



San Miguel School
PROVIDENCE

Save the Date
16th Annual Gala and Miguel Medal Ceremony
April 9, 2021



San Miguel School News

Winter 2021

Bottom of Our Hearts



Leo, Grade 6

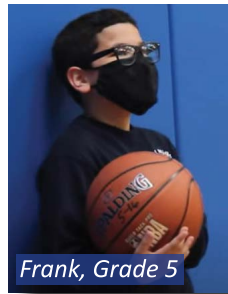
Predictability and routines—parents and educators alike know how desperately students need both. Believe it or not, at San Miguel students often

talk about how familiar routines and predictable expectations from their teachers and behavior from their peers create for them a sense of safety and security that is not found at other schools. And it is when they feel safe, seen, and supported, that they are able to focus on their learning. So what happens when you are struck by a once in a lifetime threat that has the potential to destroy all known routines and predictability, and strip a community of its firm foundation?

Last summer as the San Miguel staff wrestled with how to get the boys back to school in person safely during COVID-19, there was a strong push to retain key pillars of the school culture including assembly, recess, and, yes, even the Green Bench. Predictability, in both expectations and consequences, had to remain, emphasized the staff, despite the impact that COVID-19 would have

on the school. But how could we promise something we weren't sure we could deliver?

And behold. The Miracle of San Miguel struck again. In August, backpacks full of brand new school supplies arrived, as they do every August. Thanksgiving baskets were filled and distributed in November, like they are every November. Christmas gifts were wrapped and delivered this December, like it was any other December. And all of this was thanks to YOU. You were not going to let the boys down. You were not going to let us close the doors of opportunity and learning.



Frank, Grade 5

You came through with PPE. You bought basketballs for every student. You sent in food gift cards. You connected with your mentees.

You donated to the Compassion Fund. You wrote notes of encouragement. In the end, YOU restored predictability and routines to life at San Miguel. And through every one of those acts of kindness, you provided the boys (and us!) what we craved most—the assurance that everything was going to be ok. And it was. And for this, and so much more, we thank you from the bottom of our hearts.



Magic of Lights *By: Grade 5*

We had an awesome time on our field trip to the 'Magic of Lights' at Gillette Stadium! As we waited for the bus to arrive, we ate pizza and drank juice, so we all left with full stomachs. It was a long, cold drive in the dark but it was so worth it. It took us around 30 to 40 minutes to get there.

When we arrived, the first things we saw were lines of red, blue, and green lights all across the fences. Then maybe a minute or so into the trip we started to see different things from elves and video game characters to snowmen, which we think were all made out of jingle bells! There were tons of fun and creative lights that were all so beautiful. We saw the American flag, Hanukkah candles, a coconut tree, reindeers, and right at the end, we all saw the biggest Christmas tree we had ever seen! We also drove through a tunnel where the lights turn on and off, and saw Santa riding on a motorcycle, which was cool. Mr. Mac told

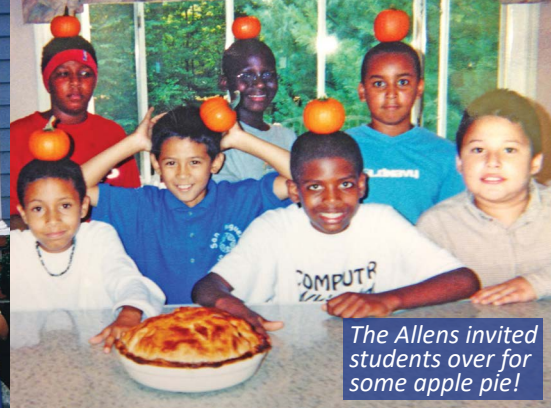
Continued Inside



Terry Allen grills up some burgers and hotdogs for the Class of '19 to enjoy!



San Miguel boys sitting outside of the Allen's home



The Allens invited students over for some apple pie!

You May Leave San Miguel School But IT NEVER LEAVES YOU!

Founders Legacy Society Corner

Highlighting longterm donors

Terry and Marianne Allen

How do you measure a person's impact on an organization? Do you count the tireless hours spent volunteering? Do you try and measure the numerous acts of kindness over twenty-seven years? Or do you look to the hearts and faces of those young men who benefited the most from your time? It is then that you realize your impact is truly boundless. This is the legacy Terry and Marianne Allen have established as Founders Legacy Society members. They are among the first members who have named San Miguel School in their estate plan confident that the mission will continue for many years to come.

