



26 YEARS AND GROWING!

Big NEWS

A COMMUNITY PREPARATORY SCHOOL PUBLICATION

WINTER 2011

126 SOMERSET STREET, PROVIDENCE, R.I. 02907 • 401.521.9697 • FAX 401.751.1072 • www.communityprep.org

COMMUNITY PREP STUDENTS LEARN FROM BETTY ADLER'S HOLOCAUST EXPERIENCE

Community Prep's 7th grade reading curriculum is certainly thought-provoking. In addition to slave narratives, realistic and gripping coming-of-age stories, and *To Kill a Mockingbird*, the seventh grade learns about the Holocaust through the lens of Elie Weisel's memoir, *Night*. Tamar Paull, their teacher, a Jewish teacher in a predominantly non-Jewish school, has always been struck by how interested students are in learning about the Holocaust. "Holocaust stories offer our students a powerful outlet for their natural empathy and belief in hope. They explore the experience of discrimination, pain, loss, and redemption that may be part of their own stories. The writing and artwork that students produce when we study the Holocaust is some of their strongest, as their powerful reactions find creative outlets.



Betty Adler and Frederick Reamer discussing Mrs. Adler's experience of returning to Germany more than 75 years after her family was forced to flee.

This year, the seventh grade was privileged to meet Holocaust survivor, Betty Adler, owner of Adler's Hardware in Providence. Mrs. Adler shared her remarkable story on National Public Radio's "This I Believe," and when Tamar heard it, she knew she had to invite her to Community Prep. In 1938, Mrs. Adler was expelled from the Catholic school she had attended in Germany, by order of the Nazi regime. Her family escaped Germany and went to Guatemala, before immigrating to the US. Nearly 75 years after she was expelled from her school, Mrs. Adler returned to Germany and to her school, where she found that the current students had

created a memorial for the Jewish students who had been forced out of their school. In her own words, Mrs. Adler has learned to believe in "the possibility of goodness in the midst of horror... (that) people can change... (and) in the possibility of redemption."

This is the powerful lesson she shared with the seventh grade.

Thirty-five CP seventh graders listened with rapt attention as Mrs. Adler told them about her experiences in Germany, both as a child and upon her return 75 years later. She was passionate in her message that we must believe in hope and forgiveness. Frederick Reamer, host of "This I Believe RI," and former CP parent, joined Mrs. Adler, and added his insights into her story. After Mrs. Adler's "This

I Believe" essay aired, Mr. Reamer organized an on-air interview with the head of the school in Germany, as well as some current students. He spoke to our seventh graders about the effect of Mrs. Adler's experience on current German students, and how their response caused Mrs. Adler to believe in hope and redemption.

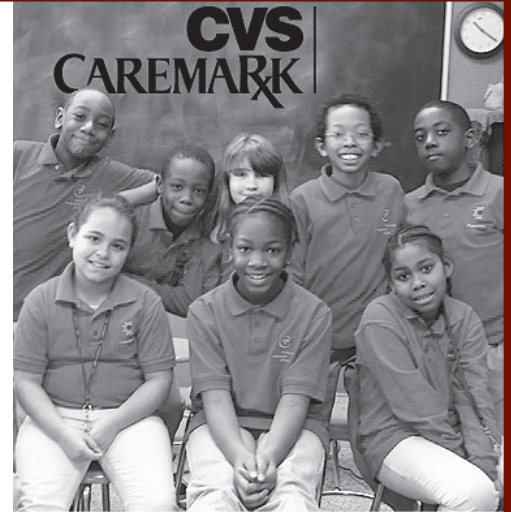
The overwhelming response to Mrs. Adler was one of awe and appreciation for her forgiving, inspiring attitude. Students surrounded her afterwards, asking for her autograph. Inspired by Mrs. Adler's words, the seventh graders are now writing their own essays about personal beliefs. Perhaps we'll hear some of them on the radio in the future!

