12 |
| Invited to Play at the College Level | 22 |
| Chieftain Athletics | 24 |
| Atlanta's Newest Falcon | 25 |
| Palma Ath-lumni | 26 |
| Champions Challenge | 28 |
| Alumni Update | 30 |
| In Memoriam | 37 |



PALMA SCHOOL KNOWLEDGE • SERVICE • LEADERSHIP

919 Iverson Street, Salinas, CA 93901
831-422-6391 | www.palmaschool.org

Palma School Today is produced by Palma School's
Office of Marketing and Communications.
Roger Rybkowski, *Director*

Writing & Editing: Roger Rybkowski

Photography: Jennifer Pagliaro, George Garibay,
Roger Rybkowski, Palma parents and students

Palma School is a 501c(3) tax exempt organization for both
federal and state tax purposes.

Copyright © 2021 All rights reserved.



A message from the

President

Chris Dalman '88



For better or worse, the class of 2021 will never forget their last few months of high school. Years from now, they will be a part of an unfortunate fraternity that will always be bonded with the millions of graduates this year. Stories will be told of the difficulties and the hardships overcome. I am sure with time, we will find perspective on these past few months and draw strength from it. Time seems always to give us that. I will never forget the passion and resolve of this group of young men. While many in our world found a way to make excuses, these Chieftains never gave up and continued to push forward. That is what I will remember of the class of 2021, and they will forever have a spot in my heart.

As we pass through summer into the 2021/22 school year, Palma will be entering its 70th year of educating the youth in our community. Many do not know that Palma was a co-ed institution its first 12 years. Palma has changed in many ways over the years, but its mission remains the same; to provide a first-class Catholic education in Monterey County to any young person up for the challenge. This mission, this charism, has been steadfast over these past 70 years and I promise will never change.

If you happen to drive by the school in the coming weeks, you will notice quite a bit of work underway on our athletic complex. A new artificial surface to the field and a new track surface are scheduled to start mid-June and promised to be completed by the end of summer. These areas may be as trafficked as any space on our campus. Whether a P.E. class, lunchtime soccer games with the junior high students, football and track practice or one of our many other teams preparing for a championship season, you will see this field being utilized from sun up to sundown. Our boys deserve a first-rate facility on par with the rest of our campus and I am excited to see them compete there next year. Of course, none of this would have been possible if not for the generosity of our Palma family. Every penny of this project has come from the unbelievable gifts donated by our alumni and parents for whom Palma has been more than a school these past 70 years. Palma was started by a community of parents who believed in the young people in our area; a belief that holds strong and keeps giving back to our young men of today. I am forever grateful to the group of people who have made this possible.

My best to you and your family as we enter these summer months. Congratulations to our graduates. I know first-hand the work involved to earn a Palma diploma. I look forward to August, the 70th year of Palma's existence in the Salinas Valley, and getting our boys back to the school we know and love.

Go Chieftains,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Chris Dalman".

A message from the

Principal

David J. Sullivan

Spring semester is usually that time of year when the rhythm of a young person's life is packed with excitement, anxiety, anticipation, premature nostalgia, and so much more. AP exam testing becomes a fairly stressful, but fruit-of-labor experience during the first two weeks of May. Eager students return from or prepare for an international service trip — an educational experience of a lifetime with an enclave of Chieftain brothers committed to service, adventure, and spirituality in action. Varsity teams are competing on the track, the field, the diamond, the courts, and in the pool; student-athletes are motivated to extend their seasons of play into the playoffs. Final exams and summative testing are competing with longer days of tempting daylight and that notorious epidemic known as senioritis. College decision deadlines are pressing upon our seniors, mixed with “last time” memories to be made with high school classmates, junior-senior prom, graduations, and senior capstones.

But then, there is COVID-19. What could be normal about this time of year? Well, life at Palma is no ordinary reality. There is little, in fact, that is normal at Palma.

Despite every obstacle, Palma was among the very first secondary schools in the county to return to campus for in-person learning. Palma led the way in student-athlete participation over the entire course of the pandemic, and has offered 12 of 13 varsity sports, which is a reality beyond uncommon in a league of 34 schools across four local counties plagued by the consequences of the pandemic. Among highly committed teacher-advisors clubs, activities, and student social events transitioned to virtual gatherings. International service trips morphed into weekly service trips to community neighborhoods with All-In county efforts to serve the ever hungrier and needier right here in our community. Where other schools are struggling to engage students remotely and to help their students earn minimum GPAs, over 74% of Chieftains earned academic honor roll recognition in the fall semester. And from the looks of our marquis showcasing college acceptances across the country for our current seniors, this is yet another banner year for our graduates as they matriculate to some very strong institutions in higher education!

No, Palma is no normal place rife with the consequences of COVID-19. But hard work and success are realized yet again among students, teachers and coaches who refused to give up on these hallowed grounds, united by their love for one another and their drive for knowledge, service, and leadership. Palma's commitment to excellence in education is evident on, and through, and because of, this campus during its 69th year. Our mission here is to prepare the sons of Palma for success beyond Palma, in college, in the community, in their families, and ultimately for Heaven. At the end of this most abnormal school year, here's to another “normal” for Palma School and the higher standard for which it thrives among our Palma Family!





Fare Thee Well, Brother

Three services on Palma's campus enabled family and friends to share memories and say a final good bye.

Watch Br. Dunne's
Funeral Mass



Photographs by Jay Pandya '21

Family members and friends — long-time and new — were given several opportunities to mourn and remember Brother Patrick D. Dunne, C.F.C. following his sudden and unexpected passing on April 7th.

A private vigil and Rosary was held in the Blessed Edmund Rice Chapel on the afternoon of April 13th with Br. Dunne's sisters and their families in attendance along with faculty, staff and long-time friends. As expected, the afternoon was peppered with tears and laughter as attendees shared personal stories woven between each decade of the Rosary.

A public vigil was held outside to accommodate a larger gathering. The front of the school, by the flagpole, was selected as an appropriate site being that was where Br. Dunne stood each morning for years to greet students as they arrived on campus. Fr. Ron Shirley presided, with music provided by John Grassadonia, while mourners passed by the open coffin to pay their final respects. He was eulogized by his nephew, Tim McGraw.

On the morning of April 14th, the warm sun shone brightly as a Funeral Mass was held on the turf field on Palma's campus. Hundreds gathered as, once again, Fr. Ron Shirley officiated the proceedings joined by music ministers John Grassadonia and Mazera Cox-Goulter. The Diocese of Monterey was well represented by Bishop Danny Garcia, Bishop Sylvester Ryan, Msgr. Daniel Lopez '55, Fr. Robby Sullivan, Fr. Roy Shelley, Fr. Greg Sandman, Fr. Ken Laverone '69, Fr. Rodrigo Paredes, Dcn. Ron Panziera and Dcn. Rick Gutierrez. The Christian Brothers were represented by Br. Kevin Griffith, Leader of Edmund Rice Christian Brothers North America and Br. Dominic Murray.

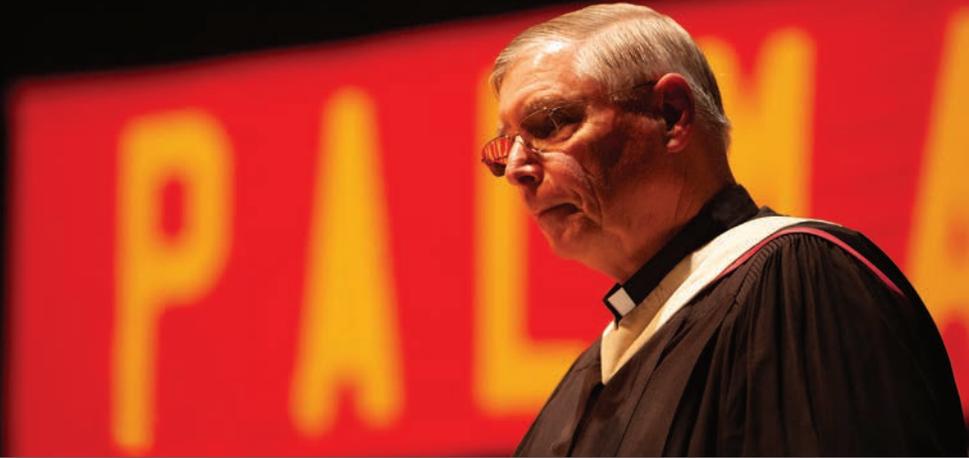
Five speakers shared their insights and remembrances and the unofficial theme that continued to surface was "presence." Br. Dunne was described as a presence on campus, at Palma events and for Palma students and faculty as well as being a presence among the principals of the diocesan schools and a presence in the larger community.

Of their encounters, Bishop Ryan said, "He was certainly, and I am grateful for it, always present to me, always welcoming to me. It didn't mean we always agreed...but it was gentlemanly, courteous and Christian."

"Dennis (as Br. Dunne was known by his fellow Christian Brothers) had a bigger than life presence here at Palma that radiates throughout this campus and that lets people know that they are valued," remarked Br. Kevin Griffith.

