



SMS Honor Roll students proudly hold up their First Trimester award certificates at Morning Assembly.

San Miguel School News

Winter 2022

Athletic Program is Back in Full-Swing!

More often than not, if you ask one of our guys what their favorite thing about San Miguel is you will hear this answer —“sports!” Whether it’s soccer, golf, basketball, or baseball, our students are always excited to get out there and give it their all. That being said, we were all beyond grateful to once again have our Athletic Program resume this past fall.

The return of sports began with both soccer and golf. After not having played for a year, our soccer team was able to get back on the field for close to a full season. This year’s team (half of whom are shown below with Coach Wonmei) consisted of 6th, 7th, and 8th grade students, as well as one 5th grader! The golf program also had participation from boys in each class. Fifteen out of



Yancarlos and Ronald are ready to start the season.

our 64 students signed up, and many of these players were from grade five. These new members joined the team and began learning the basics of putting, chipping, and driving on the practice green and range, while the seasoned golfers (in 7th and 8th grade) would go out on the course to play a scramble.

This year’s basketball season kicked off on Wednesday, January 19th. Although guests were not allowed to attend the game, the collective well wishes of our community must have been felt by the boys as they secured their first win against Barrington Christian Academy. These Miguel Men could not be more excited to be back on the court, as well as sporting new uniforms, which were generously donated by our friends at the Providence Rotary Charities Foundation! Now that they’re geared up and ready to take on the rest of the season, be sure to follow us on social media for updates.

Celebrating Success

Over the years, our Awards Luncheon has easily become one of our favorite events at San Miguel. Because of this gathering, we typically have two times each school year where we can join families, sponsors, and mentors together in celebration of the many achievements of our students. Though we were unable to be together for the First Trimester



Awards Luncheon, we still recognized student awards at Morning Assembly on December 17th. A big congrats to Jayden G. (shown left) who was our sole student to receive High Honors, as well as to the following students

for their outstanding performances: Emmanuel A., Ian A., Isaiah P., Jesse O., Miguel L., Sebastian D., Dante A., David D., Emile S., Pablo L., Rafael M., William C., Anderson F., Anthony D., Gabriel G., Aloniel M., and Dioner R. for Honor Roll, as well as Amell M., Jhonatan F., Asohnti G., Jayden C., Kaiden K., Felix F., and Neldwy C. for the Citizenship Award.



Save the Date

San Miguel School's 17th Annual Gala and Miguel Medal Ceremony
 Friday, April 8th, 5:30-9:00PM @ Pawtucket Armory Arts Center

Alumni Spotlights: Grads Seek Advanced Degrees

Alberto Gomez, '05



Alberto Gomez, SMS '05, is passionate about mental health, and about leveraging his personal experiences and academic training to help others. A United States Marine

Corps veteran and 2020 graduate of California State University San Marcos with a BA in Psychological Sciences, Alberto has decided to pursue his PhD in Clinical Psychology at California School of Professional Psychology at Alliant International University. He started there in the fall of 2021 and recently shared with us his motivation for taking on such an impressive challenge. He explains, "I chose to pursue this degree to help those who

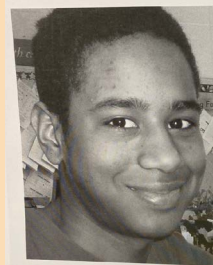
are in underrepresented groups when looking at the field of mental health. As a Marine Corps veteran, and a son of 1st generation Dominican immigrants, I realize that not many psychologists have similar backgrounds to mine. To help the communities that helped me become the person I am today, I have chosen to dedicate my life to figuring out ways and opportunities to uplift these communities and help the individuals who make them up."

Alberto's first-year courses include Advanced Statistics, The Foundations of Measurement, Intellectual Assessment, Theories of Personality Pathology, and Intro to Psychotherapy. Alberto foresees pursuing academic research in order to "contribute to important literature in my field which in turn will help people who may otherwise be overlooked. I plan to use my problem-solving skills to help people with backgrounds that I'm familiar with (i.e. impoverished neighborhoods,

military, and minority groups) to be able to help and support those that need it the most."

Recently, Alberto caught up with San Miguel social worker, Kayla Farrell, and the two shared the paths they each took to where they are today. "Completing a five-year Clinical Psychology PhD program is no easy task! Alberto is doing amazing things in California and his experiences will take him far wherever his path leads him. Hopefully, we will see him back on the East Coast one day soon to show our San Miguel boys that anything is possible if you set your mind to it!" says Farrell.

