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**25 Historias/
25 Stories**

On December 11, our community delighted in "25 Historias/25 Stories" celebrating 25 years of bridge-building among students, teachers, and residents of the Providence community.

The Community PrepPlus After-School performance featured a collection of poems, monologues, songs, dances, and skits, the majority of which were written and performed by Community Prep students. They received assistance from parents, volunteers at Brown University, and local performance artist Ghislaine Jean Mahone of the hip-hop duo, Riders Against the Storm. In

CP411

The Latest E-News from Community Prep
January 2010

Community Prep has a brand new website!

Check it out at

www.communityprep.org

➔ 25th Anniversary Celebration with Best-Selling Author Terry McMillan April 27, 2010

Terry McMillan, award-winning author of *Waiting to Exhale* and *How Stella Got Her Groove Back* will share her experiences as one of today's leading African-American authors.



In the early days of her writing career, Terry, a single-mother, would wake before dawn to write before going to work. Her success in portraying the struggles and joys of African-American women has led to professorships at universities such as Stanford and multi-million-dollar film deals. Her books have consistently topped the *New York Times* best-seller lists, and she has won numerous awards, including an NAACP Image Award.

Mill's Tavern will host the event, which will include the author's presentation, a VIP reception, and book-signing. "Terry McMillan is a wonderful choice to help us celebrate Community Prep's achievements over the last 25 years," explains Dan Corley, Head of School. "Her determination, creativity and vision are values we seek to instill in our students. Her stories resonate with many members of our school community. We are looking forward to welcoming her to Community Prep."

In addition to the evening event at Mill's Tavern, Ms. McMillan will visit Community Prep, where she will meet with students and share ideas with teachers for encouraging creativity in writing.

For information about sponsoring this event, contact [Dana DiMarco](#) at 521-9697, ext. 2. Ticket information will follow later this spring.

➔ 6th Graders Learn First-Hand about Farming, Food and Community.

An essential component of our 6th grade program is the fall trip. With 18 new students joining the 6th grade, the trip allows students to come together as a group to embark on their middle-school experience.



This year's trip took students

addition to students and faculty, performers included members of the Olneyville Neighborhood Association and Breaking the Chains Theatre from Providence's People's School.

Goings On at CP

Students Michaela Dalton, John Sweet and Lily Sanzo perform in Festival Ballet's *Nutcracker*.

Students donate their long hair to *Locks of Love* for wigs for low-income children with long-term medical hair loss.



Save the Date!

2010 Golf Classic
June 16

New Venue!
The Misquamicut Club



to the Farm Institute, a teaching farm that educates and engages children in sustainable agriculture through the diverse operations of a working farm on Martha's Vineyard.

The kids worked on the farm with the animals and food crops and ate nutritious meals cooked with vegetables they harvested. For many of the students, this was their first time in a farm setting, where they could learn about the journey their food takes to get to their table.

Sixth-grade teacher Anita Bench was delighted with her students' response to the trip. "One of the trips highlights, for me, was hearing a student say, 'We really need to protect the farms we have.' This young man heard the Farm Institute's message: There is only a small percentage of farmable land on our planet, and we need to preserve it." Fellow sixth-grade teacher Diane Cunha was equally impressed: "I heard one student say, 'I love crispy kale!'"

→ ALUMNI UPDATE

Liz Alper '00, Making Her Way in L.A.

Since graduating from Westover School and Emerson College, Liz has been living in Los Angeles and traveling across the country for her work in TV production and casting. She has worked on Bravo's *Top Chef* and for a company that produces music-related TV/movie projects. "I work with production to get their talent in, schedule shoots, etc. I've met Stevie Wonder, KISS, Queen Latifah and Smokey Robinson." She even worked backstage at Michael Jackson's memorial service. Liz's original script, "Wheat in Chicago," won her the Cinema City International Film Festival's Best TV Pilot Script award.

Liz has fond memories of Community Prep. "I still remember going into Mrs. Ryan's classroom at the end of the first quarter for my report card review. I had a solid B average. She just looked at me and said, 'You can do better.' It's something I tell myself all the time now. CP is very small, which allows students to get the attention they need and deserve. The teachers put in the time and effort to discover their students' strengths and weaknesses. I didn't realize or appreciate that until I got to college, where I became a faceless student in a class of 2,000. My teachers at CP recognized that I was a capable student who just needed to believe in myself more."

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Contact Us!

Development and Business Office - 401-521-9697
Main School Office/Admissions - 401-521-9696
www.communityprep.org

Community Preparatory School serves culturally and economically diverse students in grades 3-8 who are well-qualified to benefit from a rigorous academic education in an atmosphere of mutual respect, especially students who would otherwise not have access to such an education. The school's goal is to help its students succeed in college-preparatory high-school programs and to become community leaders.

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