Terry, a 1974 graduate of La Salle Academy, was actively involved with the school's Board of Directors in the late 1980s. Fully ingrained in the Lasallian Mission that education is the key to a more promising future, Terry joined the San Miguel School Board at

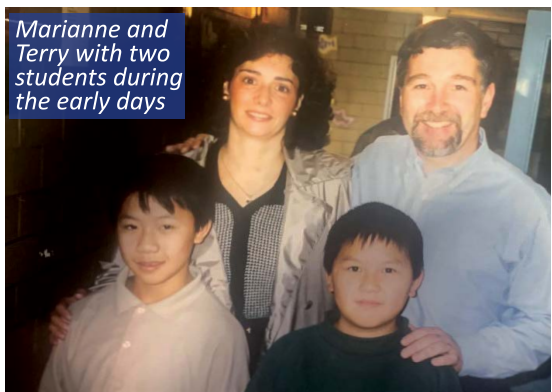
SMS Class of '22 enjoys a beautiful day and delicious cookout at the Allen's!



the suggestion of Frank Sullivan, eventually becoming Board Chair. In this role, Terry was an influential steward of San Miguel and ensured its financial stability. Terry's outgoing personality and leadership captivated many of his colleagues from Fleet Bank. Soon, San Miguel was attracting other community leaders and the San Miguel star began to rise.

Soon after Terry became involved, his wife Marianne also began volunteering at the school. It wasn't long before Marianne's talents for guidance and nurturing the boys became evident and she was hired part-time in the Development Office. Marianne also continued to volunteer her time working directly with the boys as a writing specialist. Marianne's gift of bringing out the best in her students was palpable. She could work with the most timid student and mentor him to be an unequivocal public orator! Many of the student-led events that Marianne worked tirelessly to perfect continue today. She instilled in each young man that approached the stage to stand tall, project your voice, make eye-contact and know that you matter! You are a Miguel Man!

It has been a family affair for the Allens! Their daughters, Molly and Emily, were also actively involved with the school, each volunteering their time at the annual galas or spending time with the boys and just being friends. The relationships are abundant and still are



Marianne and Terry with two students during the early days

strong today. The tradition of going to the Allen's summer home in Fairhaven, MA continues to be a treasured outing for both students and staff. The Allens have always opened their home and their hearts to the boys of San Miguel.

San Miguel honored Terry and Marianne with the Miguel Medal for Service in 2004. Brother Charles Kitson presented the award at the annual gala stating, "The Allens don't just articulate our mission, they live it!" Terry and Marianne moved to North Carolina in 2015. Although receiving the Miguel Medal was one of their proudest moments, according to Terry, what means even more to them is the number of graduates that continue to track them down with good news, thanks, or just needing some advice or direction. "That is our proudest moment... to know we made a difference and continue to today."

Thank you, Terry and Marianne. We are so very grateful for your dedication to our mission. We couldn't do it without you!

If you would like to join Terry and Marianne as a Founders Legacy Society member, please contact Gift Planning Officer, Marybeth Campellone, at mcampellone@sanmiguelprov.org today. It is easier than you think and your gift will provide a brighter future for tomorrow's Miguel Men.

Continued From Front

us that whoever finds Santa on a motorcycle first, gets a prize—Jayden won!

All of the lights we saw looked sparkly and really awesome. But the coolest thing of all was seeing Gillette Stadium itself. It was really fun because most of us had never been to a stadium before.

Even though we didn't see an actual football game, we got to see one made out of lights. We were all so happy that we got to see the Patriots' field.

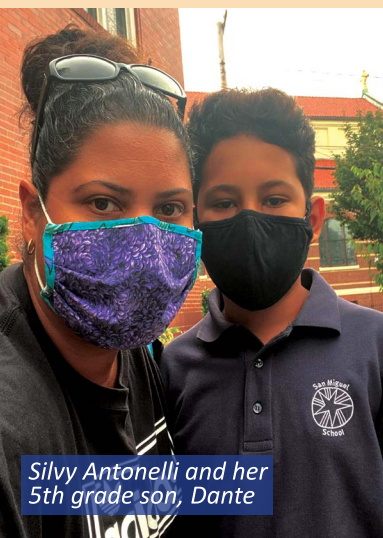
It was the perfect winter night. The fresh air smelt like snow and Christmas music was playing the entire time. We all sang along, like brothers, because we were just so excited. We all felt joy, especially when the whole class sang



Parental Piece of Mind in A Pandemic

As a parent, imagine your child starting a brand-new school... during a pandemic. First, will he fit in with other students and be academically challenged? Second, and perhaps more importantly, what are the school's plans to keep him safe from the virus? These are questions that Silvy Antonelli faced as she prepared to send her son, Dante, off to San Miguel for the first time this fall.