Alberto's 8th grade yearbook entry.



Ever since I came to San Miguel in the fifth grade, it has always felt like another home to me. It is different than my other school, and I would never want to leave this school. The first day I came, Sister Mary Ellen had her doubts about me, but I proved her wrong! San Miguel has had a huge impact on my life, and it will continue to do so. It was every person in this school that got me where I am. Thanks to San Miguel, I am able to achieve my dreams and become what I want to be. My best experiences were at San Miguel School, and I thank everyone for that!

Greg Cabrera, '12



"As a middle school student at San Miguel, I never would have imagined that fourteen years later I'd be in law school!" says Greg Cabrera (SMS '12, St. Ray's '16, Rhode Island

College '20, RWU Law expected 2024). "But I attribute so much of where I am today to the lessons I learned at San Miguel. Work hard. Be consistent. Reach out for help when you need it."

A four sport athlete at St. Ray's (soccer, basketball, and baseball, with boxing on the side), Greg graduated from high school and headed off to study international business at La Salle University in New York in the fall of 2016. But the combination of being far from home and finding international

business not as exciting as he had anticipated, Greg decided to move back to RI and pursue a degree in Criminal Justice with a minor in Sociology at RIC, which he earned in 2020. He spent the next year studying for the LSAT and was thrilled to be accepted to Roger Williams University School of Law class of 2024. "I am taking all the typical first year classes and have developed an interest in corporate law. I'm not gonna lie, law school is a lot of work, but the classes are really interesting."

Greg has remained close to many of his Miguel brothers including Relton Gomez, Christopher Rivas, Helpisis Genao, Soheil Mahmoudi, and his mentor, Renso Medina, to name a few. Additionally, he has bumped into other grads along his academic path, sitting next to Adonis Alvarez, SMS '11, in a very tough sociology class at RIC, later when interning at the RI Attorney General's office where he crossed paths with Jamal Burk, SMS '02. "Ms. W always talked about the older guys. I remember specifically her talking about Jamal!" Greg credits San Miguel with

introducing him to peers and mentors who have supported him long after his graduation from the school. Greg still talks regularly with his mentor, Greg Rubano, as well as Brother Lawrence, and he recently connected with long-time board member Paul Mahoney about a career in corporate law.

Greg looks forward to visiting us on Branch Ave later this spring to pass on some words of wisdom to his younger Miguel brothers. "Your reputation matters and can open doors for you later in life. So remember to work hard and show respect even at your age. There are no limits as to what you can do if you work hard."



Greg (front row center) with his Class of 2012 brothers.

What's Your Legacy?

Some people call them New Year's Resolutions, others call them intentions. Whatever you may call them, the start of a new year gives us all the time to reflect on the past year and think about the upcoming one. Clearly, since the start of the pandemic, thinking about and trying to predict the future has been undoubtedly difficult. But one thing we are all tempted to do from time to time, and even during challenging times like these, is to think about our legacy. What do I want my legacy to be? As a parent? In my community? And in what ways can I begin to build that legacy today?

