

San Miguel's Men and Poetry group perform at our 30th Anniversary Celebration that was held on April 27 at Rhodes on the Pawtuxet. Read their original poem "30 Years" inside!

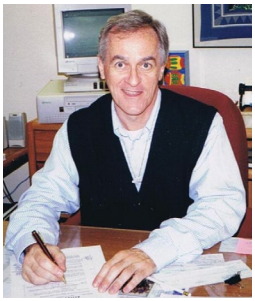


San Miguel School
PROVIDENCE

San Miguel School News

Spring 2023

Cheers to 30 Years!



Thirty years ago this coming September, Brother Lawrence (shown left) and two volunteer teachers welcomed 15 boys into the

5th and 6th grades of the brand-new San Miguel School, housed in St. Paul's Lutheran Church on Elmwood Avenue. When asked recently about how he felt celebrating thirty years since the opening of the school, Brother Lawrence said, "It's incredible. It really is. When we started, we didn't know if we'd make it to the next week, much less the next month or the end of the year. So yes, 30 years, it's hard to believe." The school has taken the last nine months to celebrate this incredible mission,

choosing the theme: 30 Years of Cultivating Character; Middle School Matters, a nod to two fundamental aspects of the school: that it serve middle school students, and that character development be as important as academic achievement.

In the fall, we kicked off the year-long 30th celebration with the launch of the incredible history of the school The Miracle of San Miguel: A collective memoir of love and hope. It is a meticulously researched and beautifully written book by longtime supporter and recent Miguel Medal recipient, Pat Vieira



(shown left). Over 500 copies have made their way across the state, the country, and even the globe (Brother sent some to Lasallians in Australia)!

In March, Amy Russo of the Providence Journal visited the school and wrote an incredible article called "Children of Kings" (a reference to how St. John Baptist de La Salle believed all children should be educated), which highlighted Johnny Kue, a member of that first class

Continued on Inside Right

An Interview with Ronald Deleon '22



8th graders visit Ronald (middle) at Milton Hershey.

Ronald Deleon '22 is currently a freshman at Milton Hershey School in Hershey, PA, which was founded in 1909 and "...nurtures and educates

children in social and financial need to lead fulfilling and productive lives." Ronald is the first San Miguel graduate to attend Milton Hershey, and has proudly paved the way for three more San Miguel graduates to attend the school next year. Below is the scoop on his experience.

What were your freshman classes?

Spanish, English, American Cultures, Math, Robotics, Health, and we also get to choose from different career exploration classes including Culinary, Engineering and Design, and Business. I chose business and really enjoy it!

Have you played any school sports?

Yes—football, basketball, and baseball. There is a true sense of brotherhood on all of my teams and also great coaching!

Continued on Inside Left

San Miguel School Celebrating Years of Cultivating Character Middle School Matters

Amy Russo meets with Johnny Kue and John Wolf.



Save the Date! 15th Annual Golf Tournament
September 22, 2023, at Triggs Memorial Golf Course



Adrian fist bumps Mike Montecalvo.



Continued from Front Left

who now serves as Director of Graduate Support.

Soon thereafter, Mike Montecalvo of WPRI Channel 12 brought his film crew to the pedestrian bridge in Providence to film a piece for his award winning series "Street Stories" on the importance of chess at San Miguel. On that beautiful sunny day in early April, eight members of the San Miguel Chess Team set up shop on the bridge and invited passersby to a game of chess. Their opponents included a RIPTA driver who grew up playing chess in Morocco, a Nashville, TN high school chess champion, and Mike Montecalvo himself! The piece aired on Friday, April 12, to rave reviews. At the exact same time that the boys were focused on beating their opponents, Johnny Kue (shown below)



was live in studio at Channel 12 being interviewed by Kim Kalunian about what makes San Miguel the unique and impactful school community that it is, and the impact it had on him personally.

Two weeks later, over 400 friends of the school gathered at Rhodes on the Pawtuxet in Cranston, RI, to toast Brother Lawrence (who was in attendance), bestow Miguel Medals on four recipients, name the year's Distinguished Alumni of the year, and enjoy the inspirational performance of the school's Men and Poetry group



(l-r): John Wolf, Miguel Medal Recipients Kevin and Linda Regan, and Carol Soltys.

(one of the poems they recited "30 Years" is shown on right). Among the many engaging videos that night, one special one stood out. Masterfully directed and edited by our dear friends at Bunker Hill Media, the video shared some beautiful moments of a nostalgic conversation between Brother Lawrence and Johnny Kue about the early days of the school on Carter Street. You can watch that video on our website at sanmiguelprov.org/video-archive. Whether they were longtime members of the San Miguel community, or new to the mission that night, everyone walked away inspired and more deeply committed than ever to sustaining this gem in the landscape of urban education in Providence.



