

# A PALMA EDUCATION

AN INVESTMENT IN A LIFE



Knowing that people believe in you, even when you have not yet learned to believe in yourself, sets the foundation for a lifetime of success. When you donate to the Palma Fund, you are investing in the future of young men and in the future of our community and our world. You are where you are today because someone, somewhere along the way, believed in you. Play a role at Palma School and help a young man believe in himself. Make your donation to the Palma Fund today.

Please send your donation in the enclosed envelope or online at www.palmaschool.org/support/onlinegiving

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The *President's Report* is produced by Palma School's Office of Institutional Advancement and Alumni Relations.

Tracy Jones, *Director* 

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Palma School is currently accepting applications for the 2016/2017 academic year. If you know of a young man who would be a great addition to the Palma tradition, please contact the Admission Office at 831.422.6391 or email admission@palmaschool.org

**OPEN HOUSE:** November 1, 2015 12-2 pm

VISITATION DAYS: December 1, 2015 8:30 am-12:15 pm

January 12, 2016 8:30 am-12:15 pm

ADMISSION TESTS: December 12, 2015 8-11:30 am

January 9, 2016 8-11:30 am January 16, 2016 8-11:30 am January 23, 2016 8-11:30 am

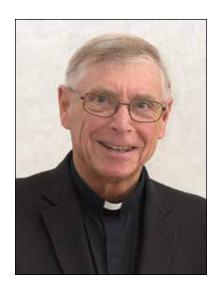


## President's Message

Have you ever gotten yourself in a situation such that you wondered where a given circumstance is going or, in a different view, wonder how is it going to turnout somewhere down the line? Lots of items come across my desk on a regular basis and my office window looks out onto the main parking lot. I can't help but notice the traffic in and out of the parking lot in the mornings and again in the afternoons. I am nicely distracted by the noise of hundreds of young men during the day as the vast majority traverse the parking lot in their comings and goings as well as in the midst of the day, especially at lunch time. Each one of these young men observed could easily be seen as a very special "situation" that truly is a work in progress. Variety certainly is the spice of life and we enjoy the reality of hundreds of personalities and just as varied talents and gifts each carries. Having had the honor of being on this campus for 28 years, many observations have taken place and, for the most part, the many works in progress have turned-out pretty well. While there are many common threads among our students, safe to say, no two are the same.

Our students are, as a group, a pretty humble and well behaved aggregate of adolescent maleness that always seems to have great plans for the moment or shortly thereafter. There is little they fear and there is a nice naivety tied to the innocence of youth that comes across so readily on a regular basis no matter the age or graduation class. They have, obviously, been given good direction at home and that same direction is continued here at school by exposing each young man to other possibilities and opportunities for growth and maturity as well as an awareness of the obligation to be of assistance to the less fortunate and be a voice for the powerless. Our young men are generous and gregarious, again with varying degrees of accomplishment. We have such a great thing going here on this campus. We have been and continue to be entrusted with the well being of hundreds of young men who always (or almost always) represent Palma's good name as well as their family's good name so very nicely. I am struck by how well these young men get along as we have students from all over enrolled as Chieftains, all works-in-progress as each prepares for college and beyond. Is it all work and no play? Hardly. But it certainly isn't all play and no work. Just watching the upperclassmen gather together in their goings to or from class or in the parking lot during the day gives evidence of friendships never imagined prior to stepping on the Palma campus. Again, another work in progress; hundreds of works-in-progress. I often wonder how the many "match-ups" of personalities and varied interests enable a given young man to find buddies who will be his best friends for life. It happens as if by magic and is certainly the result of many examples set at home much earlier and is being reinforced here at Palma on a daily basis.

Given situations along with given individuals on this campus represent a myriad of possibilities going forward. Some folks might sense that a school setting with regular classes and bells ringing during the day to be pretty mundane. That might be the case elsewhere but certainly not here at Palma as we are truly blessed with the support of hundreds of families who work long and hard to help give their son(s) the opportunity of a lifetime, to flourish at Palma as each prepares for college and beyond. These many good things are happening here on a regular basis — the extraordinary happens here on a daily basis, all under the watchful eyes



of an administration, faculty and staff, and coaches who go well beyond the bare requirements of engagement with our students. I look out my window and see all of these many good things happening here for the world to see, for all to be part of, for the growth and development of each young man as the extraordinary happens, bit by bit, young man by young man, each and every day. A lot happens here, between my office and the other side of the parking lot, on this small campus. That Celtic cross that sits atop the Blessed Edmund Rice Chapel on the other end of my view is a perfect framework for all things Palma to happen as they do right here, down to earth, up close and personal, day in, day out. I see a lot of mature innocence growing and becoming common among our students in all grades, especially from those who just happen to be seniors. Going through adolescence is not a sprint but is, rather, a marathon. Good guys do win and are heading in the right direction. I can think of no other place where this takes place better than right here at Palma.

Palma has been blessed with the opportunity to be the site of numerous happy situations over the years. While I'd like to think that nothing would ever surprise me, the situations that provide the most satisfying pause are the ones where there has been exceptional growth and progress, above and beyond the extraordinary, so to speak.