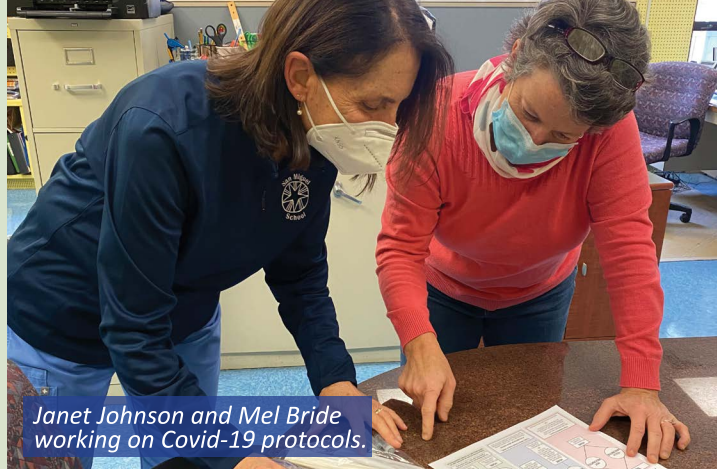


One way to do that is to think about organizations that you have been involved with that have brought particular meaning to your life. If you are reading this, I bet San Miguel is one of those organizations. As a member of the community, have you made a special connection with a young person through mentoring or sponsoring? Does San Miguel put a face to commitments you have made in your spiritual life? Did educational opportunity open doors for you and you are committed to paying that forward? Whatever the reason, if you feel that leaving a legacy at San Miguel is important to you, please consider joining the Founder's Legacy Society by including San Miguel in your estate plans. There are no minimums; every gift is meaningful to us because it is meaningful to you. There are many ways to give, and the best place to start is with your financial advisor. They can help you decide what and how to give. Lastly, if you have already made a commitment to San Miguel in your estate plans, but have not notified the school, please reach out to: Mel Bride, Director of Development, at 401-222-0215 or mbride@sanmiguelprov.org.

Combating Covid-19 Mentally and Physically

Who knew in March of 2020 that in January of 2022 we would still be dealing with Covid-19 and all the disruptions it has caused for our students and their families? But as has always been the case here, teamwork and steadfast commitment to the boys has triumphed over continuous challenges inside our walls and beyond. We began this school year with weekly PCR testing, which combined with lower case counts, enabled us to bring back some programs that have long been pillars of our school culture. Soccer, golf, and the Green Team resumed as well as all school assemblies on Fridays, and even lunchtime chess. Fifth and eighth grade mentor relationships provided opportunities to reinforce a sense of brotherhood. Always vigilant, however, our health team was tasked with carefully monitoring both the physical and mental health of our students.

Our new social worker, Kayla Farrell, met with every new 5th grade student and his family and then set up regular sessions with other students in need of emotional support. Imagine the anxiety of a new 5th grader who has not been physically in school for almost two years; or the stress an 8th grader feels entering into the high school search process. We have all read about what is being called a mental health crisis for our youth, and so there is no better investment than a full time social worker at a school like San Miguel. We are deeply grateful for all that Kayla is doing as well as to the San Miguel donor



Janet Johnson and Mel Bride working on Covid-19 protocols.

community who had the vision to prioritize this role at our school this year.

Additionally, in September we were blessed to find Janet Johnson who has joined our community with great enthusiasm in her role as school nurse. Janet comes to us with 31-years of experience as a school nurse, 21 at East Providence Riverside Middle School and 10 years at Barrington Middle School. With her B.S. in nursing from Simmons College and her M.A. in Health Education from Rhode Island College, Janet spent all of those years serving as school nurse and teaching health classes. After a very challenging year dealing with Covid-19 in a huge middle school, Janet decided to semi-retire last summer with thoughts of doing something "completely different". But as often happens around here, our need for a nurse spread via word of mouth, and when she heard that there was a small school of only 64 students looking for a nurse, she was willing to at least come take a look. And that visit was all it took. As she says "The second you walk through those doors, you feel a genuine sense of caring, community and respect. And what's unique is that it's the kind of thing that nobody talks about. It just IS. That's really special." We feel so blessed to have Janet's wonderful way with young people on our team, particularly at this time of constant protocol reassessment due to the pandemic.

Between Kayla and Janet, the boys are being cared for today in ways few other young people in our country are. Only time will tell, but our money is on clear outcomes years from now that point directly back to the support that these two women are providing to our students each and every day.



Kayla Farrell and Janet Johnson

The Spirit of Giving

For years, the Providence College community has supported our students throughout the holiday season. Though these last two years have looked vastly different than most, their creative thinking and ability to adapt, even in the most challenging of times, has allowed their spirit of giving to continue to bless the lives of those around them. Typically in the month of December, members of the college organize two different programs to support our Miguel Men and their families. The Campus Ministry Department puts together a Giving Tree program which provides gifts for each of our 64



(l-r): Kim Martel, Marie Flego Louie, Father Justin, and Pam Tremblay.

students, while our friends over in Alumni Relations host Santa's Workshop—a legendary tradition that is hands-down one of our favorite nights! Prior to the event, students, along with faculty and staff of Providence College organize various toy drives in order to gather a wide variety of gifts for our guys. Once

these items have been collected, parents and guardians of Miguel Men are invited to campus to pick out presents, which are then wrapped for Christmas day.

Although we have not been able to hold these events in person, we have been able to work together to keep this program alive by using Amazon's wish list feature. There, we compile a list of students' "need" and "want" items, and with the seemingly magical help of Pam Tremblay, Campus Minister, and Marie Flego Louie, Assistant Director of Alumni Relations, the list becomes shared with their greater community, especially graduates, who kindly purchase these gifts for students.