In the words of Palma President Chris Dalman '88, "Br. Dunne *was* Palma." His presence will be felt for years to come. Our profound sense of loss is overshadowed, however, by a fervent sense of gratitude. May he rest in peace. ●

Brother Dunne Endowed Scholarship Fund



“Palma is a school where young men receive the education they need: an academic education, a spiritual education, a physical education, and a moral education.”



Br. Dunne believed no boy should be denied a Palma education because of finances. The Br. Dunne Endowed Scholarship Fund ensures his legacy, and this commitment, will continue.

Please give to the Br. Dunne Endowed Scholarship Fund

831.422.2309 | palmaschool.com/online-giving



Our Mission

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.

Sponsor Council

Br. Lawrence T. Murphy, C.F.C.
Mr. Trey Busch
Mr. Don Chapin

Campus Leadership

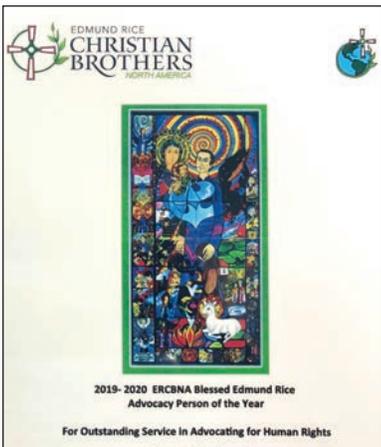
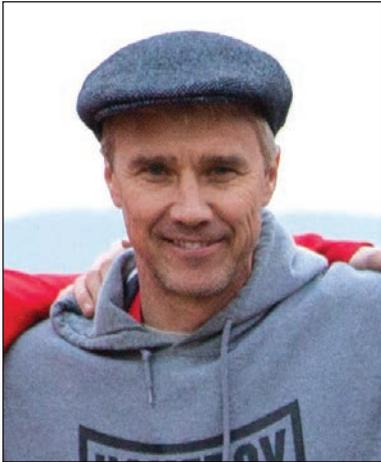
Chris Dalman '88, *President*
David Sullivan, *Principal*



Board of Directors

Mr. Robert Alberts
Mr. Lou Amaral '02
Dr. Rolando Cabrera '83
Mr. Dennis Donohue '72
Mr. Thomas Fanoie '64
Br. Patrick S. Hayes, C.F.C.
Mr. Eric Mueller '01, *Chair*
Mr. John Nixon
Mr. Philip Speciale
Ms. Kelly Sutherland
Mr. Ted Taylor '04
Mr. Calvin Van Ruler
Mr. Michael Zanger '82

Award Created by ERCBNA



What happens when your campus ministry is so dynamic its endeavors eclipse all awards that are available? A new award must be invented. Inspired by Campus Ministry Director Jim Micheletti's and his assistant Mia Mirassou's collaborative effort, the Edmund Rice Christian Brothers Province of North America created the Advocacy Person of the Year award citing Mr. Micheletti and Ms. Mirassou as inaugural co-recipients. The accompanying letter reads:

Blessed Edmund Rice was deeply dedicated to serving and advocating for the needs of those marginalized in his society and world. His life and work continue to inspire students, staff members, alumni and families of Edmund Rice school communities throughout North America and around the world to continue this fight for justice. While many stakeholders are involved in promoting justice and advocacy work in our schools, a select few go above and beyond the call of duty to truly make it their mission to continue Edmund Rice's important legacy.

The ERCBNA Blessed Edmund Rice Advocacy Person of the Year Award was created to recognize an ERCBNA School staff member who has demonstrated exceptional commitment to promoting advocacy efforts throughout the academic year. The inaugural, 2019-2020 award co-recipients are Jim Micheletti and Mia Mirassou of Palma School.

Jim and Mia's work with advocacy in Palma's Campus Ministry program this year was inspiring on so many levels. Their partnership and program with CTF Soledad State Prison has allowed the Palma community to learn from and build bonds with the "Brothers in Blue." Their work has allowed not only Palma students, but schools across the Edmund Rice North America province to learn about the many injustices that go on inside America's prisons, and the ways in which we can advocate for changing them. Most impressive is how they have infused this program with faith, reflection and writing, and have made it a point that Edmund Rice's legacy, as someone who speaks out for those that don't have a voice, lives on. It truly is a model program for promoting advocacy.

The prison program, however, is just one commitment Mia and Jim have both shown to advocating for justice. Palma's work with migrant workers and those experiencing homelessness has been tremendous, and opened Palma students' eyes to the marginalized in their own Salinas community. This work has also shed light on raising awareness of other issues in our world: racial injustice, xenophobia, hunger and food insecurity and extreme poverty. Mia and Jim have also tirelessly supported so many other advocacy initiatives from schools around the Province and the global Edmund Rice network.

The ERCBNA Province thanks Mia and Jim for their incredible commitment to promoting advocacy in the Edmund Rice Network, and look forward to the programs that they continue to inspire at Palma. ●

A Sixth Grade Rises

Palma is proud to begin a new chapter with the addition of a sixth grade. Families have long expressed their support for a three-year middle school model that mirrors many of the other middle schools in our area.



Starting this fall, Palma welcomes the inaugural sixth grade to its college preparatory campus, with enviable access to high school facilities, state-of-the-art technology, mentoring, and brotherhood of the highest educational caliber. This pivotal year of transition to secondary education will be met with a sixth grade curriculum in a newly renovated classroom within a self-contained environment under the tutelage of a highly trained educator who will both challenge and nurture boys of promise on their pathway to becoming Chieftains of character.

“Our youngest students are the foundation for, and of, our success in the future,” said David Sullivan, Principal. “We are beyond thrilled to welcome our newest scholars and we are ready for this important investment we all can make in our future — young men who will be prepared and challenged to lead, as remarkable products of a Palma education steeped in traditions of excellence.”

The curriculum is aligned with state standards and designed to provide students with foundational study skills to succeed in their academic pursuits with the rigor typical of Palma School. While students will have access to campus facilities, their daily schedule will vary from other grade levels. The instructor will work with Palma’s staff to plan programs, field trips and other activities to provide a well-round sixth grade experience.

“We have been looking at this for some time,” said Chris Dalman ’88, President of Palma School. “Students being away from campus earlier this year has given us the opportunity to re-tool physically to accommodate the new grade.”

Sixth grade is transitional in more ways than just changing schools. Students are expected to engage in higher levels of independence and take on more demanding course work as they progress through middle school. This is an optimal time to develop the self-discipline and organizational skills that will benefit them at Palma and beyond.

Pre-teen years are also a time when peer pressure becomes more prevalent and a boy’s peers can become just as, or more, important to him than his family. The emotional changes taking place can be softened by belonging to a supportive peer group like the camaraderie found here.

“This is an exciting milestone for the future of Palma School,” said David Sullivan. “The opportunity to invite sixth grade Chieftains onto our hallowed grounds — to serve them with a whole-person education that will nurture and challenge them to grow intellectually, spiritually/morally, physically, and socially — and to mentor their growth with some terrific student mentors is a calling of the noblest kind.” Welcome, sixth grade Chieftains! ●





Great Expectations

When the order came, the campus was closed, but Chieftains simply refused to give up.

As early as December 2019, Palma School administrators were monitoring the emergence and spread of COVID-19. Plans were devised and continually revised to manage the ever-changing guidelines for public health and safety with a single goal in mind: serve our students. A little more than a year after the shelter-in-place order, Palma closes a successful academic year. The secret: *expectations*.

Palma faculty and staff have such a devotion to education and love for Chieftains that putting students first is an expectation turned reality; so much so that even a global pandemic could not derail learning on a daily basis. As the first school in the Salinas Valley to adopt a one-to-one campus, with devices in the hands of every student and teacher, learning simply changed to an on-screen adventure. With only two days of preparation, Palma transitioned from in-person on-campus learning to an e-school, replacing classes with virtual instruction while maintaining educational expectations. A schedule was created that included a weekly “flex day” to provide a systematic structure for interventions and one-on-one support, where students could meet with their teachers outside of class.

Palma’s clear e-school expectations required students and teachers to be fully present during classes, be on-screen for a full school day, and wear appropriate attire. Roll was taken daily and assignments continued with the expectation of classwork being done honestly and on time. As a result, student achievement was widely demonstrated with over 74% of the student body earning honor roll recognition. Teachers made time out of class to host virtual club meetings and gatherings to encourage students to stay connected, build relationships, and to foster growth and verifiable college resume-building achievements.

Palma is blessed with families who make their sons’ education a priority. With high expectations realized among teachers and staff, family support did not falter. Parents honored their commitments and generosity to campus. With exceptional effort, fanfare and decor was organized to make drive-through graduations, barbecues, and events festive occasions while staying aligned with COVID-19 safety protocols.

