



22 YEARS AND GROWING!

Big NEWS

A COMMUNITY PREPARATORY SCHOOL PUBLICATION

WINTER 2006

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Community Prep Student Senate Ushers in New Lunch Program:

A story of student leadership, non-profit partnership, and ... broccoli

FOR YEARS, COMMUNITY PREP'S STUDENT SENATE, composed of two elected representatives from each classroom, had longed to improve the quality of school lunches. It is no small matter to them; nearly two-thirds of students qualify for free or reduced lunch—for many, lunch is their main meal of the day. When Amos House, a nearby South Providence non-profit, began offering a school lunch program, the Student Senate jumped at the opportunity.

They invited Amos House for an interview. "Every senator was there, with rapt attention," says senate advisor and school social worker Ellen O'Hara,

who has done the behind-the-scenes work with Amos House. Senators shared their likes, dislikes and expectations.

Broccoli topped the list of preferred vegetables.

When it was clear that Amos House could be responsive to their tastes, they took it one step further, creating a school-wide food preferences survey. Each senator distributed the surveys for his or her class, and Ms. Barnes' 6th grade class tabulated the results, which were surprising.

"When non-profits partner, it maximizes resources for everyone—all sides benefit."

While pizza remained a favorite, broccoli topped the list of preferred vegetables. "We wanted more fresh food and things that are healthy, as long as they taste good," explains 8th grade senator James Saunders. "We wanted it for a long time. Now we love the new breakfasts and lunches. The macaroni and cheese is my favorite!"



Front: Student Senators Samantha Poch, Tobin Tyler, and James Saunders
Back: Sarah Goode, Amos House Executive Director Eileen Hayes, and Mark Nichols

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Big NEWS

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FOUNDERS SOCIETY DINNER: honoring planned givers

CELEBRATING THEIR COMMITMENT to Community Prep, members of the Founders Society, those who have remembered the school in their estate plans, enjoyed a perfect evening under the stars on August 16. Hosts Daphne and Peter Farago welcomed guests to their breathtaking waterfront home in Little Compton.

L to R: Dan Corley, Daphne and Peter Farago, Letitia and John Carter



Faculty Profile: Tamar Paull

“I’ve spent almost a third of my life at Community Prep,” muses 7th grade teacher, Tamar Paull. Tamar came to Community Prep as a Brown University student teacher. And now, nine years later, she’s become the 7th grade lead teacher, mentoring teachers new to Community Prep and supervising a student teacher each year.

“The kids here are uniquely invested in their education and their community.” Tamar channels that commitment, and the result is an extraordinarily warm and productive classroom environment. A recent visit to her math class found students forming a human spreadsheet. “I had the students stand in a grid formation. When the students who represented input changed their number values, the students who represented the formulas gave the newly calculated result. It was a lot of fun, and the students now really understand how a spreadsheet works.”



Tamar Paull and her student spreadsheet.

Tamar spends her summers working on a Masters in English from Middlebury College’s nationally acclaimed Bread Loaf School of English. With her essay “Gown to Town: Life After Brown” published in GLSEN’s *One Teacher in 10*, and a first prize in the annual Bread Loaf poetry contest, Tamar wants her students to understand the power of the written word. Collaborating with Patricia Echessa-Kariuki, a Bread Loaf classmate from Kenya, Tamar has created a weekly on-line writing exchange between 7th graders at Community

“The kids here are uniquely invested in their education and their community.”

Prep and the Aga Khan School in Nairobi. “Both classes read the same poetry and then share their responses as well as original poems. We can already see these students from dramatically different backgrounds forging connections and benefiting from each other’s perspectives.”

Tamar grew up in the Bronx and attended the Fieldston School before choosing Brown. “My education professor felt that Community Prep would be a good fit for me as a student teacher, and evidently, she was right. I’ve felt very comfortable here, both because of the mentoring I’ve received and the academic autonomy I enjoy. It goes both ways here — both teachers and students grow from being at Community Prep.”

Creative Giving

This new section will explain how to support Community Prep while maximizing the benefit to your personal finances and estate.

Q: What is planned giving and is it something for me?

A: "Planned Giving" is an umbrella term used to describe a wide range of charitable gifts that can do everything from giving you a life-long income, to helping you avoid capital gains tax or reducing your estate tax. Planned gifts can be as simple as including Community Prep in your will or as customized as creating a Charitable Gift Annuity to provide retirement income.

Whatever your needs, our development office staff can help you ensure that our students get the education they deserve while suiting your personal circumstances. When you make a planned gift, you become a member of Community Prep's Founders Society (see left).

And, best of all, a planned gift can continue the support you've already given Community Prep. For example, a donor who has been giving \$500 per year can, by leaving Community Prep \$10,000 in his will, assure that the school continues to receive a \$500 annual fund donation **forever**.

Next Time: What is a Charitable Gift Annuity?