But even before his first day, she said she felt very confident in the school's plans around COVID-19 preparations.



Silvy Antonelli and her 5th grade son, Dante



5th graders enjoy their time together on the ride to Magic of Lights

Jingle Bells on the bus. Mr. Wolf let us record videos and take pictures of our trip so that we would always have keepsakes of such a great memory.

It was truly one of the best field trips we had ever been on because we got to spend time together as a class outside of school. Plus, it felt like we were in heaven with all of the lights against the dark, night sky. It was really really awesome. We are all so thankful for being able to go on this field trip and can't wait for more field trips because they're super fun.

Thank you to the sponsors who made it possible for us to go see the 'Magic of Lights' at Gillette Stadium. It was very kind of you!

In August, she attended two "very informative" virtual meetings with Mr. Wolf, Ms. Soltys, and Mrs. Maloney, where she learned about the steps the school had taken to prepare the classrooms according to new state guidelines. Wanting to see the new morning intake routine herself, Silvy brought Dante to school for the first few days and was very impressed with the level of attention to detail and safety that the school was taking. She expressed, "Mr. Wolf and the team really knew the rules and I left feeling very confident in how the school was following the protocols."

Silvy's experience was not unique. According to a parent survey this fall, 86% of parents reported that their child's experience was, "Great! Better than expected." With confidence in how San Miguel was handling the on-going pandemic, Silvy could turn her focus



Students safe and engaged as they participate in in-person learning

Holiday Happiness

Our community would like to thank all those who helped bring joy, love, and happiness to the boys this Christmas season. Although we were unable to enjoy some of our favorite traditions, like sharing lunch with members of the Providence Rotary and caroling at the



Nathen, Grade 5

Murphy's home, the collective San Miguel spirit remained merry and bright, thanks to this collective support. We are all facing many challenges during these unprecedented times, yet,

together, presents were purchased, wrapped, and delivered as if it were any other year. We are deeply grateful for your continued commitment to help make the holidays a magical time of year for our students, and for your belief in the San Miguel mission.

to her son's experience socially and academically. "He loves San Miguel! He loves his teachers and is excited to make new friends. And I would like to thank the San Miguel staff for all their hard work in keeping my son safe during this unprecedented time," she stated.

Nothing's better than a happy parent, especially during COVID-19. As a school community, we are incredibly grateful for all those who made it possible for us to safely reopen our doors this past September. Though navigating our new realities will continue to be challenging at times, we are blessed to still be able to deliver our mission to the boys.

Laughter That Lasts

By: Kaiyun Chen, Lasallian Volunteer



One Friday, right outside the school entrance, the 5th graders had just come back from recess and lined up, six feet apart. Ready to pick them up for class, I

headed toward the former parking lot, which has now been transformed into an outdoor school activity space. That's when I heard it: the bursting sound of laughter. Kids exclaimed, "Ms.Kai! We were in recess and look, it started raining!," rain water dripping from their masks. There were no complaints, just clear, pure laughter. I placed my hand over my heart, grateful for this moment and hopeful it would last.

I am a second-year Lasallian Volunteer (LV) serving at San Miguel. My role as an LV last year consisted of working with students grades five to eight

academically, but also during breakfast, lunch, and dismissal. I loved laughing with all of them, working with all of them, and learning from all of them. Yet, just like everything else in the reality of the pandemic, things changed, including my role. This year, I'm blessed to be placed in the 5th grade classroom to work with students and their homeroom teacher, Janet Maloney. Mrs. Maloney and her many talents are gifts to all of us. I am also grateful to share this new journey with the 5th graders, but I lament the loss of being able to connect and reconnect with students in other classes.

That rainy Friday was an especially rough one. I was reminded again and again that I hadn't seen any of the 6th, 7th, and 8th graders in passing all morning. Then, there I was, standing right outside the school entrance with the 5th graders, listening to their laughter, when I realized something. They were laughing beyond their masks about this shared experience with their San Miguel brothers. Even though they were rained on because of the outdoor safety protocols, they were

experiencing so much joy. I smiled, with my hand over my heart, reminding myself that this is real and to remember the moment forever.