I am very excited by the recent decision by the Palma Board of Directors in redirecting the Palma tuition structure for the next several years. Lowering tuition, eliminating ordinary fees, and locking-in tuition for four years are all a response to what the Board has heard. This bold decision is a testimony to the support Palma has received from the wider community these last several years; it is, in itself, a statement of support for those who yearn for a Palma education and want nothing but the best for their son(s) as Palma believes that dream should be possible and attainable to all who have that yearning. One of the major tenets of the seven *Essential Elements of an Edmund Rice Christian Brother Education* is that the school "establish tuition and scholarship policies that open educational opportunities to the poor and disadvantaged" (III. Stand in Solidarity

with those Marginalized by Poverty and Injustice). I applaud the Board in answering this challenge in this manor right now, up close and personal. What a terrific situation the Board has provided all of us to help make happen. I pray our friends, alumni, and parents will continue to be generous to Palma going forward just as they have in the past as they have certainly helped in making all of these many new opportunities possible.

We are moving into a beautiful time of the school year and the holidays will be upon us soon. As beautiful as the season may be, the holidays often present a wide variety of situations in a given family. I am often reminded of the fact that while we certainly have a lot of freedom in picking friends, we have little, if any, choice in the makeup of our families. Some of us will have more opportunities for growth and tolerance than will others. As painful as it may be at times, we adults have, up close and personal, the chance to model charity and understanding in trying

circumstances to those who are sitting back, taking notice, of the way we handle less than desirable events and/or individuals — and there are hundreds of young men doing that sitting back and taking note. Situations often abound where we least expect to find them.

May God's good blessings continue upon Palma and our hundreds of young men — and their families. Thank you for your continued support of Palma and, especially, of our young men, each a work in progress.

Sincerely,

Brother Patrick D. Dunne, C.F.C.

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President

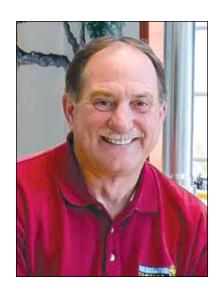
## Chairman of the Board of Directors' Message

As Chairman of the Palma School Board of Directors, I welcome each and every one of you to this new school year. What an exciting time it is to be at Palma, no matter where you are within our organization. To the Faculty and Students, welcome and welcome back. To our Parents and Friends, thank you for your confidence and support of our great school and all the young men who are here today and who will be here in the near future. To our Alumni, please keep your experience at Palma current and ongoing. We need all of you to continue our good work. Together we make up a great organization with a mission that will continue to shape and change our local community and beyond for generations to come.

As the new year gets started, I want to remind you all about the many opportunities each of you have to help here at Palma. In what we do, we are the leader in our community. Not just in academics, sports and other school-related items, but as well in what we teach our young men about the need to be good leaders. Leaders of their families. Leaders in their jobs and places of work. Leaders in their communities. And most importantly, leaders in doing what is right.

We are proud of our young men and want to continue to deliver this opportunity to every young man who would like to receive it. We want to continue to make Palma the most accessible school in our area, and we want to continue to work to make it affordable to any family who would like to be here. Can you help us make that happen?

Through the Palma Fund and many other opportunities that we have here to help with funding of a Palma education, we can reach our goal of making funding less of an obstacle to enrollment at Palma. Every dollar contributed to these funds goes directly to offset tuition and helps us provide this awesome opportunity to many more families who are so deserving. My goal is to see every young man who wants a Palma



education, receive one. I would be so grateful for any help any of you could provide us in reaching this goal very soon.

For all you do for us, THANK YOU. You are making a difference with every bit of assistance of time, talent, and treasure you provide our School. Your gifts are the gifts that will continue to give for years to come.

I am proud to be your Chairman.

on Chesin

Don Chapin

Chairman of the Board of Directors

## Principal's Message

One need only to be present to the vibe on Palma's campus and one becomes permeated with inspiration to do more, to be more, and to aspire to more. Palma is a culture that transforms everyone who becomes a part of it. It opens people's minds and hearts to the everyday inspiration that is around them, giving each person new vision and renewed hope.

Palma is more than a community; it is a family.

The students who begin their journeys here as boys are challenged to develop in character and achievement, and they leave here as young men challenged by integrity, and they are well prepared for the bigger journeys ahead of them. Chieftains embark on international service missions that change lives — their own included. They witness to prisoners, the homeless, the elderly, the disabled, to at-risk youth, to one another and more. They motivate one another and take care of one another. Upperclassmen reach out to newbies and underclassmen with a nurturing arm and a helpful hand, ready to welcome them to Palma. It is because of our students, that the "Palma Family" is palpable, pervasive, and purposeful.

I am inspired with gratitude for our parents who make Palma education a priority for their sons. They attend evening meetings, reach out in partnership with our teachers, volunteer at events, and cheer on our Chieftains in competition. Our parents support the structure and rigor that Palma provides and they articulate the importance of these hallmarks at Palma as important for their sons' maturity and growth to manhood. Parents who gather to support various interests at Palma, find new friends and common bonds that are forged first among their sons. It brings joy to see so much support for, and with, one another in our parent community.

