



30 YEARS AND GROWING!

# Big NEWS

A COMMUNITY PREPARATORY SCHOOL PUBLICATION

SPRING 2015

126 SOMERSET STREET, PROVIDENCE, R.I. 02907 • 401.521.9697 • FAX 401.751.1072 • www.communityprep.org

## Come for the Donut, Stay for the Math Community Prep students gladly come to school on Saturdays

*They do the work;  
you make it possible.*

Tiffanie’s donut is pink frosted, Kayla’s is chocolate, and they’re gone before you can say “square root.” Each child who attends Saturday morning math help gets a donut – but that’s not why they come.



There are usually 16-20 students in Mr. Velasquez’s room on a given Saturday, and they are all there voluntarily. A group of 7th graders, Tiffanie, Kayla, Renina, and Alaijah have been coming to work with Mr. Velasquez nearly every week since 4th grade.

“It’s like school, but then even better, because it’s free-flowing

and more relaxed. We can chat a little and listen to music while we work, and there aren’t as many distractions as at home,” explains Kayla.

No one at Community Prep thinks it’s strange that students would happily come to school on Saturday. Mr. Velasquez is there voluntarily, too, *and* buys the donuts. “What is amazing to me is the students are always asking me, ‘Are you going to be

**“No one at Community Prep thinks it’s strange that students would gladly be in school on Saturday.”**

here this Saturday, Mr. V.?’ If you give students a place to practice and improve, they’re going to take advantage of it.”

Community Prep’s math curriculum is famously demanding. Current students often mention that they are about a year ahead of their public school peers, and independent schools report that CP graduates are among the strongest math students at their schools.

“Mr. V. isn’t even my math teacher,” says Renina, “but the teachers here really care about how you’re doing; even if they’re not your regular teacher.” Tiffanie adds, “my friends

**“If you give students a place to practice and improve, they’re going to take advantage of it.”**

at other schools don’t understand why I would come if I don’t have to, but I just want to do my best.”

“We enjoy coming,” says Renina, “because it’s a quiet and fun place to do our work. It means you’re taking ownership for yourself and your grades. We’re grateful to Mr. V. for coming. We truly live by our name, ‘community.’”



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

## BUY

Watch your mail / email for your raffle flyer or go to [communityprep.org](http://communityprep.org). Then buy lots of tickets!



## VISIT

You're helping excellence happen.  
COME SEE IT IN ACTION

- **Ask** our students what project they're working on. Visitors usually respond with, "wow"
- **See** if *you* can Beat the Calculator by answering rapid-fire math problems like "What is !5?"
- **Meet** our students and experience their determination to reach their goals
- **Call** 401-521-9697, ext. 4 to arrange a visit or email Lisa Dantas, [ldantas@communityprep.org](mailto:ldantas@communityprep.org)

## GET

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

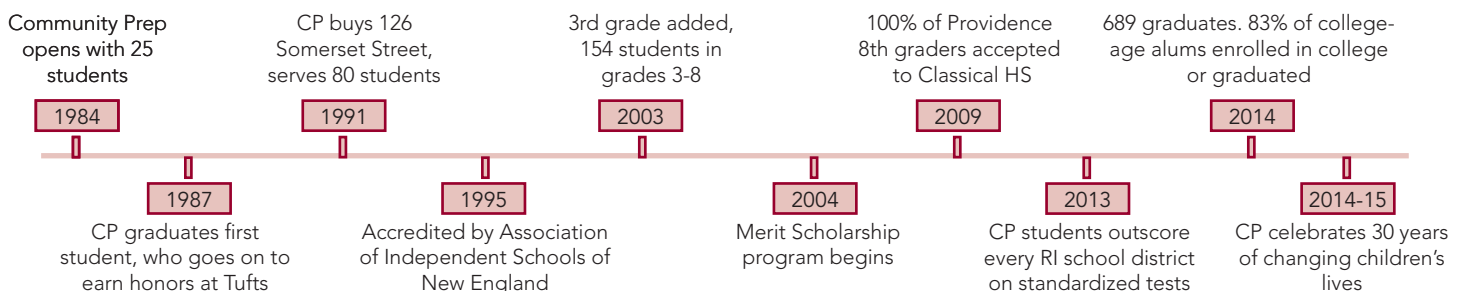
- **Ask** your favorite restaurant / B&B / salon, etc. to donate a gift card
- **Donate** a 3-some or 4-some at your golf course
- **Give** us tickets to a Red Sox, Pats, Celtics or Bruins game
- **Use** your imagination to think of something you'd like to bid on – and then help us get it
- **Contact**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

