



# 25 YEARS AND GROWING! Big NEWS

A COMMUNITY PREPARATORY SCHOOL PUBLICATION

FALL 2009

126 SOMERSET STREET, PROVIDENCE, R.I. 02907 • 401.521.9697 • FAX 401.751.1072 • [www.communityprep.org](http://www.communityprep.org)

## Community Prep's 25th Anniversary Kicks Off

In 1984, Community Prep opened its doors to 25 students in three rented classrooms at the John Hope Settlement House. Twenty-five years and 541 graduates later, the school is poised for its next 25 years of changing children's lives.

The year-long celebration began with a Barbecue Birthday Party at the school. Parents, teachers, trustees, alums and students all came together to enjoy potluck foods from many countries and a huge birthday cake donated by former CP teachers Candace and Marquis Harper.

A more formal kickoff to the school's 25th Anniversary took place on September 16th at The Providence Art Club. The school partnered with Cicione Studios for a reception and art show. Bob Cicione, a Rhode Island resident and fine artist for the past 28 years, has exhibited in Manhattan, The Hamptons, Philadelphia, Boston, and Providence. Bob generously donated half of the proceeds of the art show to the school.

The event also launched the school's **25th Anniversary Fund for the Future**. The one-year campaign will raise \$1 million which



will be used to fund renovations to the school, purchase a new school bus, build endowment and provide a rainy-day fund for the school during these difficult economic times.



The campaign chairs are Letitia and John Carter, Robert and Renamarie DiMuccio, Merle and Stanley Goldstein, Stephanie Ogidan Preston '93 and Shane Preston, Cathy and Tom Ryan, and John and Mary Wall. Two generous donors, Susan and David Hibbitt, have put forth a dollar-for-dollar challenge for all new gifts, as well as those which have increased by more than 25%. Gifts from alumni and parents will be matched 2:1.

"We are proud and thrilled to reach such a milestone. Community Prep brings together children who are racially and socio-economically diverse to create a unique community where every student is welcome and challenged to succeed. Our Fund for the Future provides much-needed support for our academic and extra-curricular programs and paves the way for the next 25 years," explains head of school Dan Corley.

Please join us in celebrating twenty-five years of helping motivated students reach the high academic and personal goals they set for themselves. Send your donation in the enclosed envelope or make a donation today at [www.communityprep.org](http://www.communityprep.org).

## Community Preparatory School

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## Welcome New Trustees!



### Julia Eells

Head of Lincoln School, Julia sits on the Long-Range Planning Committee.

### Michael Fontaine

Michael is an attorney in private practice. He serves on the Development Committee.



### Keith Jacobson

Sr. Finance Manager/SVP at Bank of America, Keith serves on the Development and Golf Committees.

### Barry O'Connor Jr.

Parent of a current CP student, Barry is a Sr. Financial Aid Officer at CCRI. He sits on the Admissions Committee.



### Paul Pyne

Paul serves on the Long-Range Planning Committee. He is an Executive Vice President at Amica.

### Trinh Truong '99

Trinh graduated from Lincoln School and Brown University. She serves on the Admissions Committee.



### Kenneth Wong

Ken is the head of Brown University's Education Department. He sits on the Long-Range Planning Committee.

## Faculty Hellos and Goodbyes

We had to say goodbye to two wonderful staff members in June. Sixth grade teacher Cicele Bennett has headed back to Chicago, and teaching intern Brooke Alam is teaching at Paul Cuffee School. They will be missed.

We have welcomed five new faculty/staff to our community, two of them CP alums (pictured L to R below). Anita Bench (6th grade) comes to us from Barrington Middle School. Lisa Koble (academic support/development) taught in Connecticut and has recently moved back to Rhode Island. Gina Rodriguez (after-school) is a recent Brown graduate. Kathryn Trites '96 (academic support) earned her master's in teaching ESL before coming to CP, and Monica Rodriguez '99 (development) worked at Bank of America before returning to Community Prep. Welcome!



# Creative Giving

## 2009 Founders' Society Dinner

On August 13, Community Prep honored the members of the Founders' Society – those who have included the school in their estate plans – with a fabulous cocktail reception and dinner at Fleming's Prime Steakhouse & Wine Bar.