I marvel at the many dynamic personalities who dedicate themselves to our school's mission. The cadre of teachers on staff responding to the noblest vocation of teaching here at Palma has, perhaps, never been stronger. Members of the Palma faculty carry degrees and post-graduate degrees from some of the top universities in the country. They arrive early and stay late. They make themselves present to our students in and out of the classroom. Beyond the daily instruction of courses throughout the day, Palma teachers lead and mentor young men in so many other facets of campus life. They advise clubs — social, academic, and otherwise; they lead among their peers as department chairs; they coach various sports during and outside seasons of sport; and they serve in the community. Among the members of Palma's faculty, there is a musician, a doctor, a pharmacist, a lawyer, a professional athlete, an artist, a physicist, a colonel, a professional photographer, an international Olympian, a published editor, philanthropists, and members of various boards. Men and women of such distinction and achievement gathered under the Palma banner for the success of our young men.



We have a history here of many good and giving people with willing and gracious hearts. Please continue to support this legacy with the same generous hospitality and zeal with which you champion our mission here at Palma. I look forward to another remarkable year at Palma. Thank you for all you are and do for our school and community.

Go Chieftains!

David J. Sullivan Principal

> It brings joy to see so much support for, and with, one another in our parent community.

## Advancement Director's Message

The generosity and commitment of our Palma School community is a hallmark of our history and of this *President's Report* of Donors. Once again this year, the participation of many had a vital impact on the experience of all who learn, teach, and work at our great school. Together we succeeded in meeting important financial goals that translated into an enhanced ability to perpetuate the highest educational standards.

During the 2014-2015 fiscal year, annual gifts from parents, alumni, past parents, grandparents, foundations, businesses and friends, set four Palma Fund records! The number of alumni making a gift reflected in a 55% increase in actual dollars while our proud Palma parents making a gift increased by an extraordinary 54%. Additionally, unrestricted Palma Fund donations, which allow the school to direct funds to areas of greatest need, increased by 11% over the previous year. With great appreciation to everyone who recognizes the critical role annual giving plays in the life of our school, Palma has been able to continue our commitment to provide technology upgrades, faculty professional development, library resources, classroom tools and equipment, financial aid, community service activities and a safe and welcoming campus.

As we review the results of our fundraising efforts and consider the tangible resources made possible by our donors' financial support, we acknowledge with deep gratitude all those listed in this *President's Report*. Without the participation of a broad spectrum of donors, we could not accomplish our goals. Your gifts provide students the opportunity for lifetime friendships and the gift of a quality Catholic college-preparatory education. On behalf of the Palma School community, the students, faculty and staff who are touched by your gift, many heartfelt thanks.



Director, Institutional Advancement



Your gifts provide students the opportunity for lifetime friendships and the gift of a quality Catholic college-preparatory education.

### MISSION STATEMENT

Palma is dedicated to providing young men an excellent college-preparatory education in a

Roman Catholic environment that embraces *The Essential Elements of an Edmund Rice Christian Brother Education* and challenges each individual to develop spiritually, intellectually, morally, physically, and socially.



## A Bold New Vision for Palma School

On October 1, 2015, Br. Patrick Dunne announced to the Palma School community that an exciting restructuring of the tuition package had been approved by the Board of Directors. The new tuition structure was created to help current parents with the rising cost of living and to make a Palma education available to a greater number of boys.

The tuition for the 2016-17 school year will be \$7,000 for the Junior High and \$13,900 for High School. What is more exciting is that these new rates will be locked-in throughout the duration of a boy's enrollment in each school. Gone are the days when parents dread the spring announce-

ment about upcoming tuition rates. With the lock-in, parents will know what the tuition will cost over the course of their son's enrollment at Palma.

The new tuition and lock-in feature are great news, but it keeps getting better. The basic building and maintenance fee, technology fee and enrollment/ registration fee, which were traditionally assessed with the annual contract, will be included in the new tuition. First-time students will be required to make a deposit equivalent to one monthly payment upon enrollment, but that will count as their first month's payment when school begins.

Siblings of an enrolled student will receive a 20% discount off their tuition while the boys are simultaneously enrolled.

"This is an innovative concept," said David Sullivan, Palma Principal. "I don't know of any other Catholic school in the nation that is doing this."

The restructured tuition is also an affirmation of the charism of Blessed Edmund Rice and fulfills one of the *Essential Elements of a Christian Brother Education* by making a Palma education more accessible to boys in the tri-county area. The envi-

ronment and program at Palma School is tranformative for both the student and his family. The vision moving forward is that of a community comprised of more young men of character because more families were able to seize the new opportunities Palma School offers.

The Board of Directors was careful to point out that the commitment made to faculty and staff, and to keeping up-to-date with technology, will not be affected by the change.