## GOLF

Reserve a place in our Golf Classic  
at the Misquamicut Club on June 11, 2015.  
*(Register early; these tickets go fast!)*



## COMMUNITY PREP THROUGH THE YEARS





## SAVE THE DATE

*Rhode Island's most comprehensive Italian wine tasting*

THURSDAY, APRIL 30, 2015

THE PROVIDENCE ART CLUB

VIP RECEPTION 6-7 PM, MAIN TASTING 7-9 PM

Co-Chairs: Ross Mattis & Lauren Miller

OUR SPONSORS:



## 2015 Founders Society Dinner

On October 6, Community Prep honored the members of the Founders Society – those who have included the school in their estate plans – with a fabulous dinner at Fleming's Prime Steakhouse & Wine Bar.

Fleming's once again generously hosted the event. In addition, Fleming's is also again donating \$50 gift cards to every participant in Community Prep's 2015 Golf Classic.

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.

## Your enthusiasm is contagious!

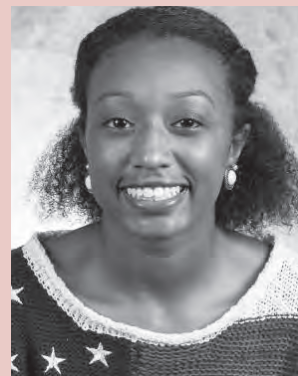
Shorepoint Capital Partners didn't throw a big party to celebrate its 5th Anniversary. Instead it asked its clients and colleagues for "celebration donations" to Community Prep, and made a \$5,000 endowment donation to the school themselves. If you have something to celebrate, consider making our students the beneficiaries.



Shorepoint Capital Partners' Luis Raposo (left) and Tim Vanech. Mr. Vanech is also Community Prep's official "can fairy" (see back panel).

# ALUMNI UPDATES

**Gazmine Mason '09**, has appeared in these pages before, when she won a full-ride bowling scholarship to the University of Nebraska. Now, she has been chosen for the United States Jr. Olympic Bowling Team. She has this to say about how Community Prep helped her get there:



"CP was a very challenging school, where hard work and dedication were needed in order to be successful. The teachers always pushed us to do our best and made sure we all got the best out of our education and experience. Even though classes may have been challenging, at school it was never a sprint – it was a marathon. With support from teachers and staff, I knew I would be able to achieve anything.

During my bowling journey to finally making Jr. Team USA, I used these same principles. In order to prepare for tournaments, I pushed myself and worked hard. "Hard work beats talent, when talent doesn't work hard," is what I go by, and it is what has kept me motivated and dedicated. For this tournament in Las Vegas, I struggled, but never did I doubt my abilities because I had worked my hardest and prepared. I did the best I could for five days and enjoyed the experience. Every shot mattered, and I stayed positive and told myself "it's not a sprint, it's a marathon," which helped me get through this tournament successfully, as well as through my years at CP."

**Congratulations Gazmine!**


**Alums: Got news to share? Find us on Facebook or email Mónica at [mrodriguez@communityprep.org](mailto:mrodriguez@communityprep.org).**



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## Would you kiss a pig? Community Prep teachers fulfill food drive challenge



Community Prep's teachers challenged their students: Collect 2,000 items for the annual food drive and they would kiss a pig.

The food drive, run by Community Prep's 3rd grade, benefitted the food pantry at Assumption Church on Potters Avenue in Providence. Nearly

**"The students were already excited about sharing with families in need; getting to see their teachers kiss a pig motivated them even more."**

100 percent of Community Prep's students receive financial aid to attend the school, so their donations were

especially generous. "The students were already excited about sharing with families in need," explained their teacher, Nikki Guyon. "Getting to see their teachers kiss a pig motivated them even more."



Tim Vanech of Shorepoint Capital Partners donated 500 cans, earning himself the nickname "The Can Fairy."

The pig, Teeny, was a huge hit, and the 3rd graders were delighted to kiss her after the teachers had taken their turns. "The cutest thing ever!" said one teacher.