Fleming's generously hosted the event. In addition, Fleming's donated \$100 gift cards to every participant in Community Prep's 2009 Golf Classic and hosted a Wine-Down Wednesday reception last spring. "We couldn't be happier about our partnership with Fleming's," says Development Director Dana DiMarco. "They understand our mission and are creative in finding ways to help us reach our goals."



Community Prep's Founders' Society ensures the long-term financial health of the school by building its endowment through bequests. We are grateful to both Fleming's Prime Steakhouse and the generous members of the Founders' Society for their unstinting support.

## Golf Classic Raises \$25,000

Sponsored by Fleming's Prime Steakhouse & Wine Bar and DeWal, Inc.

The 15th Annual Community Prep Golf Classic, held at the spectacular Sakonnet Golf Club in Little Compton, raised \$25,000 for the Scholarship Fund -- two full scholarships!

*Thank you to all our sponsors, players and volunteers.*

## CP Sports: Playing, Learning (and Winning)

Community Prep's athletic program is all about teamwork, learning skills and having fun. Students work hard and give their all, and now have the victories to show for it.

Last year, CP's co-ed soccer team won the Small School's Soccer Tournament. The boys' basketball team won first place for the fourth time in five years, and the girls' team placed third at the Small School's Basketball Tournament. The track and field team had some first-place finishes, and the baseball team continued its partnership with the Gordon School. The elementary chess team was in first place for most of the year and finished second in the RI Scholastic Chess League.

This year, new sports offerings include a golf team to complement ongoing golf lessons at Buttonhole Short Course.

# ALUMNI UPDATES

**KIRSTIN MCCARTHY '95** is in Washington D.C. these days, where she is the associate director of programs at the Business-Higher Education Forum. She works with CEOs of major companies, university presidents, foundation leaders and members of congress to support public K-12 and higher education, together considered the "P-16 pipeline."

After graduating from Community Prep, Kirstin went on to Moses Brown, Bates College in Maine, and earned her master's in education at Harvard. She completed a 700-mile trek from Southern France to Western Spain on El Camino de Santiago and taught in Ecuador and Thailand. Kirstin now works that experience into programs that attract high-quality teachers, improve curriculum and provide educational opportunity for students from all walks of life.



Kirstin sees a direct correlation between her work today and being a student at CP. "Community Prep was instrumental in developing my belief that education is the world's great equalizer, and that every student deserves the best education the world can offer, regardless of ability to pay. My classmates and teachers at CP instilled me with an acute sense of how vital a diverse range of perspectives is to a comprehensive understanding of the world surrounding us."

**RAJHA LASTER '01** spent this past summer working in the College Crusade's "Ways to A's" program. Nearly 300 sixth graders from Central Falls, Pawtucket, Providence and Woonsocket attended one of the four-day sessions that focused on active listening, note taking, reading and writing. Rahja, a graduate of the College Crusade himself, is a senior at URI, majoring in Human Development and Family Studies.

## ATTENTION ALUMS: YOUR GIFT MATTERS!

This year, **your donation to Community Prep will be matched 2:1**. That is, if you donate \$50, CP will get an additional \$100. Help us celebrate CP's 25th Anniversary by sending your donation of any amount in the enclosed envelope or going to [www.communityprep.org](http://www.communityprep.org).

# A Year of Algebra over the Summer

Summertime is for beaches and lazy afternoons, but not if you're Christine Agbelese and Sebastian Farrell. Both 8th graders wanted to get ahead and chose to teach themselves a year's worth of algebra so they could take Community Prep's highest math class -- Geometry. In many schools, Geometry is a 10th grade class, but that didn't daunt Christine and Sebastian.

They got the idea for taking on the algebra course from Christine's sister, Victoria '09, who did it the summer before, along with Elizabeth Perez '09. Victoria wants to be a pediatrician and Elizabeth wants to be a surgeon, and both felt that the sacrifice of a summer was worth it. With tutorial

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help from CP staff, but mostly on their own, they worked through the entire Algebra textbook and finished a hefty amount of other summer homework, as well.

Victoria is now attending Lincoln School and Elizabeth is at Deerfield Academy. "I like a challenge," says Elizabeth.

"And I know I'm going to get it at Deerfield. Community Prep teachers have prepared me well. If you're willing to do the work, they will make sure you succeed." Victoria says that her parents are proud of her and Christine for taking on the challenge and working so well on their own. "It was hard because you didn't have anyone there to ask questions most of the time. I'm hoping to take college classes while I'm still in high school, and I know that what I did over the summer will help make that possible."



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