#### How is this all possible and why now?

Palma School has been blessed with generous constituencies across the board with record giving from the faculty and staff, parents, the Board, benefactors, and alumni. In addition, the skillful shepherding of resources has yielded appreciable returns and new benefactors have munificently broadened the coffers; the latter to ensure this initiative is implemented.

"I hope this news is as positive to parents as it is exciting to me," said Br. Dunne. "I remain grateful for all of the support we receive."

#### One step of a larger process

Restructuring the tuition is certainly an enticement, but few would expect that the new tuition alone reap the kind of rewards it merits, at least not without a team in place to help spread the word.

This fall Palma welcomed Raul Rico, Jr. '03, as the new Director of Admissions. Being an alum,

Raul comes to Palma with an inside understanding of the culture and benefits the school provides. His extensive experience working for United Way has allowed him to hit the ground running. With Jim Micheletti providing sup-



Raul Rico, Jr. '03

port and continuity, Rico has been industrious in organizing home visits, bringing student ambassadors to parishes and schools and making contacts with local businesses to secure a friendly outlet for information about Palma and their admissions events.

Another new hire this fall was Roger Rybkowski, Director of Marketing and Communications. Roger has a history of graphic arts and communications experience, having operated his own company for more than two decades. And, he's no stranger to Palma since both his wife,



Roger Rybkowski

Cindy, and daughter, Arianna, are graduates of Notre Dame High School. "I've known about the quality education and unmatched culture here at Palma for a long time. It is a privilege to promote the school and witness the remarkable things that happen on campus daily." Roger commented.

Of course, the single-most important factor in the annual accomplishments heralded at Palma School is the preeminent faculty. With an unwavering passion for the subjects they teach, Palma boasts one of the best assembled faculties in our area. Their dedication is reflected in both their work ethic and in the respect given by students, staff and parents.

Exciting things are happening as Palma School moves boldly forward. The new energy on campus is palpable.

**Tuition for Junior High: \$7,000** 

Tuition for High School: \$13,900

**Building and Maintenance fee,** 

Technology fee and Enrollment/

student's continuous enrollment

20% discount on sibling's tuition

during simultaneous enrollment

Registration fee are included

Tuition is locked-in during a

in each school

## **High School Graduation Awards**

**Rishay Patel** Monsignor Thomas J. Earley Gold Medal for Scholastic Proficiency Valedictorian **David Nunes** Monsignor Thomas J. Earley Gold Medal for Scholastic Proficiency Salutatorian

Kyle MarkfieldPalma Gold Medal in TheologyNicholas ParksPalma Gold Medal in English

 Minchan Kim
 Palma Gold Medal in Social Studies

 Kyle Markfield
 Palma Gold Medal in Mathematics

 Minchan Kim
 Palma Gold Medal in Foreign Language

Vinh Ngo Palma Gold Medal in Science

Jacob Rosales Palma Gold Medal in Arts

Rick Keaton Palma Gold Medal in Music

Rishay Patel Palma Gold Medal in Computer Science

Jonathan Garibay Palma Loyalty Award

Jack KosterPrincipal's Leadership AwardRick KeatonPalma Leadership Award

Minchan Kim Monroe Award for Proficiency in Mathematics

**Tobias Wisner** Brother Martin D. Cunningham Award for Excellence in English

**David Nunes** Brother Frank Luke Dalton Memorial Award for Excellence in Social Studies and Service

Jack BurlisonW.H. "Hank" Muller Outstanding Scholar Athlete AwardKasey CoryBrother M.L. Crumlish Athlete of the Year Award

## Junior High School Graduation Awards

**Kevin Beach** Monsignor Thomas J. Earley Award for Religious Studies

Diego GuarjardoEnglish AwardDane-Matthew DizonMathematics AwardDane-Matthew DizonMusic AwardDane-Matthew DizonLiterature AwardMatthew BennettSocial Studies Award

Matthew Morasca Science Award

Thomas Padilla Foreign Language Award

**Devin Plummer** Fine Arts Award

**Sam Lavorato** The Gerald D. Flowers Golden Chieftain Scholarship Award for Service

Samuel Lathos Brother Charles McManus Award for Scholarship, Leadership, Citizenship, and Sportsmanship

Diego GuarjardoCJSF ScholarshipSamuel LathosCJSF Scholarship

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**Sam Lavorato** Father Vic Farrell Memorial Scholarship