Now, when I see a student from afar, waving his arm in the air to say hello, I remember the time last year, before the pandemic, when we laughed because of a corny joke. Not everything has changed, those memories with these students and these moments of joy, they are all still here. Being a Lasallian Volunteer taught me that days go by and things change quickly, but what lasts are those sounds of laughter. I will remember those moments, as they are holding me up right now being an LV during the pandemic. They help me stay strong as I continue to remember that laughter in the past and continue to collect those sounds of laughter in the future with our wonderful new 5th graders. When my LV journey serving at San Miguel comes to an end, I will carry all of these moments with me, and as my hand is placed over my heart, these sounds of laughter will last.

Endowed Scholarship from Delta Dental

"The opportunity to be part of this beloved learning community and having our investment appreciated and rewarded through this young man's achievement is priceless. How could anything be better?" - Joe & Jan Nagle



Joe and Jan Nagle (shown left) are longtime friends and supporters of San Miguel. They have dedicated the better part of the last ten years in

service to our school and our boys. As volunteers extraordinaire, they have been active board members, chaired our annual gala, crafted hundreds of gala centerpieces, decorated bulletin boards, embraced families at Christmas,

steered our golf committee, mentored students, and provided four student sponsorships to Miguel Men. They have given their time, talent, and treasure to San Miguel and made a difference in the lives of our students.

Joe and Jan exemplify the Lasallian mission. They are kind, generous, steadfast, and enter all that they do with a spirit of love. Their impact at San Miguel is palpable. You can see it in the hallways and on the faces of our students. A true warmth and joy emanate from all that they touch.

Delta Dental has also recognized their passion for improving the lives of others and wanted to mark Joe's retirement, highlighting their work in the community. When Joe retired from his position as CEO in 2019, Delta Dental established an endowment in his name that will assist our most economically-challenged families in meeting their annual family contribution. Thank you, Delta Dental, for recognizing the important work the Nagles continue to do impacting the lives of our students.



A behind-the-scenes glimpse that reveals what a San Miguel education looks like

"Joe and Jan Nagle have long been passionate in their support of the San Miguel School in Providence and in helping it to fulfill its Lasallian mission. The endowment of a San Miguel scholarship to honor Joe Nagle on the occasion of his retirement was an easy decision for the team at Delta Dental of Rhode Island," claimed Joe Perroni, CEO Delta Dental.

Thank you Joe and Jan for all that you do for our Miguel Men—yesterday, today, and tomorrow. Our star continues to shine bright...thank you for helping us illuminate the way!

A-Wear-Ness for Local Communities

Part of the San Miguel Mission reads, “Inspired by the pillars of faith, service, and community, each ‘Miguel Man’ is encouraged to learn, to serve, and to grow to reach his full potential.” Meet **Mitchell Tiah ‘07** (below), a Miguel Man who models service to others. This past Christmas, Mitchell and the team at his non-profit, A-Wear-Ness Inc. (shown top right), took on their fourth project to give back to local communities—



providing Christmas gifts to families in need during this challenging time. Thanks to their generous donors, Mitchell and his team were



able to raise the funds necessary to buy gifts for 60 families, including 166 kids! Thanks to A-Wear-Ness, Inc., lots of Christmas dreams came true this holiday season. Another way that Tiah, now a financial analyst at Washington Trust Company, is giving back is through his service on the Board of Directors of Project Goal, an after-school academic success program that uses soccer to teach life skills. Mitchell participated in Project Goal when he was a student at San Miguel and credits the organization with helping him develop leadership skills. “It feels so good to give back to the community that has given me so much. San Miguel inspired me to think of others and to demonstrate leadership through service,” Tiah stated. You make us all so proud, Mitchell!

Breaking Barriers



“San Miguel broke down mental barriers for us. I would look at people hiking or kayaking and think, ‘people like me don’t do those things,’

but thanks to a commitment by San Miguel staff to expose us to new things, my world opened up in so many ways,” said **Miguel Perez ‘02** when asked what the greatest impact of a San Miguel education was. He expressed deep appreciation for Mr. Wolf, Br. Michael, and others for taking his classmates and him camping, hiking, and kayaking during their summers at the school. Perez, a proud graduate of Bishop Hendricken, St. John’s University (BA), and Boston University (MBA), now working in Business Development and Strategy at Pall Corporation, credits San Miguel for his personal relationship to the outdoors, and is committed to igniting the same spark for the outdoors, that for him, was “a profound experience” by volunteering to teach sailing to Boston youth after covid fades.