Perhaps the most telling of all was students’ expectations of Palma and themselves. Chieftains simply refused to give up. They pushed where they could to get out onto the field for conditioning workouts. They participated in clubs and other activities online and took advantage of any and all community service available. Students transcended the challenges of COVID by staying on track with their education. They also grasped every opportunity when presented. A case in point, Palma was the only high school in our area able to field teams in 12 of 13 varsity sports.

When it comes to expectations, Palma has always set a high standard. It’s gratifying to be where expectations are meant to be — and *are* — exceeded. ●



Making The Best Of It:

Around (and off) Campus

An Auspicious Start to the School Year

Faculty and staff returned to campus on August 10th for a distanced faculty-staff retreat and professional growth days. Meeting in person and via Zoom simultaneously would set the standard for the 2020-21 school year.



The class of 2026 began student orientations. Students came onto campus at designated times to pick up text books and assignments and get their photos taken for the yearbook. Angel Gallardo '26, accompanied by his parents, receives materials and instruction from Mr. Gnosca '14.





Mass is Celebrated on the Campus Field

Under a beautiful fall sky, friends of Palma gathered on the field to celebrate Mass of the Holy Spirit. Although delayed until September 23rd, the time-honored tradition of opening the school year with a Mass continued. Fr. Ron Shirley blessed the Chieftains and reminded us of those who we've lost who have been so instrumental in Palma's success. ASB President Anthony Scattini '21 reads to the faithful (*below left*). Palma President Chris Dalman '88 and his wife Yanne are blessed by Fr. Ron (*below right*).



Annual Free Flu Vaccine Clinic

Hundreds of people came to Palma's campus on October 13th for the Free Flu Vaccine Clinic held every year in collaboration with the Monterey County Department of Health and Salinas Valley Memorial Healthcare System. More than 500 flu shots were administered over the course of only a few hours.





Chieftain Service to Carmelite Sisters and Sisters of Notre Dame in Carmel

A crew of about 20 Chieftains, along with parents, worked to beautify the monastery grounds for the Carmelite Sisters. The crew also worked next door for the Sisters of Notre Dame at their retreat center, Villa Angelica. No one anticipated just how much work the volunteers would need to do. Likewise, no one predicted how much green waste debris would have been gathered and need to be removed. Only part of the debris was able to be removed that day so Vince Nino '22 (*left*) made some time in his busy schedule as a student to haul down his family's large dump trailer. He was able to help haul off about four more cubic yards of material.

Conditioning Begins

Foggy mornings did not dampen Chieftain smiles as they pushed to safely regroup on campus in the fall for morning conditioning and afternoon workouts well before the start of sanctioned CIF sports. Thank you to Mr. Rob Bishop, Athletic Director, and our coaches for supervising the safe return of physical activity.



Halloween — Palma Style

The Palma Parents' Club created a fun and safe way for Chieftains to celebrate Halloween. On Friday, October 30th, families participated in Palma's Drive Thru BBQ & Treats. They received candy delivered from a safe distance on their way to pick up a BBQ tri-tip dinner and fresh-baked Casa de Fruta pie. The event was a FUNdraiser for the Parents' Club.



Bagged BBQ and boxed pies are ready for the drive thru (above). Candy is delivered from a safe distance through a tube (left).

Alex Martin '23 Wins AMA Speedway Long Track Championship

American Speedway's young talent pool showcased itself at the highest possible level at Perris Raceway on November 14th with the AMA National Under 21 and Junior AMA National Long Track titles on the line. Alex Martin '23 had an exceptional night with five wins, 20 perfect points and an AMA National title in his final junior year. Alex has been riding since the age of five and started racing a year later. "I love speed and competition," exclaims Alex. He races a 250cc Jawa and a Yamaha 250cc on the flat track. He adds his National Long Track title to 2020 Gumball Rally Champion and his second place finish in the 2020 Junior National Championship.





Bishop Garcia Celebrates Mass at Palma

On Friday, November 20th, Palma School celebrated a Mass of Gratitude on the campus field. With chairs safely spaced in the open air of a beautiful Salinas afternoon, Most Rev. Daniel Garcia, Bishop of Monterey, assisted by Deacon Ford, reminded the faithfully gathered of the many blessings we continue to receive despite the sufferings of the pandemic.



Culinary Club Makes Christmas Delicious

The Culinary Club got into the Christmas spirit by baking chocolate chip cookies. Despite being in their own kitchens, the smell of cookies baking while listening to Christmas carols played on the piano by the Secondo brothers (Anthony '23 and Luke '26) made it a festive club meeting. Shout out to Ms. Jane Burton, Math Department Chair and Culinary Club Advisor for keeping the club active online.



Henry Brown '23 led the group.



Salvatore Cina '23



Luke Secondo '26 and Anthony Secondo '23



Eduardo Saavedra '26 and Enrique Saavedra '25



Culinary Club President Marc Asuncion '23



Aaron Braasch '24

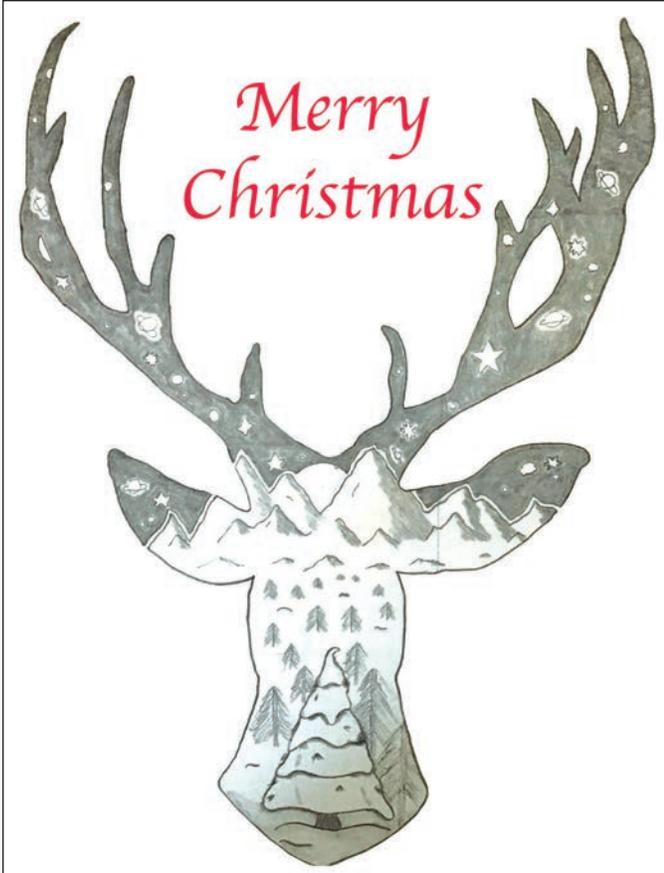
On a Mission To Make the Grade

Danny Witting '26 (*below*) and Joe Viarengo '26 (*right*) explore Mission San Juan Bautista for extra credit in Mr. Plata's American History class.

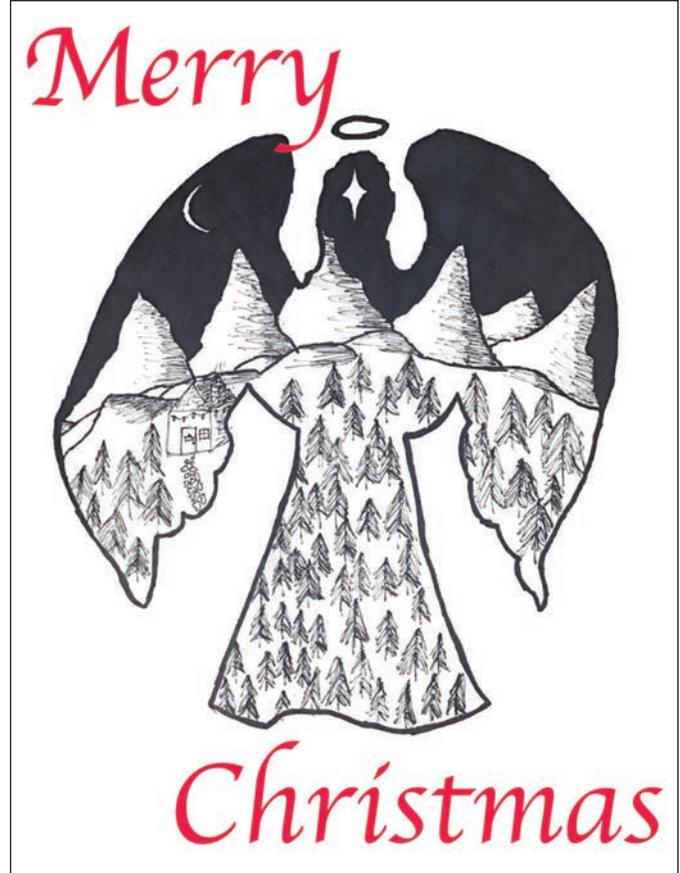


Studio Art Places a Christmas Wish in Creative Landscapes

Ms. Jennifer Pagliaro's Studio Art class created winter landscapes that complemented a special celestial occurrence. Jupiter and Saturn appeared in the sky with their alignment making them look almost like one planet. This amazingly bright "star" peaked on December 21st. The last time this happened, and was visible, was in 1226. It was our "Christmas Star."