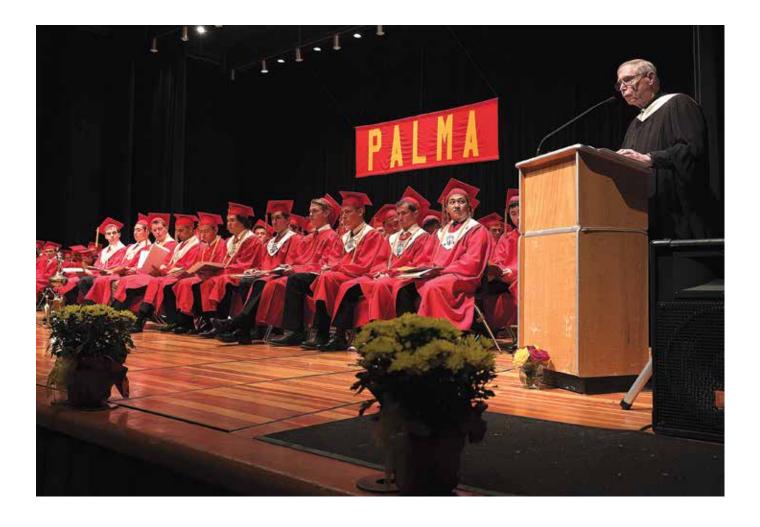
## **College Bound**

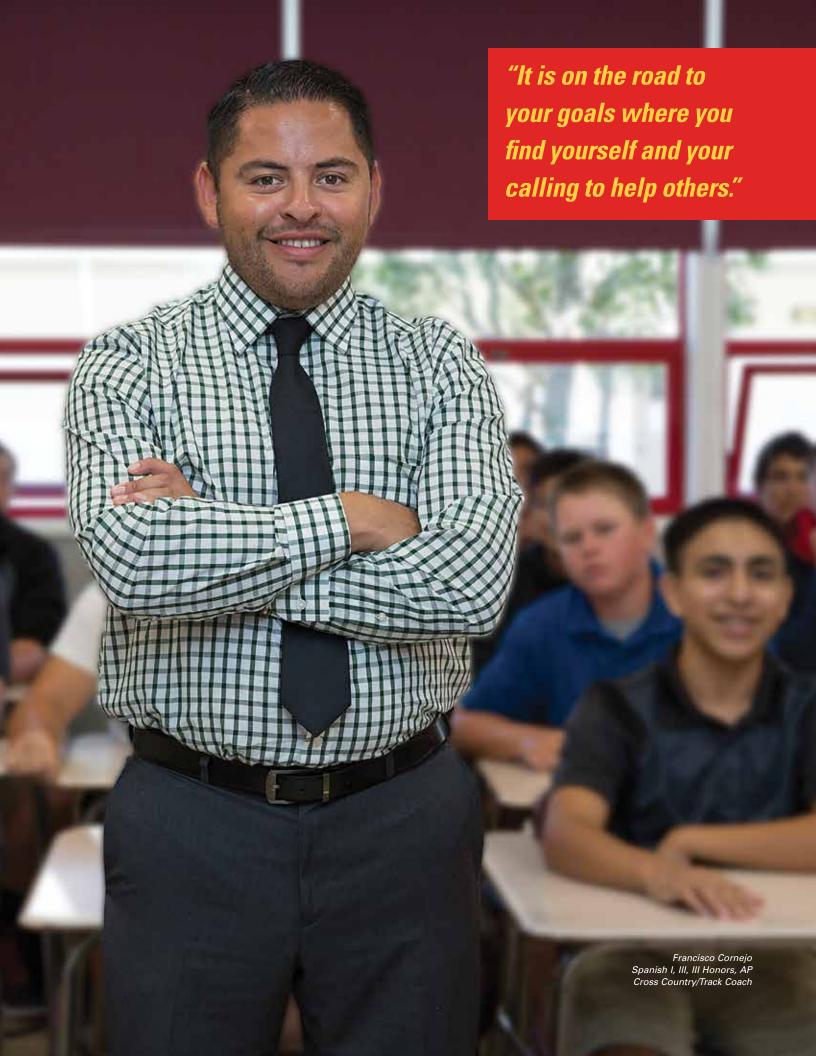
The students from the graduating class of 2015 will be attending some of the finest universities in the country. We are proud to announce the colleges our graduates are enrolled in this fall.

Amherst College Arizona State University California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo California State University, Chico California State University, Fresno California State University, Fullerton California State University, Long Beach California State University, Monterey Bay California State University, Sacramento Cornell University Cuesta College **Duke University** Estrella Mountain Community College Fresno Pacific University Hartnell College **Humboldt State University** 

Iona College Kettering University Louisiana State University Loyola Marymount University Monterey Peninsula College New York University Northern Arizona University Oregon State University Pasadena City College Saint Mary's College of California San Diego State University San Jose State University Santa Clara University Sonoma State University Texas A&M University University of Alabama University of Arizona

University of California, Santa Barbara University of California, Davis University of California, Irvine University of Colorado at Boulder University of Nevada, Reno University of Notre Dame University of Oregon University of the Pacific University of Portland University of Redlands University of San Diego University of Southern California University of Wyoming Villanova University West Hills Community College Westmont College Yale University





## Learning to Look Past Myself: Francisco Cornejo

Palma School has been changing lives for more than 60 years, but the changes do not begin and end with students. Such is the experience for Francisco Cornejo, Spanish instructor at Palma since 2013.

A transformative part of the ministry program here at Palma School is the annual mission trip to help build homes for impoverished families. I reveled hearing stories about my fellow teachers' experiences on these treks. Their tales of enriching hard work convinced me to apply to Pilgrims in Peru, a Christian Brothers 10-day immersion program for Edmund Rice School staff and teachers that mirrors that of the students.' With only a week before the application deadline, I threw my "chullo" (hat) into the ring. My application was approved and in early 2015 the process of my journey began.