What a year of celebration it has been. And for what better cause? An educational model that has remained relevant and deeply

impactful for 30 years and boasts over 400 alumni. Brother Lawrence (shown above with student Master of Ceremonies, Remy '24) has been called many things, including a visionary. Who knew in 1993 that a school that sought out young boys from economic challenge and provided them with the love and care they needed to thrive, would be just as needed today as it was back then? A handshake, Morning Assembly, Adult Mentors, Good Deeds, Man of the Week, the Green Bench, pillars of faith, service, and community, all of this has remained at the core of the school's daily mission. As one recent Miguel Man said in an interview,

"San Miguel made me the man I am today."

This year also marks the official end of the school's Star Campaign, a campaign that raised over \$6M for the school, and will see the approval of the school's next strategic plan 2023-2026 (see related article inside). There has been much to celebrate in this, our 30th year. May there be 30 more!

30 Years

30 years, my school, your school, our school! A thought, a wish, a dream, of one man who recognized the need "to touch the hearts and minds" of those who needed it the most.

A vision that surpassed anything he had ever dreamed of! A vision that began with a few. A few who cared, a few who sacrificed, a few who wanted to be a part of this great adventure!

It wasn't easy! Where was the money? Where was the home? The children were there but how do we get them here?

Friends, conversations, a home. More friends, more conversations, MONEY!!!

The vision took shape and the vision became the reality. This is a journey of discovery, a journey of success.

Our lives have been impacted by generous individuals, by loving teachers and volunteers, and by those who believed in this mission.

We are Miguel Men!

We are lawyers, doctors, businessmen. We are educators, entrepreneurs and sports figures. We are soldiers who are called to serve this great nation.

We celebrate the birth of our children. We give thanks for our families and friends. We pray for those who have lost their way. We mourn for our brothers who left us too soon.

We are Miguel Men!

Taught and nurtured and loved by those who believed in a vision.

San Miguel School, a dream, a wish, a vision. A reality that has lasted 30 years, and with the grace of God, 30 more!

I am a Miguel Man!

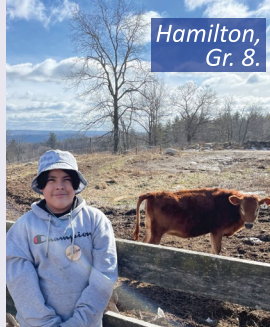
The Farm School

On February 13, the 7th and 8th-grade classes headed to Athol, MA, to spend three days at The Farm School. While there, they learned first-hand from farmers how to milk cows, tap maple trees, build shelters in the woods, hold baby goats properly, and so much more. Eighth-grader, Anderson (shown below), gave us the following inside scoop!

The farm trip was an amazing experience that my classmates and I had. The ride there was around two hours. We left very early in the morning, so on the way up some of us were just trying to sleep. We were completely disconnected from our phones and the internet, but that didn't stop it from being fun. Every day we had the chance to experience something different. There were three groups that we would transition through. Some people stayed



in and did house chores, some had to do farm chores with the cows and also clean the barn, while others worked in the garden with the plants. One of the most memorable things we did was go on a walk in the forest at night. We weren't allowed to take any flashlights with us, so we could barely see what was in front of us! But the beautiful, night sky had such amazing stars. I was amazed by how many stars we could see. The farmers explained that there's too much light pollution in the city, but at the farm there wasn't much at all so we could actually see the sky. Going to The Farm School was such a unique experience and I would definitely recommend it to anyone who might have the chance to go!



Hamilton, Gr. 8.



Andrew, Gr. 7.



Ms. S with grads who attended the April Financial Literacy session.

Meet SM's "Ms. S"!

This year, San Miguel was blessed with a wonderful addition to our community. Jacquelin Saavedra, Graduate Support Assistant, has worked tirelessly over the last nine months to support graduates and expand the department's offerings. Learn more about "Ms. S" and how her presence is impacting the GSP below!

What is your educational background?

I attended Classical High School. I applied to many four-year colleges but graduated very unsure of what I wanted to do. Because of this, I didn't enroll in college right after high school. I waited one semester, then decided CCRI was my best choice given the flexibility of the electives I could take. During my second semester there, I took an Intro to Psychology course and changed my concentration to Psychology that semester. I completed

my Associates and through the Joint Admissions Agreement Program, I was able to attend RIC with a GPA-dependent

scholarship that saved me 30% off of tuition both years there. I currently hold a BA in Psychology and am getting my MS in Family and Human Development.