Art by Abel Perez '21



Art by Jeremy Regelado '25

What's a good question?

- Interesting is easier
- Things you like
- Not a yes and no question
- There is enough info to answer it

Why was this a good question for me?



Nick Sterrett '04

Palma Alums Teach Research Methods

Kyle Sterrett '11 (*seen above*) joined older brother and Palma teacher Nick Sterrett '04 as a guest speaker in AP English Language classes as they were starting their research papers. Sterrett talked about best practices for conducting research and about the expectations at the college level. He also answered questions about playing basketball at Palma "back in the day." Kyle has Bachelors Degrees in Psychology and History and a Masters Degree in Social Research Methodology from UCLA. He is currently a doctoral candidate and clinical psychology trainee at the UCLA Center for Autism Research and Treatment. He is also an instructor in the Division of Child and Adolescent Development at Cal State University Northridge. His research interest lies in the development and evaluation of early

interventions targeting core social communication delays in children with autism spectrum disorder (ASD). His clinical work is primarily focused on young children (2-8 years old) who are preverbal and in training early intervention providers, both nationally and internationally, to carry out evidence-based interventions.

Annual Junior High Spelling Bee

The Steve Clayton Memorial Gym was the site for this year's Spelling Bee on February 17th. After rounds of competition in Mr. Plata's Language Arts classes, the following finalists competed against one another in person: Zenon Paden '26, Luke Secondo '26, Anthony Vasquez '26, Jeremy Regalado '25, Xavier Reinhardt '25, Maxwell Sanchez '25, and Jaskaran Walia '25. Luke Secondo '26 emerged as champion and represented Palma in the Monterey County Spelling Bee.



2021 Jr. High Spelling Bee champ Luke Secondo '26 with Palma School President Chris Dalman '88.

Modern Day Explorer

Miles Holaday '26 trekked to Garland Ranch to explore the grinding stones left by the Central Coast's first inhabitants. He earned extra credit in Mr. Plata's American History class for the effort.



Chieftain Service at Brighter Bites

When Brighter Bites, a national nonprofit organization that delivers fresh fruits and vegetables directly to families, opened its seventh location in Salinas, Palma students were there to help. Many of Brighter Bites partners are located in the Salinas Valley which makes our area the ideal location for the Texas-based company to expand. Brighter Bites provide nutrition education and access to free, fresh produce being grown so close by.

State/Location Rankings

| RANK | Team ID | Nickname | Total Equity | School / Organization | Advisor / Participant |
|------|---------------|--------------------|--------------|--------------------------|-----------------------|
| 21 | CLA_41_ZZ239 | CLA_41_ZZ239 | \$110,378.62 | Academy of the Canyons | Rubay, Victoria |
| 22 | CSF_41_ZZ224 | STOCKERS | \$110,349.92 | Monte Vista High | Seidenverg, Jill |
| 23 | CLA_41_ZZ243 | CLA_41_ZZ243 | \$109,549.08 | Academy of the Canyons | Rubay, Victoria |
| 24 | CLA_41_ZZ2090 | CLA_41_ZZ2090 | \$108,813.43 | Tran Investments | Tran, Ryan |
| 25 | CSC_41_ZZ182 | KAMTHEMAN | \$108,490.11 | John H. Pitman High | Toste, James |
| 26 | CLA_41_ZZ1136 | CLA_41_ZZ1136 | \$106,883.18 | El Rancho Charter School | Castro, Scott |
| 27 | CLA_41_ZZ307 | CLA_41_ZZ307 | \$106,646.09 | Academy of the Canyons | Rubay, Victoria |
| 28 | CSC_41_ZZ218 | ANGELINA S & ANA V | \$106,559.59 | John H. Pitman High | Toste, James |
| 29 | CSD_41_ZZ186 | SAMPLE | \$106,302.79 | Ramona High | Elias, Yolanda |
| 30 | CSF_41_ZZ870 | CSF_41_ZZ870 | \$105,763.15 | Palma School | Plata, Victor |

Mr. Victor Plata Uses the Stock Market Game (SMG) to Teach World History With Impressive Results

Student Investors 30th in State Rankings

Palma sophomores Cooper Bonnessa, Evan Russo, Nathan Halcon and Mason Maraccini climbed to 30th out of 1,199 teams in the State of California in the Stock Market Game (SMG). Mr. Plata (ranked 13th out of 256 coordinators) uses the SMG to teach World History students about capitalism, socialism and communism with a learn-by-doing investing experience. Their biggest return? The team shorted Gamestop (GME) for a 76% return.

Top 8% Team Performers

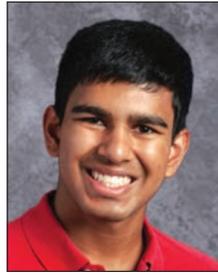
The team of Alexander Aldisert '23, Kevin Chen '23, Logan Guerini '23, and Sterling Martin '23 competed against 3,485 teams from around California in the Virtual Stock Market Game online. They finished in the top 8%. Their best performing stock was Home Depot, producing a return of 17%.



Niel Beach '21



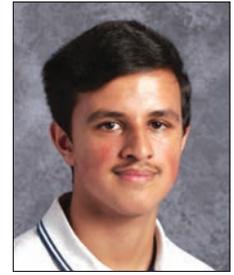
Gino Grier '21



Nevin Manimaran '21



Maddux Hrepich '22



Aryan Nahal '22



Andy Ottone '22

Mock Trial Team Places Third

Round 1 (February 4)

Our defense team opened against county champion Carmel, who has placed first the last six years. We put up a valiant effort, but did not win the round. Competing were attorneys Neil Beach '21, Gino Grier '21, Maddux Hrepich '22, and Ryan Roggio '22; witnesses Nicholas Dominguez '24, Luke Moran-Murphy '23, Kyle Abendano-Real '23, and Uriel Chavez '23; and bailiff Alex Martin '23.



Ryan Roggio '22



Kyle Abendano-Real '23

Round 2 (February 8)

Palma's prosecution team faced Gonzales in round two notching a victory that placed us in third overall. Participating were attorneys Andy Ottone '22, Nevin Manimaran '21, David Hodges '23, and Roberto De León '24; witnesses Carl Nielsen '23, James Connors '23, Tyler Cina, '24 and Andrew Estrada '23; and clerk Gino Grier '21.



Uriel Chavez '23



James Connors '23

Round 3 (February 10)

Palma's prosecution beat Santa Catalina in round three, keeping us in third.

Final Round (February 13)

The final round had Palma's defense competing against Stevenson. It was a close round with Palma prevailing to give us a 3-1 record. In the end, undefeated Pacific Grove won leaving Palma and Carmel with tied records. Carmel's win in round one was the tie-breaker that put Palma in third.



Andrew Estrada '23



David Hodges '23

Neil Beach '21 was recognized as outstanding defense pretrial attorney. Ryan Roggio '22 won for outstanding defense trial attorney, and Aryan Nahal '22 placed third in the journalism competition.

The entire competition was conducted via Zoom, a unique challenge, but our Chieftains rose to the occasion, improving with each successive round. They began their preparation in early October.



Alex Martin '23



Luke Moran-Murphy '23



Carl Nielsen '23



Tyler Cina '24



Roberto De León '24



Nicholas Dominguez '24

Take a Hike!

Over the course of the school year, the Nature and Ecology Club (Palma instructor Mr. Joey Silva, advisor) has organized several hikes. This, the sixth one of the year, was on the Juniper Canyon Trail at Pinnacles National Park. Previous hikes were held at Fort Ord, the Forest of Nisene Marks and Andrew Molera State Park.



Invited to Play at the Next Level

Congratulations to seniors JT Amaral, Oki Hautau, Noah Pulealii and Zak Thompson for accepting scholarship offers to play at the collegiate level. Each student-athlete has worked hard to earn this tremendous honor.



JT Amaral '21 — Baseball, University of San Francisco



Oki Hautau '21 — Football, Columbia University



Noah Pulealii '21 — Football, UCLA



Zak Thompson '21 — Wrestling, Campbell University

CHAMPIONS CHALLENGE

Goal Achieved!



Thank you to these generous donors for helping us meet our goal!