In the spring I was given a question on which to reflect and instructed to share my answer with seven others from across the country who were going to accompany me to Peru. As I read their responses, self-doubt began to steal my confidence. All their answers were so "Catholic" that I began to feel I was not spiritually ready to make such a trip. Two more

reflection questions were shared in the following months and my self confidence took hit after hit.

About two weeks before we were supposed to leave, I was really thinking about canceling — even though that is not the kind of person I am. My friends reminded me of that and asked how many times in my life would I have such an opportunity? They helped me look past myself and find the excitement again.

Just prior to my departure, I made contact with three others who were flying with me to South

America. After my early start from Prunedale, we all met up in Houston and made the long flight to Lima. We arrived around midnight; exhausted, disoriented and hungry. We were escorted to what could be best described as a beat-up, old junker and made the 40-minute drive with Br. Casey to his house.

I met the entire group that night and was surprise to see it was seven women and me. Even though I was exhausted, I couldn't sleep. My mind jumped from what was to happen in the next 10 days to missing my family, this being my first time on another continent. I remembered my friends' encouragement and decided I needed to be happy and open-minded and to live in the moment.

Our first morning was leisurely with breakfast of cake and coffee. Br. Casey explained from here forward we would have a tight itinerary to follow and the first stop on the agenda was a trip to the national museum in Lima to learn about the country's history and the civil unrest that had plagued Peru for decades.

Every day we were given a strict itinerary to follow. This was not only to keep us on task, but also designed to help us recognize each moment of

our day. The broader lesson was to appreciate the here and now, take it all in, and recognize the people and places we often overlook when we're too focused on our goal. Every night we met for reflection and the group spent time writing in our journals, then sharing what we had written. I was surprised how valuable this time would become for me and how deeply I would begin to understand what is important.

The first couple of days pushed us beyond our comfort zones; mentally, physically and spiritually, as we spent half the day building a house and the other half visiting or being among Lima's poorest people. We spent time in an area where indigenous people from the surrounding mountains set up make-shift shelters after being driven out of the mountains by rebel forces.

A seminal moment came when visiting an orphanage. I had stepped away from the room and when I returned, all of the group were holding children in their arms. I looked around to see if any child was without a companion and noticed a small boy, Daniel, hiding under a desk. He was either scared or shy, but coaxing from one of the women was not moving him. I knelt

> down and with arms outstretched, asked him to come see me. He leapt into my arms and held me tightly. In that moment I could think of nothing but how important it was for Daniel to be held. In each other's arms, our worlds changed.

earn money. One way is through women's co-op kitchens where people make food to sell at the bus stops and on the corners. When visiting such a kitchen, I purchased 20 pieces of chocolate. Later, on the bus, I sold the chocolate and made a 10 sol profit which I gave back to the people by

placing it in the collection plate at Mass that Sunday.

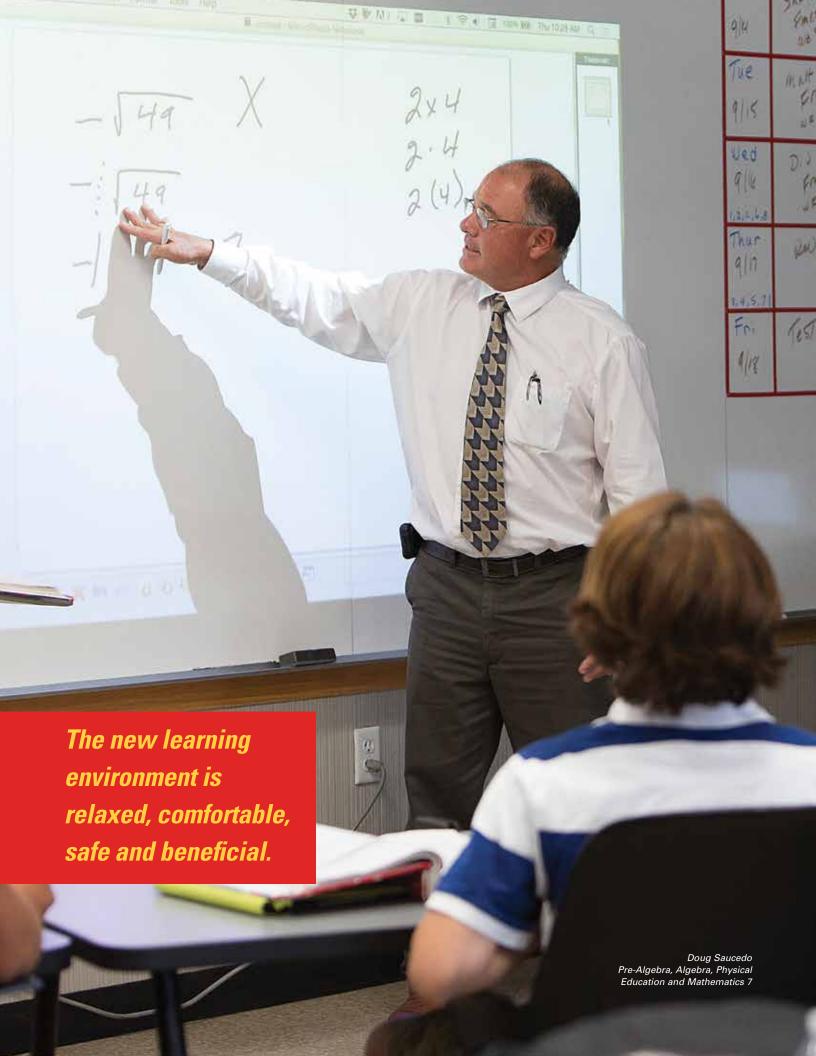
On the poor streets of Lima, people find ways to Francisco Cornejo with Daniel