We are deeply thankful to all those who support our boys and their families during the holiday season. Providence College is just one example of this remarkable spirit of giving that our school community is graced with each year. Thank you to all those who have supported other initiatives, such as the Thanksgiving Basket Drive and Embrace -A-Student—you go above and beyond!



Yancarlos, Joel, Ronald, and Sherwyn happily pose with their Giving Tree gifts!



Miguel, Gr. 5

Tee-Off for Education

Although we had to reschedule our 13th Annual Golf Tournament from September 24, 2021, to October 15, 2021 (due to rain), we could not have landed a more beautiful day to return to Triggs Memorial Golf Course and hit the links. This year's tournament raised close to \$50,000 in support of the Student Sponsorship Program at San Miguel! We warmly thank all sponsors, players, donors, and our Tournament Planning Committee for making the tournament a major event. Special thanks to event sponsors: The Papiotto Foundation, Weybosset Research and Management LLC, Amica Mutual Insurance, Arden Engineering Constructors LLC, Aroma Joe's Coffee, Delta Dental of RI, Hinckley Allen, The Washington Trust Company, and Webster Bank. We could not have done it without you!



Joe Nagle and Mike Smith

Uninvited Guests By: Aloniel, Gr. 8



The mouse was sleeping comfortably in his bed, dreaming of dreams he never dreamt of before. This dream was too good to be true. It was everything he ever wished for. He slept so greatly he didn't even know he was asleep. The dream was just so spectacular he didn't even want to consider it was all fake. But a dream is a dream, and the mouse woke up from his wonderful dream.

It was the middle of the night, and the mouse had just gotten up from his bed when he heard a knock on the back door. The mouse yawned and in a tired voice said, "Who could it be at this time?" He walked down the old, dark brown wooden stairs and stood watching the small little door for a minute. He looked around the

unfinished room. The wooden door was pretty small, suitable for a small mouse like himself. There was a shelf on the wall left of the door that contained paint buckets and cans. On the opposite side of the door, there was a tall rug that lay on the corner wall and a singular ice skate hanging from the top of the room. A bunch of junk and useless things were scattered throughout the room, like a box containing rugs and other things. There was a window on the left wall that shined a little light directly to the door.

"Why would anyone come through here?" the mouse asked himself, "This room ain't finished yet." Then, there was another knock on the door. The mouse walked slowly towards the door, then, in a low, tired voice, the mouse asked, "Who is it?" There was no reply, and so again the mouse asked again, "Who is it?"

Once more, there was no reply.

To find out who this uninvited guest is, visit sanmiguelprov.org/publications and read Aloniel's full 15-page story!

SAN MIGUEL'S MOST WANTED



8th grade students observing the crime scene.

Fun with Forensics!

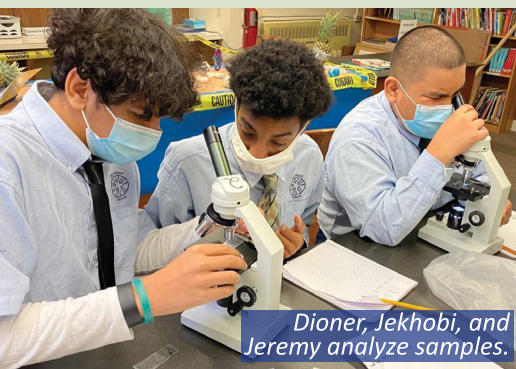
Things have been looking a little different around San Miguel, as our school library has been converted into an active crime scene! Science teacher, Arthur Santoro, has transported students under the sea to Bikini Bottom (the fictional setting of the SpongeBob SquarePants series) in order to solve a classic whodunit. Over the last few weeks, 7th and 8th grade students have been challenged to put their investigative minds and forensic skillsets to the ultimate test.



Jordan examining fingerprints.

The first piece of this lesson focused on the observational skills of students. They were asked to closely examine the crime scene in order to discover essential pieces of information needed to create a theory of what might've happened. During this phase,

students recorded information such as how many victims there were, what condition they found them in, as well as what pieces of evidence might have been left behind. A glove? A piece of twine? Maybe even fingerprints or hair samples!



Dioner, Jekhobi, and Jeremy analyze samples.