"To meet and talk to somebody who was actually there, and who was a part of the Holocaust was very interesting and meaningful. Mrs. Adler's story was touching, but told of the horrible atrocities that went on in Germany during WWII. While reading *Night*, I realized what the Jewish people endured, and how brave they were to never give up hope. I will never forget reading *Night*, or Mrs. Adler's visit."

- Nelson Healy, 7th Grade

CVS AND COMMUNITY PREP: PARTNERS IN LEARNING

Volunteers have always been at the root of Community Prep's success. When Merle Goldstein first started volunteering in Cathy Jacques's 4th grade classroom in 1997, it was the first step in a long and fruitful relationship. "Merle was great with the students, very caring and attentive," remembers Cathy. "She was a wonderful help to me, not to mention a real pleasure to have around." Merle shared her enthusiasm with her husband Stanley, who was CEO of CVS/pharmacy at the time. They became personal donors to the school and also helped bring Community Prep to the attention of CVS Caremark.



Now, nearly 15 years after Merle first visited the school, Community Prep students have benefitted from any number of CVS Caremark's charitable programs. For years the CVS Caremark Charity Classic has supported Community Prep, along with dozens of other local charities, in its mission to serve children and families across the region. In addition, dozens of students have been able to attend Community Prep through CVS Caremark's commitment to the Annual Scholarship Fund and endowment.

In recent years, thanks in part to the visionary support of CEO Tom Ryan, CVS Caremark has become one of a growing number of companies which support Community Prep through a corporate tax-credit program called STEPS. Through STEPS companies can claim a 90% tax credit when they make donations to scholarship-granting organizations.

This year, the school received support from the company's foundation, the CVS Caremark Charitable Trust, through its annual grant program, which supports nonprofits serving children and organizations that provide greater access to healthcare services for those who need it most. The grant from the Trust will help fund two learning specialists, a social worker, and an ESL tutor to work with CP students who need some extra help to meet Community Prep's high standards of academic excellence.

"In today's challenging economy, it's more important than ever to support organizations that truly make a difference in the lives of children and families," said Eileen Howard Dunn, Vice President, CVS Caremark Charitable Trust. "The CVS Caremark Charitable Trust is pleased to recognize Community Prep for truly making an impact in our home state of Rhode Island and ensuring children have the opportunity to learn, grow, and be the best that they can be."



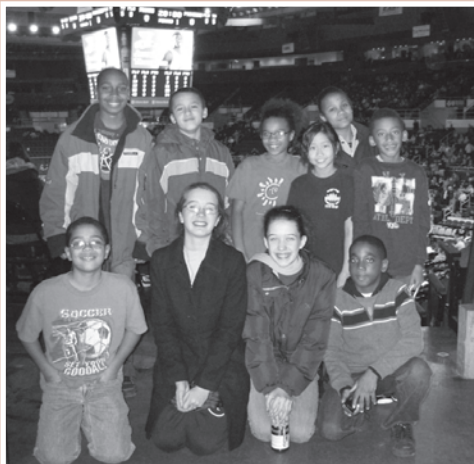
Funny Hats Help

This past fall the School Senators from Grades 3 through 6 sponsored a Funny Hat Day as a fundraiser for Amos House. They raised \$110, which they presented to Christina Rhodes, V.P. of Social Services. CP students love "dress-down" days, and there was great participation in the event. Ms. Rhodes told the Senators that Amos House had a list of 300 children who needed presents for Christmas, but only had enough money to buy presents for 220 children. When they received the check from CP, Ms. Rhodes said, "With your help, we will be able to give all the children on our list a present." The students all clapped when they heard this!

"I really liked the fact that the money we raised went to help other children."

Daniela Yepes, a Senate representative from Ms. Cunha's 6th grade class commented, "I really liked the fact that the money we raised went to help other children."





FUN WITH THE FRIARS!