> The latter half of the trip took us to the nicer areas of Lima and neighboring cities of Cusco and Ollantaytambo where we would see modern shopping malls contrasted by ancient temples and dams made by the Incas centuries ago. The trip culminated with a tour of Macchu Picchu and the one-and-a-quarter-mile hike up the mountain to the ancient city. It was literally breath-taking.

> I returned from the trip a changed man having lived the definition of "pilgrim." For the rest of my days, I will still set goals, but I will take the time to observe the journey along the way. It is on the road to your goals where you find yourself and your calling to help others. The trip illustrated how very fortunate we are and how our definition of "need" is not even close to what real need is about.

> I also learned to value my heritage more. In missing my family, I also missed what we did as a family and saw how the everyday experiences of home ought not to be taken for granted. No finer point could have been put on that as when I finally was able to eat one of my mother's homemade tacos again. It was the best taco I ever ate.





## Turning His Classroom On Its Side: Doug Saucedo

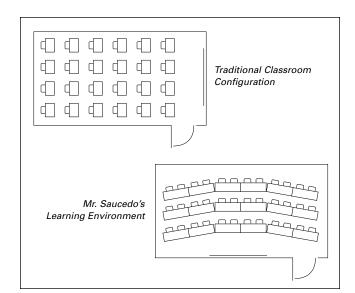
After nearly 35 years of experience teaching math and algebra, Doug Saucedo, Palma instructor, thought that there had to be a better way. Uncomfortable, restrictive desks and a myriad of personal quirks were giving students convenient excuses for being distracted. Add teaching algebra to the mix and his students' minds were everywhere except on him and his lesson.

Since there were really only two things in his control: his teaching style and the environment in which he was teaching, he decided it was time to explore ways to improve them both.

He started with his environment. His classroom is long and narrow with windows along one side. This made for multiple rows of desks with the back rows being a considerable distance from the chalkboard. The bank of windows created an opportunity for distraction from every seat. The desks were hindering in their design and the writing surface was limited.

Saucedo noted that the attached seats induced fatigue, causing students to fidget and lose concentration.

The solution was to replace the desks with tables oriented to the width, instead of the length, of the room (see the comparison below). This allows every student to be closer to the board and the instructor — the furthest student is only three rows back. The tables also provide an expanded writing surface. For seating, he introduced lightweight, formed swivel chairs. They are comfortable and allow students freedom of movement. Also, instead of only six students up front, the new arrangement doubles that number to 12 allowing 24 students to be within 12 feet of the board.



Each table is equipped with a partition stand so "mini cubicles" can be created to give each student a space in which to concentrate without the temptation of looking over onto his neighbor's test. However, without the partitions, these tables allow Palma students to practice part of their ISOs — the moral values of honesty and integrity.

The new tables also contribute to safety. "Have you ever seen a six-foot-two, 250-pound senior climb under a standard desk during an earthquake drill?" asks Saucedo. "It's not pretty." The new tables easily accommodate all students and afford a level of protection that desks don't have the

capacity to provide.

To improve his teaching style, Saucedo turned to technology. His research uncovered the Mimio projection system, which can be used with an existing white board and is less expensive than a "smart board." With a stylus pen, Saucedo writes on the board as usual with the option to change colors. While writing, everything is being simulated

on his laptop in real time. Each board is saved and uploaded to his website daily for students to review while doing their homework. The color coding allows Saucedo to connect concepts visually. Saucedo has been using the Mimio system for about 12 years with great success.