Do you think your lived experience helps you navigate your current work?

Definitely. Being a first-gen student from a single parent household myself, I had to navigate much of the college process on my own. My mom couldn't help me, not because she didn't want to, but because she couldn't offer any knowledge or guidance being that she never attended college. Similarly, high school counselors are often overworked and unable to provide students with the level of support they truly need. The guidance our graduates often lack at this critical point of high school is the same support I lacked in mine. Programs like Graduate Support were unheard of to me before I started here, but very quickly I have come to see and understand its importance.

Continued from Front Right

What is attending a boarding school like?

We call the dorms "student homes." They are small and each house around twelve kids. I have amazing house parents. They cook for us, take us places, and do a lot to create a sense of home away from home.

What do you do on the weekends?

Lots of people dream of visiting Hershey Park, the famous amusement park. Well, we get to go there anytime we want for free, especially on weekends! So if we have a game on Saturday, we go to the park on Sunday after we go to chapel and do a "deep clean" of the student homes.

What do you miss most about San Miguel?

Walking in every day and seeing the same faces as they greet you "good morning." It is a true brotherhood. I miss my classmates.

How did SMS prepare you for MHS?

I'm the young man I am today, mature and of good character, because of my mom and SMS. I feel like MHS has really helped me develop my independence. I want to make my mom proud. She is my one and only, and I want to be able to take care of her when I am an adult, after MHS and college.

What is the Financial Literacy Program?

It is a two to three session workshop that our department hosts. We realize that there are skills, such as financial literacy, that the guys are not exposed to in high school. Given that students can start working as early as 14 in RI, we want to make sure that they have access to this information. In April, I had my friend, Darvin Acosta (who is a financial advisor), come in and talk to our alumni about budgeting and savings, credit cards, debt, and loans. We invited students 17+ to this, and had a pretty good turnout!

Why do you love working with SM grads?

In many ways, I think my love for working with kids comes from the fact that I see myself in them. I see me, I see my brother, I see my sisters. I understand the cultural and generational differences. I know what it is to be them, because beyond the biological aspect, I was them. My biggest hope for our kids across the board is that they find happiness in what they are doing. Not that they are choosing a route because that's the way it should be, or because that's what their peers are doing, but that they are doing it for their own success and happiness.

San Miguel Board Set to Approve School's Next Strategic Plan



With an Organizational Development grant from the Rhode Island Foundation and the guidance of consultant, Emily Helm (shown left), of Game Plan Partners, the San Miguel board and leadership staff

spent the past nine months developing the school's vision for the next three years. Informed by feedback from a wide range of constituencies, which included focus groups of parents and alumni, the plan reflects a firm commitment to sustaining the school's unique model for years and decades to come.

Financial sustainability is a top priority in the plan and will require a continued focus on responsible management of operational expenses combined with a more robust planned giving program. In addition, building the endowment would take some pressure off the \$2M annual fundraising budget and would give school leadership the flexibility to address inevitable opportunities or challenges as they present themselves.

Programmatically, the plan focuses on increasing family engagement, sustaining the Graduate Support Program, and collecting data that helps inform the high school readiness of our students. "Meeting every student where they are in terms of their learning needs to be the focus of our academic program," said principal Carol Soltys. "Individual student progress is much more important than a one size fits all approach. We



(l-r): Bob McMahon, Kevin Regan, and Janet Johnson work together.

need to keep in mind that each boy has different strengths and challenges and we need our program to accommodate him and nurture his personal progress."

Both board and staff expressed great enthusiasm about both the strategic planning process as well as about the final plan itself. "We're excited for this new chapter in the school's amazing history. The last strategic plan resulted in huge gains for the longevity of the mission and we expect this one to do the same," said John Wolf, Executive Director.



Staff and board members during the strategic planning process.

New Mentor Spotlight —Rick Richards

Rick Richards heard about mentoring at San Miguel through his friend, Pat Gifford, who is also a mentor. They both started mentoring last fall. Rick is also a rowing coach at the Narragansett Boat Club where eight San Miguel students row and study STEM topics as part of the Stem to Stern program affiliated with Brown University.

Rick, tell us about your mentee.

My mentee is Daniel G. and we meet on Wednesdays. Daniel is a fifth grader who likes the Super Mario movie and is good at math. Usually we

talk and catch up, then we play a game. We started with Battleship and have since also played chess and dominoes. We like Jenga and sometimes we set up the Jenga pieces in long chains and knock them down.

Rick, what do you enjoy about your time with your mentee?