Joseph Amader '86 & Janice Ledgerwood
The Casey Angle '91 Family
Mrs. Nancy Ausonio
Blazer Wilkinson LP
Martha (Bernasconi) '63 & Mark Botelho '63
Shane Breschini '95
Julia & Chuck Brewer '71
Denise & Vincent Brigantino '82
Shaun Camcam '11
Joine & Chip Campion '68
Rebecca & Michael Castagnetto '94
Carla & Dave Ciolino '76
Charles Cochran '02
Robin & Jason Cook '90
Cook's Photography
Vicki & Stan Cooper '86
Andrew & Phyllis D'Arrigo Charitable
Foundation

Andrew Davis '04
Ed Dowd '63
Ryan Drobnick '97
E.M.D., Inc.
The Brent Eastman '81 Family
Tom Fanoe '64
Kathleen & Dino Gastello
Pete Gnosca '75
Alice & Mike Hitchcock
Roberta (Fanoe) '59 &
Louis Huntington
The Chris Knapp '00 Family
Law Offices of Philip H. Kelly
Leavitt Central Coast Insurance
Services
The Mark Lema '87 Family
Garrett Maker '18
Wyatt Maker '16

Patrick Martin '02
Susie & David Martinez '87
Michael McGee '68
Mike McGrath '00
Mission Ranches Fund of the
Community Foundation for
Monterey County
The Brian Neff '96 Family
Nita & Tom Nino
Margot & Tom Nunes, Jr. '69
Mr. Thomas Nunes, Sr.
Vickie & Andy Pomo '63
Jenn & Jeff Pomo
Tia & Jeffrey Pulford '65
The Geoff Reimer '91 Family
Kenneth Renney '65
Andrew Reyes '07
Barbara & Clem Richardson, Jr. '67

John & Annette Romans Family Fund
of the Community Foundation of
Monterey County
Susie & Tony Rossi '86
Steve Roth '81
Nick Ruiz '12
Sally Hughes Church Foundation
Margaret & Jim Scattini '81
Cody W. Schmidt '06
Edward Storm '61
The Smith Family
Tricia & Calvin Van Ruler
The Steve Viarengo '87 Family
MW Construction Services
Brenda & Michael Zanger '82

Thank you for supporting Chieftain Athletics

Phase one of Champions Challenge will replace the worn turf field, restore the track, purchase new work-out equipment, install safety fencing and provide funds for a portable video scoreboard.

Chieftain Athletics

With so many moving parts in a normal high school athletic year, the 2020-21 school year was a nightmare for interscholastic sports in California disrupted by the COVID-19 global pandemic.



Early in the 2020-21 school year, the California Interscholastic Federation (CIF) ruled that all sports seasons were suspended indefinitely, halting school sports for nearly 4,000 high schools across the state. In response to sudden changes in protocols coupled with students, families and coaches determined to provide whatever structure possible for sports to resume, meetings commenced at dizzying paces for athletic directors, principals, and officials locally and beyond.

The challenges faced by school athletic directors and administrators were many — each school district had its own set of COVID rules, often informed by varied degrees of interpretation of ambiguously articulated protocols by county health departments releasing information on different timelines. Some students (and/or their parents) were reluctant to participate; not knowing which schools would take part in which sports and how many team levels would be permitted to participate. There was a shortage of available officials, restrictions on spectators allowed per sport, transportation needs as car pools and buses were not permitted — the list seemed endless. And, all of these factors were subject to change based on weekly assessments made by county, state and federal officials.

Palma set the standard in the area. As long as prescribed safety protocols were executed — pre-screening, distancing, masks, and frequent washing — we could offer non-sport-specific conditioning workouts to students who chose to participate. Weight room equipment was spaced throughout the batting cages and conditioning was led on the field under a watchful and motivating Rob Bishop, Palma Athletic Director, and other head coaches. With smart reviews of changing guidelines, Palma pushed to safely meet and reengage student-athletes and their coaches as early as the summer of 2020 and throughout the fall.

With COVID numbers improving, cross country was the first sport allowed to resume. Athletic directors called each other to determine who would have a team. Palma's AD, Rob Bishop, put a shortened schedule together and meets were held beginning in January. In late February, CIF sanctioned additional sports teams to start practices in preparation for shortened seasons. Football officially opened on March 2nd with their first scrimmage against Hollister on March 12th. The shortened season saw games, with restricted fan attendance, against San Joaquin Memorial (in Fresno), King City, Salinas and Hollister.

As spring and winter seasons simultaneously unfolded, more teams began their shortened seasons vying for space and players. This created the additional challenges of where to hold contests and finding officials. Some districts, with whom we compete, offered limited participation or dropped out altogether.

The good news is Chieftains were able to revive a remarkable 12 of 13 varsity sports. Despite the limitations, the boys were happy to return. Leading the way, Palma continues to plan and prepare for a full season of athletics next year. ●



Interminable Determination:

Atlanta's Newest Falcon

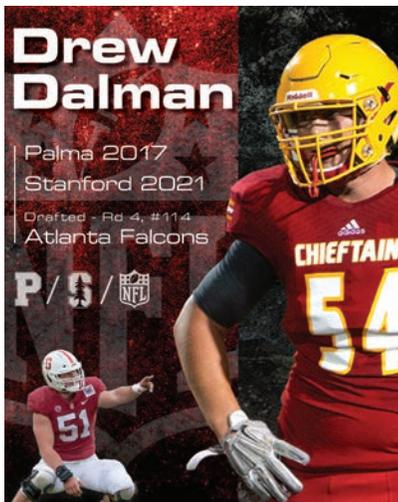
Drew Dalman '17 was selected in the fourth round of the 2021 NFL Draft

“With another pick, number 114 in the 2021 draft, we select Drew Dalman, the offensive center from Stanford University,” announced Arthur Blank, owner and chairman of the Atlanta Falcons on day three of the NFL draft. With that, the 2017 Palma graduate is on his way to a dream realized; his opportunity to play in the National Football League. Growing up on NFL fields, the son of San Francisco 49er Chris Dalman '88, one gets the sense of a *fait accompli*. But, knowing his lineage is knowing only half the story.

Drew graduated third in his class at Palma. His 4.+ GPA garnered 18 acceptances to universities across the country including Stanford, Harvard, Cornell and Yale. Having the academic chops to pull off this tsunami of nods was not enough for Drew as he put equal effort into the weight room and on the field to earn a spot on a collegiate football roster as well.

“Drew is relentless in his pursuit of excellence in all aspects of his life,” said Palma Varsity Head Football Coach Jeff Carnazzo '85. “He worked just as hard in the classroom as he did on the field. I would go so far as to say that he was as dominant in the classroom as he was on the field! He is dedicated and disciplined and works hard at his craft on a daily basis. He was the leader of our football team, then became the leader of the Stanford football team and I look forward to seeing him take on the same role with the Atlanta Falcons.”

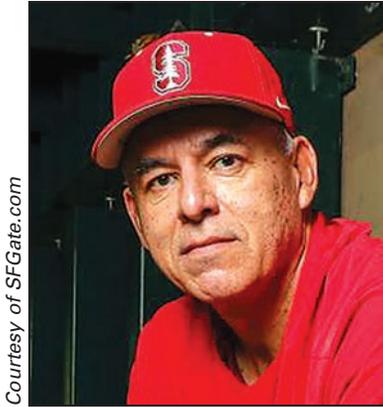
Drew's interminable determination has earned him a Bachelor of Science degree in Mechanical Engineering from Stanford University. His reputation as a solid O-lineman earned him an invitation to join the NFL. All this and he remains a humble, albeit huge, young man of character. ●



Competing on Another Level:

Palma Ath-lumni

Professional-Level Chieftains



Courtesy of SFGate.com

David Esquer '83*
Head Baseball Coach



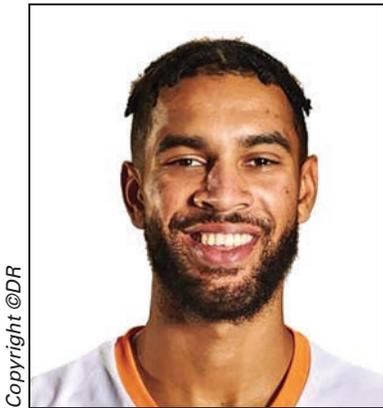
Courtesy of csurams.com

Tony Hill '98
Head Football Athletic Trainer



Courtesy of govandals.com

Brian Reader '07
Recruiting Coordinator/
Running Backs Coach



Copyright ©DR

Noah Allen '13
SG / SF



Courtesy of salinaliberty.com

Mitch Kidd '14
Quarterback



Drew Dalman '17
Inside Offensive Line



*SV Athletic Hall of Fame

Collegiate Athlete Chieftains



Dominick Hoover '16
Cal Poly San Luis Obispo

GOLF



Wyatt Maker '16
Cal State East Bay

BASKETBALL SCHOLARSHIP



Matt Smith '16
Westcliff University

BASEBALL



Francisco Arevalo '17
Hastings College

SOCCER SCHOLARSHIP



Jamaree Bouyea '17
University of San Francisco

BASKETBALL SCHOLARSHIP



Danny Carnazzo '17
North Carolina State

BASEBALL SCHOLARSHIP



Kyler Crone '17
San Francisco State

BASEBALL



Anthony DeSantis '17
Cuesta College

BASEBALL



Richard Hernandez '17
Hastings College

FOOTBALL SCHOLARSHIP



Robert Hernandez '17
Hastings College

FOOTBALL SCHOLARSHIP



Cameron Jones '17
Pacific University Oregon

BASKETBALL



Emilio Martinez '17
University of San Diego

FOOTBALL SCHOLARSHIP



Matt Mercurio '17
San Jose State

FOOTBALL SCHOLARSHIP



Joey Burlison '18
NYU

GOLF SCHOLARSHIP



Michael Carrillo '18
Northwest Christian Univ.