Alumni Trustees: Community Prep Graduates Giving Back

Now that Community Prep's oldest alumni are nearing 30 and lining up graduate degrees, prestigious jobs and making a difference in their communities, they are returning to serve the school that set them on the path to success. Three alums now serve on the Board of Trustees, each bringing different talents and perspectives.

At 23 years old, **Mark Carty '97**, is the youngest Trustee and serves on the Alumni Relations Committee. A recent graduate of Temple University, he is a first-year psychology/social studies teacher at his alma mater, LaSalle Academy. In high school and college, Mark headed service and social change projects, evidence, he says, of Community Prep's influence. "When I'm talking to friends about my views on things, I constantly refer to CP. Community Prep has without a doubt changed the way I think about class. I know that my CP classmates and I respected the fact that there were people willing to donate money to help us achieve greater things. I will always be active with the school because it has made such an impact on me."



"I know that my CP classmates and I respected the fact that there were people willing to donate money to help us achieve greater things."

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Senate

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Amos House, which provides hospitality and direct services to the poor of Rhode Island, is best known for its homeless shelter and dining hall. Its newest program, Amos House Works, trains participants, many with a history of addiction and homelessness, for careers in food service. They get hands-on experience cooking and serving hundreds of meals per day to Amos House's non-profit partners: the Boys and Girls Club, Federal Hill House, International Charter School, CrossRoads Rhode Island, and now, Community Prep.

Partnership is key. Eileen Hayes, Amos House Executive Director, explains why non-profits make wonderful partners: "The schools that have come to us are concerned about our social mission and want more than just low-cost food for their students. They know that we can be cost effective and responsive to their needs, and they know that they'll be helping others as well as feeding their students."

"Our students have seen that they can effect change in their lives."

Three months into the school year, the program is a big success. "Our students have seen that they can effect change in their lives," explains Dan Corley, head of school. "Partnering with other non-profits allows us to model for students the civic-minded behavior we encourage. When non-profits partner, it maximizes resources for everyone — all sides benefit. And, now our lunches are delicious."

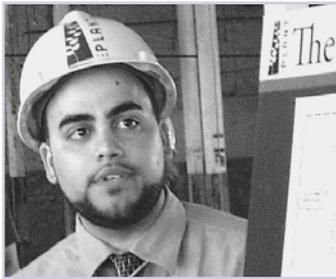
If you would like to visit Community Prep, and enjoy school lunch, please contact Dana DiMarco, Director of Development at 401-521-9697.

Alumni Trustees: Community Prep Graduates Giving Back

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Stephanie Ogidan Preston '93, chair of the Admissions Committee, is on her way. After Community Prep, she went to Moses Brown and then graduated from Duke University with a B.S. in Economics, a B.A. in Spanish, and a certificate in Markets and Management. At 25, she is the youngest Branch Manager at Bank Rhode Island. Married with a toddler, she juggles a more-than-full-time job with parenthood and management of a number of investment properties. "Community Prep is something I will always be a part of. Middle School is such a precious age to mold a person. Now I set goals for myself and know what it takes to meet them. I plan on obtaining by MBA, buying a couple more investment properties and building a family around the same values I was taught when I was young. I'm already planning on sending my daughter to CP, and she is not even two!"

"Middle School is such a precious age to mold a person."



One of an increasing number of CP grads with an advanced degree, **Julian Dash '92**, chairs the Alumni Relations Committee. After graduating from Morgan State University, he earned his MBA in Entrepreneurship at Babson College. Now Julian is back in Providence, making a difference in the community where he grew up. As Director of Real Estate for PUENTE, a non-profit real estate and community development organization in Olneyville, Julian is overseeing the redevelopment of the 60 Valley Street Mill into over 26,500 sf of below-market commercial space and 29 affordable Live/Work units.

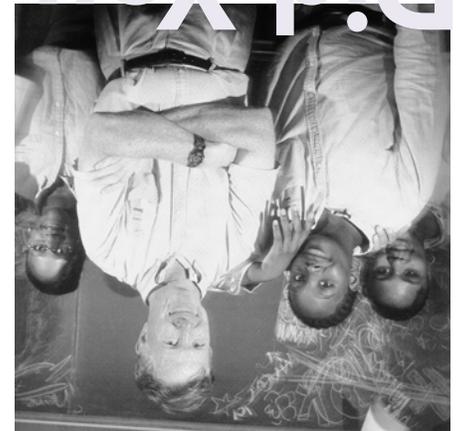
Now Julian is back in Providence, making a difference in the community where he grew up.

Julian has also won the rights to a blighted South Providence site where he'll build solar-powered single-family homes for about \$160K each, the first of their kind in the country. "Community Prep taught me about community service, and the lesson has stayed with me."

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Did You See...
The article about Dan Corey in
Rhode Island Monthly?
Check it out at www.communityprep.org!



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