I really like hearing about the school, and life in general, as Daniel experiences it. I'd forgotten what it's like to be a fifth grader—talking with Daniel brings that back for me. Also, Daniel is a really nice person and it's just pleasant to spend time with him.

Daniel, what do you do with your mentor on Wednesdays?

We play Battleship. Sometimes he wins and sometimes I win. We also tell each other about our week.

Daniel, what do you enjoy about your time with your mentor?

I like my time with my mentor because I get to talk with someone who is more experienced.



(l-r): Emile, Pablo, Dante, and Treighton with Rick Richards at the Narragansett Boat Club!

Daniel, in a word, how do you feel about your time with your mentor?

Happy!

Not all gifts that significantly impact San Miguel School are financial. Our volunteers who give the precious gift of time make a lasting impact on the lives of Miguel Men. If you are interested in joining the Adult Mentor Program, we would love to hear from you! We are currently seeking new mentors for our incoming 5th graders next fall.

If you are interested in learning more about the program, please email Amanda Parker at aparker@sanmiguelprov.org.

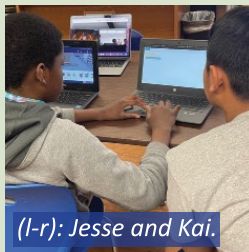


Rick and Daniel enjoy a game during mentoring.

MindBlast Hackathon

In April, a group of students participated in a program organized by Winners Circle XR Academy Inc, which challenged them to use XR technology in order to solve a problem that was later presented at the MindBlast XR Hackathon, which took place on Friday, April 14, at Dave and Buster's. Sixth-grade student, Jesse, has shared his experience below!

In the Spring of 2023, five kids were selected to participate in an event that helped them solve an issue through coding and building online. These kids were Kai, Zeke, Leo, Miguel, and Jesse. Over their spring break they decided to go to school every day to solve an issue we have in the world today. Together, they brainstormed on an issue that they felt needed to be dealt with. They chose affordable housing for the homeless so



(l-r): Jesse and Kai.

that there would be less people living on the street. They made a VR neighborhood for the homeless, where they would

come together in a community kitchen and serve people food at appointed times. The idea was brilliant and everyone decided to hop to it. With the help of Awin Duran, our industry expert, and our community partner, Enrique Sanchez, students were able to get ideas and stay on task whenever they were distracted. On the day of the event, the team was nervous but still delivered an amazing presentation. Ten other schools participated at the event, and whichever school had the best VR experience would win a VR headset, while other prizes were awarded for second and third place. Sophia Academy had an amazing presentation and ended up placing in first, and although San Miguel's team placed in second, they were still all very happy. In the end, the school's team won a \$100 dollar gift card and ended the day in joyful celebration!



(l-r): Mr. Kue, Jesse, Kai, Miguel, Zeke, and Leo shown with State Representative, Enrique Sanchez, who served as our team's 'community partner' at the Mindblast XR Hackathon!

Spring Athletics Are in Full-Swing!

This spring, the athletics program at San Miguel is in full-swing! On Monday afternoons, 18 students board the bus and head to Button Hole Golf Course, where they learn the fundamentals of driving, iron play, chipping, and putting. Weekly golf practice provides students with direct golf instruction, while also granting the boys access to Button Hole's driving range, practice areas, and nine-hole course. Also, on Mondays (back at Branch Ave), is an intramural basketball program that is available to all Miguel Men, regardless of skill level. This league takes place on Mondays and Wednesdays, and has had an



San Miguel's golf team practices on a misty Monday afternoon.



8th-grade members of the flag football team (l-r): Anderson, Kai, Ali, Mason, Jayden D, Justin, and Jayden M.

incredible amount of participation from a wide range of students. On Tuesdays (and Thursdays), eight students participate in the Learn to Row program at Narragansett Boat Club, where they hit the water to learn the ins and outs of rowing (see related photo in article on left). Though Wednesday marks getting over the mid-week hump for many, there's no slowing for these guys. For 20 Miguel Men, Wednesdays are for flag football practice—a time of preparation for Sunday games. We currently have two teams—one for 5th and 6th graders, and another for 7th and 8th graders. The 5th and 6th-grade team consists of 12 players and is undefeated, while the 7th and 8th-grade team consists of eight students who currently sport a 5-1 record.

MaBaCh Tournament

Early Saturday morning, on April 1, a dedicated group of students arrived at school to jump on the bus and head to Bishop Stang High School in Dartmouth, MA, for this year's MaBaCh tournament.



Jayden, Gr. 8.

