



30 YEARS AND GROWING!

Big NEWS

A COMMUNITY PREPARATORY SCHOOL PUBLICATION

SPRING 2014

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Sharks and Rockets and Subs, Oh My!

At Community Prep, Science is Hands-On

STEM subjects help break the cycle of poverty

Have you ever wanted to launch a rocket or steer a submersible? Then you probably wish you were a Community Prep student.

Thanks to our donors, students get hands-on science skills that pave the way to great careers. And, they have a blast (sometimes literally) doing it.

Noel Hernandez, on the playground in his red CP shirt, is

“Students learn that they are capable and resourceful.”

getting ready to launch the air rocket he built. “We

would have never done anything like this at my old school,” he says.

Every student in the class gets a chance to stomp on the launcher and send their rocket sky high. “Students learn that they are capable and resourceful,” explains Doug Somers, who is teaching the class. “Concepts taught hands-on stay with students, and the process builds confidence.”

Why Science Matters

STEM fields (science, technology, engineering, and math) offer some of today’s best career opportunities. But low-income students are dramatically under-represented in these fields. “By giving students these skills now, they are more likely choose a path that will lead them out of poverty,” says Doug.

CP students excel in STEM subjects.

We hear back from the high schools they attend that they are some of the best students in their classes: passionate and prepared.

And it’s not just rockets.

Sixth graders build, program and test remote-controlled submersibles. Seventh graders dissect a shark, and fifth graders create exciting reactions with household chemicals. Fifth grader Jalia Ramos sums it up. “I want to be a scientist because of the cool experiments and all the different things I can learn.”



Sticky chemical reactions create serious science skills.



How high will his rocket fly? STEM courses can launch careers.

Attention Alumni! CP’s 30th Anniversary is coming up and we want YOU and all your classmates at the party. We’re missing contact info for more than 20% of alumni. You can help. Go to communityprep.org/foralumni.html and let us know where to find your friends.

Doing good doesn't have to be difficult Here's what you can do to help our students

BUY

Watch your mail for your raffle flyer.
Then buy lots of tickets!



GET

It's almost spring on-line auction time.
We need your help getting items donated.

- **Ask** your favorite restaurant / B&B / salon, etc. to donate a gift card
- **Donate** a 3-some or 4-some at your golf course
- **Give** us tickets to a Red Sox, Pats, Celtics or Bruins game
- **Use** your imagination to think of something you'd like to bid on – and then help us get it
- **Contact** Diane Ellis at 401-521-9697, ext. 3 or dellis@communityprep.org to get involved

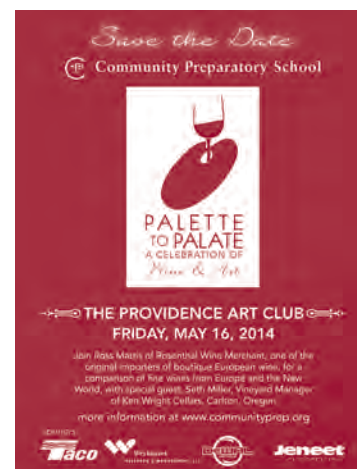
GOLF

Reserve a place in our Fall Golf Classic on October 8, 2014.
(Our June tournament is already sold out.)



PARTY!

Come to our Wine Event in May.



Seeing the difference their support makes

Named and Merit Scholars Program matches students and sponsors

A group of Community Prep donors recently lunched with the students their donations are supporting. The Named Scholars program matches students with those who donate one or more full sponsorships, while the Merit Scholars program matches donors who have endowed a full sponsorship with a rising 6th grader who has performed exceptionally well. These donors stay with the same scholar throughout their years at CP. “Meeting Tessah, my named scholar, was a wonderful experience,” says her sponsor, Polly Daly. “Tessah exudes vast amounts of enthusiasm about her life and CP. She was mature and a delight to be with.”

ALUMNI UPDATES

Most of our students don't have much, but they share it.

Every CP student knows that without you their school would not exist, so it's not hard for them to make the connection between giving and receiving. All students here do community service. See what Lydia and Janiah have to say about this fall's Feinstein Food Drive:

Food Drive
In 3rd grade we ran a canned food drive to give poor people canned food. Every time a class brought in 20 cans they got to decorate a brick for the food drive wall. When we were at lunch, Mrs. Guyon brought food to a food pantry. Our goal was to reach 2,000 cans, but we didn't reach 2,000 cans—we reached 2,588 cans and 39 bags of potatoes! Mr. Feinstein gave our school \$2,000 for our hard work.
By Lydia and Jahnye

Joanne Debrah '93, like so many Community Prep alums, is making a difference through non-profit work in her community. She has been working for Youth Build Providence for four years, helping young people “become mentally and morally empowered to accept responsibility for themselves, their families and their communities.” Joanne is Youth Build's



Director of Transitional Services, and while her primary function is networking and placement, her role means so much more to her students. She is an advocate, an advisor and, most importantly, someone who believes in them and all their potential.

Joanne says it was the teachers at CP who broke down the wall she had built to protect herself from feeling inadequate. “My math teacher in particular believed in me,” says Joanne, “she made me feel safe and comfortable.” Joanne went on to ace Algebra her first year at Moses Brown, a school she would have never considered an option before CP, and still turns to her former CP teacher, Janine Lee, for inspiration and guidance. “She is one of the women who taught me to feel confident,” she says. She now teaches her students this same principle.

Today Joanne is the proud mother of a CP sixth grader. Watching Renina say the school pledge for the first time brought tears to Joanne's eyes, knowing that Renina will too grow into a compassionate, confident young woman.

Joanne is currently organizing YBP's Build-A-Bed event to build beds for children who have none. For more information, contact her at jdebrah@provplan.org.

FAQ:

You might have been wondering...

How does my donation help?

Community Prep serves **150** third-eighth graders annually. More than **90%** of them receive financial aid. Your support gives these students a chance at excellence. Most will be the first in their families to attend college.

Is my donation used wisely?

Our educational cost per pupil is lower than for students in local public schools.

How do I know it works?

- **83%** of CP college-age alums are enrolled in college or have completed a degree – an amazing statistic for an inner city school!
- Our students' standardized test scores are stronger than those from RI's most prosperous towns.
- An average of **90%** are admitted to Classical High School each year – compared to 30% city-wide.



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Boarding School Dreams Realized Thanks to You Community Prep grads thrive in high school



"Community Prep has not only set me up for success, but will take me very far in life."

Imagine Fiona's surprise to see Tarah on the basketball court. They were a year apart at CP, but knew each other well. "It was odd to see Tarah in a different color uniform, and guarding her was really fun. I was so excited to see someone I knew from CP in the boarding school world," says Fiona.

Community Prep students are regularly accepted to elite boarding schools, but that doesn't mean the transition is easy. Going from a racially and economically diverse school like CP to a private school can feel socially like

landing on the moon. "Adjusting to life at Deerfield comes with time," says Tarah. "Getting to know the campus, the culture, and the people is an experience that I am enjoying. CP has helped me succeed at Deerfield in many ways. Coming from a school like Community Prep has not only set me up for success, but will take me very far in life; and this is just the beginning."

"When I came to Andover," explains Fiona, "I was ready for the workload and had the skills I needed to manage my time wisely. CP definitely prepared me."