GOLF SCHOLARSHIP



Santo DeFranco '18
Mercer College

FOOTBALL SCHOLARSHIP



Vince Flores '18
University of Washington

BASEBALL SCHOLARSHIP



Sam Stoutenborough '18
UC Berkeley

BASEBALL SCHOLARSHIP



Octavio Rubio '18
University of San Diego

CROSS COUNTRY



Zach Taylor '18
MPC

FOOTBALL



Jerry Flores '19
Concordia University

BASEBALL SCHOLARSHIP



Grant Sergent '19
University of San Diego

FOOTBALL SCHOLARSHIP



Jon Jon Berring '20
University of San Francisco

BASEBALL SCHOLARSHIP



Anton Strasser '20
University of Dubuque

LACROSSE SCHOLARSHIP



Champions Challenge

A two-phase capital campaign is underway to repair, then improve Palma's athletic facilities.

Chieftain athletics have a reputation for being punishing in competition. It shows on the scoreboard and it also shows on the track and campus field. Fourteen years of P.E., football, soccer, lacrosse, track and additional use by other organizations on weekends have left their mark.

The shelf-life of an artificial turf field is about 10 years. With seams separating and the field so worn that patches lay higher than the turf, ours has all but reached its limit of usefulness. The track has gullies and soft spots. Both are in desperate need of replacement so Champions Challenge was launched in November 2020.

“Champions Challenge is a fund-raising campaign that will restore and improve Palma's athletic facilities. Chieftains deserve the opportunity to be active boys and strong competitors. We owe it to them, and future Chieftains, to provide the very best play, practice and physical training resources. The legacy of our storied alumni deserves our best foot forward when welcoming visitors onto our campus for athletic competitions,” said Palma President Chris Dalman '88.

The track and field are scheduled to begin replacement in June so they can be ready for the fall semester. The \$1.1 million price tag will replace the field; resurface the track; purchase new weights, mats and lifting stations; install safety netting around adjacent fields; and acquire a portable video scoreboard that can be used for all sports, including baseball.

We are pleased to announce that the financial goal for phase one of Champions Challenge has been met

Phase two of Champions Challenge will replace the natural grass on the baseball field with artificial turf. A move-able fence will allow for a full-sized football or soccer practice field in the outfield during baseball's off season. Phase two also envisions a new climate-controlled weight room, concession stand, restrooms and added equipment storage.

The project benefits all Chieftains. Not only are athletic facilities open to all students for P.E. and recreation, but these improvements will enhance Palma's competitive edge, allowing the continued reputation of being a premier school in our area. This image, along with shiny new venues, will attract families and help to increase Palma's enrollment and athletic sponsorships.

A capital campaign to address major athletic needs is necessary because funding for sports never comes from tuition dollars. The Athletic Council raises money throughout the year to support our student-athletes to fund uniforms, venues, officials and other costs required for our school to compete in the PCAL. ●



Red and Gold, Young and... younger:

Alumni Update

1957

Lurine (Pelucca) Larson received her AA degree from Hartnell and was hired in May 1959 as the first paid secretary. Lurine writes, "This pandemic has made me realize how important life is. My Prayer Blanket Ministry at Holy Family Parish in San Jose has been in existence for 21-1/2 years. I spent countless hours these past 15 months crocheting Prayer Blankets for people who have needed a little comfort in their times of need due to illness, death of a family member, surgery, our veterans, people recovering from an accident, as well as for babies being baptized. Our priests bless these items and then we present the blankets to those in need of one. God has blessed me and my crocheters and knitters with this wonderful opportunity to spread His love to others." About Palma's *All Souls* video: "I liked the walk down Memory Lane. I recognized many names and faces of former alumni who have gone to their final reward! God bless you."

1959

Charleen O'Brien is the one in dark blue (*right front*) and these are her Holy Family Community Sisters! "We have been sheltered in place for one year on St Patrick's Day!"



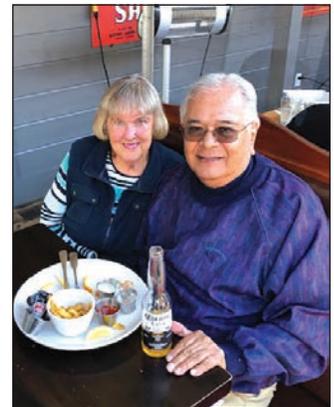
1960

James Hayes started a commercial refrigeration company in 1964. He retired and sold the business in 2018. James has one child, a boy, Michael. He is head concierge at Pebble Beach Corp.

Jim Storm graduated from Cal Poly in 1964. He has been married for 57 years and has three children; all graduated from college and employed. He also has six grandchildren, two of which have graduated from college. Jim has worked in production agriculture since high school and retired in 2020. He was involved with Boys Baseball of Salinas; was on the Board of Directors of Young Life of Salinas; worked at the Salinas California Rodeo starting in 1964 and was a Director for 30 years.

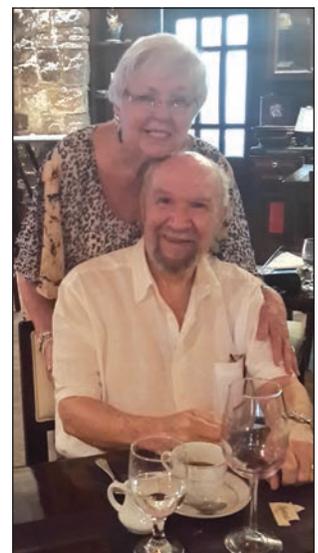
1961

Barbara Borchert Pybas and Richard Chavez, SHS class of 1956, enjoying lunch at the Monterey Wharf in February on a 73° day.



Pat Coelho sent us this photo (*left*).

Erin (Reardon) Ross (*right*) writes, "Dave and I at a birthday dinner in Casco Viejo Panama. We have lived in Boquete, Panama for 15 years now. *Abrazos y Salud* fellow alumni."





1962

Don Dedeaux (above): “I have been running a golf club with 22 members since 1988. We play the first Saturday of every month and our June and October tournaments are held in Las Vegas and Laughlin. God has been looking after me since my wife passed away. He sent an angel, Molly (German shepherd), to take care of me. In 2019 I became a diabetic and with COVID-19 my doctor said I needed to lose weight and watch what I eat (less sugar). Thanks to Molly we walk two to three times a day and over one year, I lost 40 lbs. My doctor told me to keep walking. Where has the time gone? In 1962 I was a Palma High graduate and now in 2021 I’m a 77-year-old senior. I lost my wife Corinne in 2007. We were married 40 years and Corinne was my best friend and traveling mate. She provided me with a daughter, Michelle Roberts, an LVN at Health



Essentials, and a son, John, who runs a company that supplies specialty meat to stores/restaurants on the east and west coasts. Michelle has my three grandchildren (Allie, Kendal and Sam). Allie is an RN and works for Kaiser in Southern California. She has my two great granddaughters. The second photo is me with my two sisters and brother.”

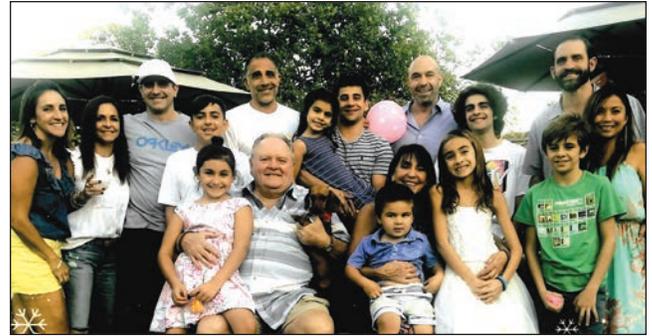
Mike Gutierrez and Ellen celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on May 1st. They have five children and eight grandchildren and have lived in Redding almost 42 years.

1963

Ed Dowd celebrated his 75th birthday and had a small Christmas celebration with close friends. In 2021 he received the COVID vaccines and now gets to go out!



Andy Pomo sends this photo (below) of the gathering for his 50th wedding anniversary.