Thanks to Irving Oil's "Learning with Irving" Contest, Trustee Will Parris, and the PC Friars, more than 80 CP students won the chance to attend a basketball game at the Dunk on December 21st. CP students wrote essays about why learning is important to them.

"Education is like a board game," read 6th grader Max English at the rally. "You need to pick up important pieces and moves so you can win in your life." At a pep rally at CP with the Friars' mascot, contest participants learned that every student won free tickets to the game. "You should have heard the cheer," said Lisa Koble, who ran the contest at CP. "And when they announced CP at half-time at the Dunk, our kids went crazy."

GOLFERS!

join us at

The Misquamicut Club Community Prep Golf Classic June 15

Space is limited!

Contact Diane Ellis at dellis@communityprep.org or 401-521-9697, ext. 3 to reserve your foursome.

Can't wait for spring?

How about some **indoor** golf? **March 28, 6 - 8 p.m.** There will be contests on a golf simulator, a putting contest, and much more. Info to follow via email.

If you don't already receive our emails, send your address to dellis@communityprep.org.

ALUMNI! We want to hear from YOU!

Email us! alumni@communityprep.org

Alumni Association Meet & Greet

February 27, 2-4 p.m.

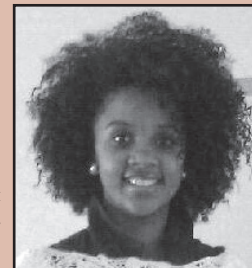
Guayacan Lounge, 349 Dyer Ave., Cranston

Come connect with fellow alums and learn about getting involved with CP's new Alumni Association.

ALUMNI UPDATES

DEAR MR. CORLEY,

I wanted to write you about how much **CALCULATOR CLUB** means to me now that I am at Lincoln School. Each day, at the start of my PreCalculus Honors class, we tackle two SAT problems. Colleen Sweeney, my teacher, noticed my skills when solving these problems. Having taught math for a number of years, she is trying to find the "root" of these skills. She said she suspected that I had drilled a lot of basic math in my primary school years. I suddenly spat out, "Oh, Calculator Club!" I told her how our weekly game of trying to solve math problems faster than the calculator taught us math skills in a competitive, yet fun way. It was not until earlier today that I realized how much I had benefited from this unique experience, only provided at Community Prep.



"I continue to find ways in which I would be a different student, peer, and individual if I hadn't spent those very enjoyable years at CP."

I could not stop talking about how you went to each class and tested each student with a patient eagerness for us to succeed. I continued by saying how odd I find it to see my peers pull out their calculators to multiply 6 by 7,000. Mrs. Sweeney now wants to see Calculator Club for herself!

I guess I am writing this letter to say thank you. Not only for the excitement of Calculator Club, but for my precious education at Community Prep.

I continue to find ways in which I would be a different student, peer, and individual if I hadn't spent those very enjoyable years at CP. Whenever I am asked if I had graduated from there, I boastfully smile and answer yes.

Thanks Again!

- LETICIA LOPES '09

THE GROUND MAY BE WHITE, BUT CP IS THINKING GREEN.

AFTER-SCHOOL PROGRAM WINS ENVIRONMENTAL AWARD

This fall, CP's PrepPlus After-School Program was one of three winners of the Environment Council of Rhode Island's 2011 Loraine Tisdale Environmental Education Award.

The PrepPlus award-winning project will rebuild the school's garden plot. The goal is to enhance students' understanding of life sciences and experiential learning while developing and sustaining community collaboration and intergenerational mentorship.

In addition to CP's own garden, students and their families will have access to healthy, locally grown produce in partnership with the Providence Academy of International Studies and Garden Educators from the Southside Community Land Trust.

EVERYONE LOOKS FORWARD TO FARM SCHOOL



Ask just about any recent grad, and you'll hear that some of their best CP memories come from their visit to the Farm School in Athol, MA.

7th and 8th graders stay at the farm for a few days, learning about animals and stewardship, and where their food actually comes from.

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