There, students had to compete against four other similarly-

missioned schools in Math, Basketball, and Chess. The competition was stiff, but with a dominant showing in chess, and great teamwork both on the court and in the classroom, San Miguel came in second place. We are deeply grateful to Nativity Preparatory School New Bedford for hosting this year's tournament, and look forward to competing again next year!



Miguel Men take home the second place cup!

Visitor Shout-Outs!

Marlon Henry, Gordon School
Andre Gill, Andre Gill Engineering
Brian Campbell, prospective mentor
Marcy Reyes, Financial Literacy partner
Carrie Keeley, New mentor
Sue Greenfield
Samantha Becker
Flavia Yanez, Providence College
Jael Lopes, PPSD
Mike Ratte, Prospective Mentor
Sergio Gonzalez, Brown University
Shannon Hegy, WPRI Channel 12
Amy Russo, Providence Journal
AJ Kizekai, Moses Brown School
BayCoast Bank
Adriana Dawson, Verizon
Mike O'Connor, Roche Center for Catholic Ed, Boston College
Brian Gardiner, College Affordable
Forrest Daniels, RI Free Clinic
Karen Maguire, Steven Nothern
Toye Onikoye, Muse Interactive
Rachel Dewey, FAB
Bernadette Souza, Youth Opportunities Unlimited
Brother Lawrence!

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Mitchell Tiah, SMS '07

Patricia Vieira

Jack Walsh

*This newsletter is published
by San Miguel School's
Development Department.*

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

*The graduating
Class of 2023!*



CLASS OF 2023 HIGH SCHOOL PLACEMENTS

Jayden Campos
Milton Hershey School, '27

Jayden Davis-Smith
Saint Raphael Academy, '27

Anthony De Leon
La Salle Academy, '27

Anderson Flores
La Salle Academy, '27

Asohnti Grant
Classical High School, '27

Gabriel Guevara
Milton Hershey School, '27

Kaiden Kue
La Salle Academy, '27

Hamilton Lucero
The Met School, '27

Jayden Mason
Milton Hershey School, '27

Ezequiel Muñoz
St. Patrick Academy, '27

Leonardo Muñoz
St. Patrick Academy, '27

Leandry Perez-Rosso
The Met School, '27

Justin Quinones
Village Green Charter School, '27

Ali Thompson
Saint Raphael Academy, '27

Mason Watson
Saint Raphael Academy, '27

CLASS OF 2019 POST SECONDARY PLANS



Jayden Cardoso
St. Raphael Academy, '23
Community College of RI, '27



Brian Cavinal
La Salle Academy, '23
University of Rhode Island, '27



O'Ryan Davis
La Salle Academy, '23
University of Rhode Island, '27



Alex Flores
PCTA, '23
HVAC Certified



Henly Hiraldo
La Salle Academy, '23
University of Rhode Island, '27



Jamezell Lassiter
La Salle Academy, '23
Phillip Exeter Academy, '24



Jackson McWilliams
St. Raphael Academy, '23
Providence College, '27



Adrian Mora
La Salle Academy, '23
University of Rhode Island, '27



Edinson Perez
La Salle Academy, '23
Johnson & Wales University, '27



Ronald Soto
St. Raphael Academy, '23
Community College of RI, '27



Alejandro Tavarez
La Salle Academy, '23
Roger Williams University, '27



Ja'Kai Washington
La Salle Academy, '23
University of Rhode Island, '27



Niyontsinzi White
St. Raphael Academy, '23
St. John's University, '27

MIGUEL MOMENTS



We were delighted to honor these incredible folks with our Community Partner Award at our Spring Awards Luncheon. Thank you all!

Awards Luncheon

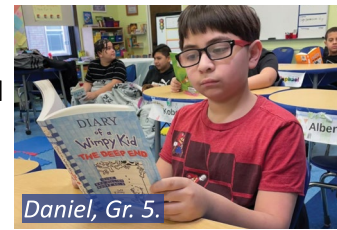
Mathewson St. Church provided and delivered weekend meals to San Miguel families for over two years during covid.



New Bus Driver!

We are thrilled to announce that Chute, our incredibly gifted maintenance manager, has also taken on the role of

school bus driver. We are so grateful to have him in this new position and deeply thank his predecessor, Joselin, for her years of service!



Daniel, Gr. 5.

Reading Week

In March, the 5th grade invited the whole school to join their "Reading Week," where each grade was

challenged to read the most books. The week also included a visit from an author, reading forts, book reports, and a vocabulary parade!



Jayden, Gr. 8.

Easter Party

On the Thursday before April break, students enjoyed a fun afternoon of Easter themed activities, which

included making Easter themed art, decorating cookies and cupcakes, writing a reflection on "where they see God," and an Easter Egg hunt!