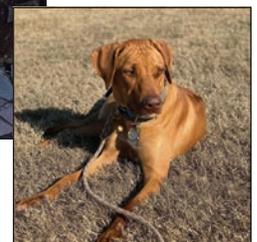
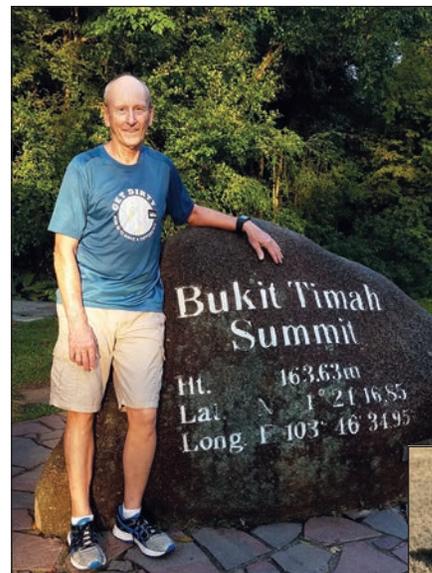


1964

Alice (Richardson) Wilson and Howard celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary in October. Her son **Blaine Wilson '96** and son-in-law **Dave Sargenti '93** are also alumni. Her grandson **Owen Sargenti '23** is currently a sophomore at Palma. Alice has created quite the legacy at Palma!

1965

Kenneth Renney, MD, retired from Houston Methodist Orthopedics and Sports Medicine in July 2019. He moved from Houston to the Austin Hill Country. He spent time with family in California and celebrated his mom’s 101st birthday. He was in Singapore and Vietnam on holiday when the pandemic was declared and fortunately made it home. He rescued Kili, a Rhodesian Ridgeback, during the pandemic and both have passed the time hiking and enjoying the Austin Hill Country waiting for future travel.



1967

Phil Fondale says, “I had a full knee replacement in February 2020 and had been quarantined a month before it to help prevent infection. The operation was a bit more complicated than we expected and recovery was slow. The virus just made the quarantine period last longer. Living in rural Amador County did make things a lot safer. We received our final dose of COVID vaccine in early March. Cindy and I have been chomping at the bit to travel again and see our children and grandchildren in the Puget Sound area. It’s been more than a year and a half. However, thanks

to last year’s Palma magazine I was able to reconnect with fellow classmate and good friend **John Shigo ’67**. When we both graduated in 1967 we lost track of each other after the summer. Fifty-three years later John saw my post from last year and managed to send me a letter from Portland. It was addressed with just my name and Pioneer, CA. Even the zip code was wrong. I received it two weeks after he mailed it. Thank God I live in a small community. John and I have been emailing each other regularly ever since. It’s been a lot of fun catching up. That’s my *Palma connection*.”

1969

The class of 1969 held their 50th reunion at Bayonet-Black Horse in October 2019.



Tom Nunes, Mark Panelli and Bill Kelly, lifelong friends and classmates reconnecting from Sacred Heart and Palma days



The 50th Reunion Committee (sans Rich Jufiar) – (back row) John Firth, Toni Filice; (front row) Patricia Fuqua, Janet Atkins, Chair Evelyn Poppa, Mark Panelli and Maureen McManus



Patricia Fuqua, Tom Nunes, Irene Maestri, Jane and Judy Garlinger, Salinas out-of-town folks celebrating their roots



Evelyn Poppa, Bob Finocchio, Michael Fletcher and Judy Huggins, Junior Prom dates reunion!



Tim Swick and Shawn Cassady enjoy Palma camaraderie and connection



Carmen Rugnetta and John Firth enjoying life after law careers (DA in LA, law firm operations)



Tom Pagano, Tony Agapoa and Jim Duron sharing life achievements after many years apart



1971

Blaine J. Williams attended Hartnell, studied ag and played football, then went on to Cal Poly San Luis Obispo to study soil science and biochemistry. He was a first string defensive back on the Mustang football team. He married Brook Saunders (celebrate our 23rd anniversary in August) and has three sons, Patrick 39, Kristopher 38, and Blaine Jr 17. He also has two daughters, Danielle 32 and Madison 19. Blaine has three grandchildren: Ryder, Addison and Grayson. He is an entrepreneur working in the field of business and personal development and wealth management and maintains interests in the natural wellness and the whole food supplement industry. During the lockdown they spent more time as a family enjoying their home and property in Northern Idaho.

1973

Michael Lauritson writes, “Despite the challenges that COVID has brought us, we were able to celebrate my oldest daughter Emily’s wedding on January 17, 2021 in Nashville, Tennessee. It was a beautiful day and I was grateful to have a couple other Palma Chieftain alumni with us — **Clem Richardson ’67** and **Matt Fanoë ’71** as well as the families of alumni **Bruce Lauritson ’67** and **Jim Dowd ’68!**”



Ron Shaw says, “My life is blessed and full of abundance. After my father passed in late May, I’ve moved to San Diego to bring closure to his estate. Hopefully, this summer I will be able to bury him with full military honors. Then honor Dr. Shaw in the two areas of his community stewardship (church, college fraternity, business/cultural associations of service) in Seaside and San Diego. Two of my daughters have blessed me with two more grandchildren for a total of eight. Three of the eight are beautiful young ladies. With the virus and quarantining, which forced me into retirement, I have re-entered the field of advocacy for unmet needs with underserved populations (in 28 counties of California). Later into the spring, I will formally announce my establishment of a Corporation for Advocacy and a non-profit to facilitate community resources for underserved populations (at risk youth, individuals with mental health challenges and older/disabled adults in partnership with their caregivers). Most recently, I am working with mental health organizations to assist with SB803 — the process of providing Peer Certification and Reciprocity throughout California’s 58 counties. In brief, peers with Lived Experience will be paid and empowered to work within the workplace and assist supervisors with individuals living with a mental health challenge.”

1976

Mark McNett

“He must increase, but I must decrease.” *John 3:30*



“My wife, Diane, and I celebrated 36 years of marriage in 2020. We have been members of Faith Community Church since 1997 and are members of The Gideons International. We support and work with our local crisis pregnancy center; ‘Care Net.’ We want others to know it is not about us, it is about Jesus.”

1977

Mike Harris reports, “Life is great! Retirement has been awesome. Between riding and baby sitting I’m always on the move. Looking forward to a new grand baby in December! Live in now!”



1985

Dr. Patrick Byrne and his family (four kids) moved to Cleveland! You can find his announcement and bio here.



1988

Chris Dalman began serving as president of Palma School on July 1, 2020. He had served as director of admissions and dean of students at Palma prior to his appointment.

Col. Fred Dela Cruz, USA, currently serves as Chief of Staff, 19th Expeditionary Sustainment Command. He graduated from Boston University and earned his commission through Officer Candidate School at Fort Benning, GA in 1993. He also holds a Master of Business Administration from Campbell University. His command assignments include Commander, Group Support Battalion 5th Special Forces Group (Airborne) at Fort Bragg; 508th Parachute Infantry Regiment Rear Detachment Commander at Fort Bragg; and Brigade Operations Officer, 44th Medical Brigade, in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. Fred's awards and decorations include Bronze Star Medal with one oak leaf cluster, Defense Meritorious Service Medal with one oak leaf cluster, Meritorious Service Medal with four oak leaf clusters, Army Commendation Medal with silver oak leaf cluster, Afghanistan Campaign Medal (three stars), the French *Medaille Commemorative* – Afghanistan, the Joint Meritorious Unit Award, the Meritorious Unit Award, and the Army Superior Unit Award. Additionally, Col. Dela Cruz earned the Combat Medical Badge, Master Parachutist Badge, Air Assault Badge, and Royal Australian Parachutist Badge. He is married and has two sons.



1992

Chris Mulé shared some photos taken this past year. The year of COVID was golfing, skiing, reprioritizing, and counting their blessings. "We are blessed to work, blessed to help. Here's to our health and our families! Hope you all are well," Chris, Kerri, and Anthony.



1995

Ruben Romero reports, "We are very proud of my wife Cindy. She was sent into one of the largest nursing homes in New Jersey, that had numerous deaths in one day — so much that they had bodies lining the hallways. She managed to regain control of the nursing home, implemented numerous infection control protocols and saved many lives. She says one of the highlights of this experience was the people she helped and being able to oversee some of the National Guard who were there to help. As you can tell, I'm very proud of her."



1996

Chris Searby shared this photo of his family.



1997

Aaron Aliotti resides in Salinas where he grew up wearing the Red and Gold! He suffers from male pattern baldness and a, “Dad Bod” but has managed somehow to produce a wonderfully beautiful family. He is blessed with a loving friend and wife of 14 years who has given him two precious little girls. Through the fortune of ongoing social restrictions, intermittent spells of cabin fever, and a few power outages around last August, he and his family are now expecting the birth of their next child near the 4th of July! He is blessed beyond measure. In 2021 Aaron will also be celebrating a 10-year employment milestone with Fresh-Link Produce where he is the GM of the Tomato Division. Spring will bring another birthday and relentless reminder that time is fleeting. Aaron’s grey hair makes it harder to remember things and he often has to do math to figure out how old he is. It further boggles him to think it has been nearly 25 years since he took a seat in the A-Wing before morning bell. Aaron may not have been a man when he left Palma (in many respects he is still growing up) but every morning before the sun rises he is true to remember the lessons learned while being a Chieftain all that time ago: Have gratitude and charity in your heart. A five paragraph essay format is a compelling way to make a case for anything under the sun. If you’re going to compete in life, “Play until the whistle.” And above all, “Stay low and keep your head on a swivel.”