Semper Stronger

For many of us, our New Year’s resolution included finding strategies for taking care of ourselves in ways that will help us face the challenges of 2021 with strength and confidence. Are you still looking for a community of like-minded people who will help you keep this resolution? Well, San Miguel alumni and US Marine Corps Captain, **Joel Del Rosario ‘99**, and his wife Rebecca Rouse, an award-winning personal trainer and entrepreneur, have launched Semper Stronger, a personal fitness app and web platform to help you do just that.

“Rebecca and I have a passion for making people strong—not just physically strong, but also mentally, and emotionally strong—so that we can overcome life’s challenges with confidence. Overcoming life’s challenges and obstacles with confidence was something I learned to do at San Miguel School,” says Del Rosario.



Joel and Rebecca (shown left) would like to offer a very special promotion to the San Miguel community with benefits to you, as well as to the boys. By using the promocode in the box below, you will receive a free 30-day membership to their fitness app, and with every membership sold, Joel and Rebecca will donate 30% of the profits back to San Miguel. Sounds like a great way to help yourself AND help the boys! Thank you, Joel and Rebecca. Here’s to another San Miguel grad working to make the world a better (and stronger) place!



Visit **SemperStronger.com**
Use checkout code **SMS30**
to support SMS and save!



It Feels Like Home



“It’s like coming home,” said San Miguel alumni, **Berto De La Rosa ‘13**, about joining the staff this year. “San Miguel was a home for all of us. It

kind of still is!” Berto came “home” in September and has been busy leading small reading and math groups, covering PE and lunch, and has even dabbled in some development work, writing thank you notes to donors. As an aspiring teacher, Berto was looking to gain some experience in the profession and wanted to come back here due in part to the life-changing experience he had as a student. “At San Miguel, the teachers really care about the students. I would have been lost without Mrs. Clements’ Readiness Camp. And Ms. W, well, she was my favorite teacher. In fact, we have stayed in touch. Every fall, a group of guys, we go to her house to rake her leaves and catch up. We all look forward to that every year.” What better testament to the impact of a San Miguel education than an alumni returning years later to launch a promising career in education.



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

Join Us for an out-of-this-world event...

GALAXY

16th Annual Gala and Miguel Medal Ceremony

Friday, April 9, 2021

Please join us on Friday, April 9, 2021, from 5:30-6:30PM for our 16th Annual Gala and Miguel Medal Ceremony, which will be aired virtually. From the comfort of your homes, you'll be able to celebrate our Miguel Medal Recipients, participate in Raffle and Fund-A-Need opportunities, enjoy a Student Poetry Performance, and learn of a Special Announcement that we're so excited to share with you all! GALAXY will be an out-of-this-world event that you won't want to miss!

Miguel Moments



Outdoor Learning

In response to the ongoing pandemic, outdoor spaces, such as our former parking lot, have been transformed into learning spaces.



Grads Become Staff

This year, we are blessed to have two graduates, Berto and Vernoe, join the team to help us combat the challenges of COVID-19.



LV Run 2020

This year's Lasallian Volunteer Run was held as a virtual event on Saturday, November 21, 2020. The program raised over \$45,000!



Gardening Club Update

The Green Team continues to grow as they make worm farms to convert daily food waste into fresh, useful compost.



Santa's Workshop

Providence College went virtual for their annual Santa's Workshop program, continuing to provide all 64 students with Christmas gifts.



Sweater Contest

Christmas spirit was alive and well within the halls of San Miguel, as students participated in a Creative Sweater Contest!

Ways You Can Help!

- Make a gift to the San Miguel Annual Fund
- Impact a student's life by becoming a Student Sponsor
- Volunteer and give the precious gift of time
- Consider making a planned gift and become a Founders Legacy Society member
- Select San Miguel as your nonprofit of choice on April 1, 2021 for this year's 401Gives event, powered by United Way
- Join us on Friday, April 9, 2021 for our 16th Annual Gala and Miguel Medal Ceremony!
- Have a big birthday or anniversary coming up? In lieu of gifts, ask friends and family to make a donation in your honor!
- Sign up for AmazonSmile and designate San Miguel as the beneficiary
- Follow us on Facebook and Instagram—share posts and invite others to follow us!