Before setting up the crime scene, Mr. Santoro did some investigative work himself. After having collected fingerprints and hair fibers from his desired perpetrators (see right for 'San Miguel's Most Wanted' list), he strategically planted this incriminating evidence for students to find. As 7th and 8th grade investigators began to collect these samples, they then turned to their microscopes for some analysis. At this part of the investigation, students are challenged to compare their findings against their 'database' until they discover a match.

Once they have enough incriminating evidence to pinpoint any potential suspects, they must then begin to brainstorm the motive(s) behind this crime. At this point of the investigation, Mr. Santoro makes another piece of information available to students—the 'Three Gals and A Guy' restaurant menu. Perhaps the reason for all of this mayhem could be the same as Plankton's (the antagonist in SpongeBob). Could it be that these culprits wanted the steal the Krabby Patty Secret Formula as well? At this point, we can't tell. But rest assured knowing that San Miguel's finest detectives are on it! Word is that many of them have even been giving up their recess time, as 7th graders compete against the 8th grade class to be the first to crack the case!

Please take the time to view the 'Three Gals and A Guy' restaurant menu at sanmiguelprov.org/publications — you'll be glad you did! See if you can discover any suspects of your own, or any potential reasons as to why they'd commit such a heinous crime.

Please note, no persons were harmed or convicted during the duration of this unit.



Arias, Jayden

Alias: The Jaywalker

Description: Tattoo of Krabby Patty on Left Arm

CAUTION!



Flores, Anderson

Alias: The Anvil

Description: Steam Appears Above His Head When Angered

CAUTION!



Paulo, Taysha

Alias: The Taser

Description: Always Smiling, Laughing Out of Context

CAUTION!



Soltys, Carol

Alias: Chop Chop

Description: Shifty Eyes

CAUTION!

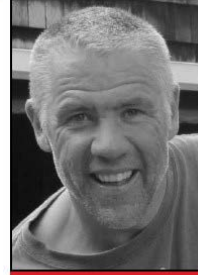


Sprinkle, Sarah

Alias: Shakedown

Description: Muscular Build from Hitting Sides of Beef

CAUTION!



Wolf, John

Alias: Checkmate

Description: Chessboard Styled Haircut

CAUTION!

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published by the
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*For more information,
please contact Mel Bride,
Director of Development,
at 401-467-9777 x117.*

Miguel Moments

Succeeding in Reading

Last year, San Miguel joined Read to Succeed, an innovative, Rhode Island based literacy program that encourages students to maintain the momentum of their studies over summer break in order to avoid any potential learning loss.



Participating students receive a list of books, which they are asked to choose six

from to read over the summer. These books are then provided to them at no cost! As students finish each book, they must take an online comprehension exam. If they pass all six tests, they're awarded with \$1,000, which is placed into a Rhode Island's Collegebound Saver account that will be applied towards their college tuition. At Morning Assembly on Nov. 2, we proudly honored the six San Miguel students who successfully completed this program. A big congratulations goes out to Dante, Gabriel, JeanCarlos, Aloniel, Sherwyn, and Josnell, as well as a big thank you to Barbara Papitto and Arnell of Read to Succeed, who are shown left with 6th grade student, Dante, and his mom!

San Miguel Partners with Stem to Stern



Last summer seven Miguel Men joined this national learn-to-row program at the Narragansett Boat Club, thanks to the efforts of

crew coach and San Miguel supporter, Kim Worrell. Then in the fall, three more students took to the water for six weeks of rowing followed by six weeks of STEM learning. Let's all watch as this partnership G-rows!



Be sure to mark your calendars for our **17th Annual Gala and Miguel Medal Ceremony**, taking place on **Friday, April 8, from 5:30-9:00PM** at the Pawtucket Armory Arts Center!

Make your most strategic move of the year and come join us for what promises to be a wonderful and worthwhile event!

For more information on the event, sponsorship opportunities, ticket sales, or donations please contact Amanda Parker at 401-862-6417.

Thank You to the Event Sponsors of San Miguel School's 17th Annual Gala and Miguel Medal Ceremony!

(below listing reflects commitments received prior to 1/24/22)



**Anonymous • Mr. and Mrs. Almon and Suzanne Hall • Mr. and Mrs. Richard Kenny
Mr. and Mrs. Dennis Leamy Jr. • Mr. and Mrs. Christopher Patton • Carol A. Peterson**



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