James Machado tells us after six years in Seoul, South Korea — split between the U.S. Military Command and U.S. Embassy — he was promoted to Lieutenant Colonel and began a three-year U.S. Army fellowship for a PhD from UNC-Chapel Hill’s Hussman School of Journalism and Media. His focus will be on Northeast Asian Media and the impacts on Korea-Japan-U.S. trilateral cooperation. James and his wife Elizabeth live in Chapel Hill with their five-year-old twins and expect their next assignment in 2023 to likely be in the DC area.

2000

After 14 years of ministry and pastoral work **Chris Vanoli** has started a new church in Atascadero called Abide Calvary. He is the Lead Pastor and is enjoying this new adventure. He has lived in Atascadero for the last six years with his wife and two kids where he enjoys coaching his kids’ basketball teams, growing fruit trees and cycling. Chris included this photo from his first Sunday morning service.



2001

Charles Fink writes, “I made a later-in-life career change, graduated UF Law in 2020 and passed the bar exam in October. The first photo is me getting sworn into the Florida Bar pandemic-style in my back yard. My wife and I have lived in Celebration, Florida since 2014 with our son Fox (5) and we’re expecting our second child, a girl, River, in the summer. Also, I had a kidney transplant in 2018, which I guess is a big deal. The photo below is with my donor, Sara Pesek, a friend from NYU undergrad. Yeah, it was smack dab in the middle of law school — winter break 2018. I came back the next semester to straight A’s, so it must have helped my brain out! Also because of the immunosuppression I was used to wearing a mask in public long before it was cool.”



2002

Michael Rianda is the creator, writer and director of the WORLD'S #1 ranked watched Netflix show: *The Mitchells vs. the Machines*. Use the QR code to read about the film. You can read about Michael at www.imdb.com/name/nm5106831/



The Mitchells Vs. The Machines is BACK BABY!

I'm SO glad our movie is coming out on Netflix so as many people can see it as possible! (Safely and Soon!)

I'm also pumped about teaming creatively with Netflix. They- like me- loved the original title!

More goodies coming soon!



2004

Nick Sterrett is teaching AP English and Film at Palma. His wife, Chelsea, is teaching AP Environmental Science, Physics, and Algebra at Notre Dame High School. Archer (7) is a 1.5 million word reader at Spreckels, Hazel (5) loves catching lizards, and Penelope (1) loves to eat.

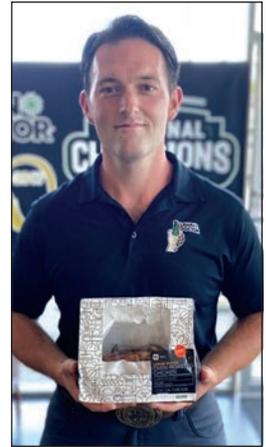
2006

Andy Alcocer

recently completed his Masters of Arts in Global Security Studies from Johns Hopkins University and will be leaving the Washington, D.C. area for his next assignment in the U.S. Army. He has been promoted to Major and will be heading to the 5th Special Forces Group (Airborne) located at Ft. Campbell, KY.



Cody Schmidt reports, "I graduated law school in May 2020. Currently, I work for Lawn Doctor of Clarksville-Nashville. I am waiting to sit for a Bar Exam that will most likely be in February 2022. I took up more of a Keto diet and work out at Gold's Gym daily. The ladies at the office, knowing of my dietary habits, got me a roasted chicken instead of a cake for my birthday!"



2011

Julian Larimer told us, "Right now I'm Plans Officer in 2nd Squadron 14th Cavalry Regiment, a ground reconnaissance unit for the 25th Infantry Division in Hawaii (an army unit out of Schofield Barracks). Soon I will be getting to take command of a Cavalry Troop. This is an exciting milestone in my career because I will have the direct responsibility of the lives of almost 100 soldiers as we



conduct contingency operations in the Indo-Pacific region. I have included a photo of me (on the left) re-enlisting one of my soldiers on board of a flight over Banzai Pipeline."

2012

Alan Sims is currently living in Los Angeles, working as an environmental specialist for Clements Environmental. He began this job the day the stay-at-home order started in Los Angeles, so he has not yet met everyone on his team in person. He also graduated with a Masters in Urban Planning from Cal State Northridge in 2020, so he did not get the normal ceremony, but is still happy to be finished with the degree (you can tell from his graduation picture).



2013

Tyler Escoto has earned success in the California MMA octagon. He is seen here with the California State Championship belt around his waist. The two belts on his shoulders are from Epic Fighting in two separate weight classes.



Spencer Lane writes, "In 2020, I completed my Masters of Arts degree in English from Portland State University with an emphasis in 20th-century American Literature. Also in 2020, I began the pursuit of a PhD in English at Tufts University in Medford, MA."

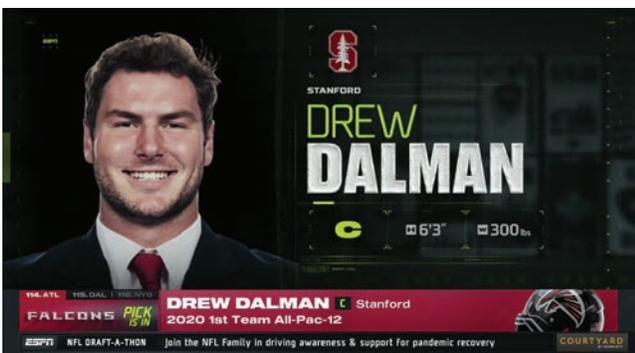


2015

Kevin Heffernan is currently working in software engineering in Santa Barbara. His blog was recently showcased in San Francisco.

2017

Drew Dalman will graduate from Stanford University with a Bachelors of Science degree in Mechanical Engineering. He has reported to training camp in Atlanta having been selected by the Falcons in round four of the NFL draft.



Victor Penera reports, "This year I served as an executive officer for Associated Students of San Diego State. In this role, I was able to lead San Diego State's first-ever virtual campaign to address food insecurity. I served as the chairman of Aztecs Rock Hunger, which is the largest student-led food drive in the CSU system. Our mission is to raise awareness of food insecurity in the SDSU and San Diego community. We were able to raise over 300,000 pounds of food in three weeks, which served hundreds of students and families in our area." Below are articles that covered the campaign.



2018

Alexander Ramos will be transferring to Cal Poly in Fall of 2021 to pursue an Economics Major. ●

IN MEMORIAM



Brother Patrick D. Dunne, C.F.C. died on April 7, 2021 in Salinas, California. Brother Dunne was the principal of Palma from 1987 to 2007 and the first president from 2008 to 2020. May he rest in peace.

| | | |
|------|--------------------------------|-------------------|
| 1956 | Rolland Brown | December 31, 2020 |
| 1958 | Joanne (Borchard) Silva | February 20, 2021 |
| 1960 | Joanne Leonardini | July 26, 2020 |
| 1962 | Sandy (Storm) Fetter | March 28, 2020 |
| 1962 | George Comeau | October 16, 2020 |
| 1963 | Diana (O'Brien) Bradley | June 7, 2020 |
| 1964 | Richard Frassetto | July 17, 2020 |
| 1967 | Jacob Thorup | February 8, 2021 |
| 1971 | Brad Palmer | July 21, 2020 |
| 1973 | Michael Classen | July 27, 2020 |
| 1974 | Brian MacDonald | July 20, 2020 |
| 1974 | Jon Bolstad | July 21, 2020 |
| 1976 | Michael Borg | August 30, 2020 |
| 1978 | Anthony Romero | February 25, 2021 |
| 1981 | Breck Conner | April 4, 2020 |
| 1985 | Joseph Feldeisen | January 1, 2021 |
| 1990 | Bryan DaSilva | May 30, 2020 |
| 1992 | Joshua Forrest | December 3, 2020 |
| 1996 | Justin Pryer | May 11, 2020 |



Palma School
919 Iverson Street
Salinas, CA 93901

Non-Profit Org
US Postage
PAID
Salinas, CA
Permit No. 180

Return Service Requested

If this issue of Palma School Today is addressed to your son who no longer maintains a permanent address at your home, please help us update our records by calling the Alumni Relations office (831) 422-2309 or email the correct address to alumni@palmaschool.org. Thank you.



Generations of Excellence

Generations of Chieftains are leaders. They know the value of giving – not just to improve today, but to build a better tomorrow. Our world needs leaders who are self-confident men of character who think critically and are spiritually rooted – the kind of leaders Palma consistently graduates.

The impact of your gift:

- ▶ **Tuition Assistance** – makes a boy's dream a possibility
- ▶ **Innovative Curriculum** – inspires unique academic, service and leadership opportunities
- ▶ **Technological Advantage** – provides tools and infrastructure for 21st Century learning



**Make your gift to
The Palma Fund**

ONLINE GIVING IS CONVENIENT AND SECURE
or visiting palmaschool.com/online-giving/