A big advantage of this system is it allows students to observe and listen intently instead of frantically copying everything being written on the board while trying



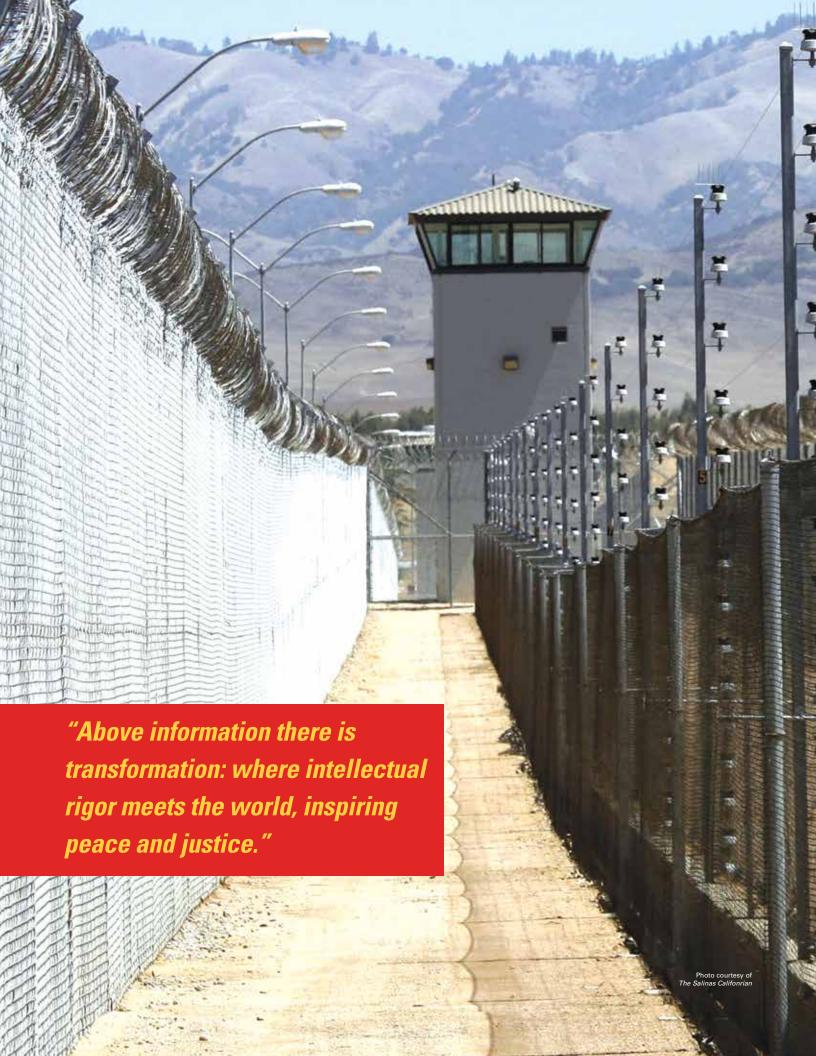
Mimio's projector

to focus on the teacher's explanation.

The next generation Mimio will include voice recording so that a student can actually play that day's, or any other day's, lesson — watching the equations being written while hearing Saucedo's instruction. "We aren't quite there yet, but I am anxiously awaiting this new technology," said Saucedo.

Recent studies, both in the US and in Europe, are confirming what Doug Saucedo has developed on his own — spatial environment and comfortable furniture make a big difference in students' attention and retention.

Two more teachers at Palma School are installing the new learning environments with more looking into its feasibility for their classes. It looks like the revolution has begun and it's turning classrooms on their side.



## **Doers of the Word**

#### **Hard numbers**

The recidivism rate in our California prison system hovers around 67%. This means most who are incarcerated are released only to commit more crimes and end up back behind bars. It costs approximately \$50,000 to \$60,000 a year to keep a human being in prison. At the Soledad Prison complex alone, there are some 10,000 inmates. The math here is harsh for all of us paying this bill. Harsher still, is the loss of human talents and gifts from felons, created in the image and likeness of God, who have the ability to contribute to society and create a more just and peaceful world as humane human beings. This is where Palma steps in...to work with inmates to stay out of prison and to realize their worth in the world.

#### Palma students work with the Life Cycle team at Soledad Prison

The Life Cycle team, dedicated to reducing recidivism, consists of inmates serving life sentences who gather with younger and lesser offenders to arm them with direction and hope on their release. The program works and has witnessed many inmates return to society to contribute. Palma is blessed to play a part and learn life lessons from men whose stories are intensely motivating to merit a good life and never to get caught up in crime.



During the 2014-2015 academic year, Palma students spent hours inside the prison meeting with as many as 100 inmates at a time to share stories about father-son relationships. The result of these meetings was a co-written publication titled *Brokenness and Blessings* about the importance of caring fatherson relationships in the development of every boy's life. Palma student writings and inmate writings were positioned side-by-side in the text



Lt. Roland Ramon of the Soledad Prison with the Chieftains at the prison entrance.

anonymously, with the intention of showing student solidarity with the inmates, our common humanity, and hope for a better way. Many of the students claimed this was the most powerful and meaningful experience of their social and moral development at Palma.

Palma's goal is never simply to fill students with information. Above information, there is transformation: where intellectual rigor meets the world, inspiring peace and justice.

"What I really appreciate about the Life Cycle team we work with, the lifers at the prison, is they acknowledge what they have done — they acknowledge the hurts they've committed. And they're not saying they don't deserve it as a consequence, they are saying they deserve the opportunity to give back."

— Jim Micheletti, Director of Campus Ministry at Palma School

#### **Action Leaders Win Big at Essential Elements Fair in Florida**

On September 24th-27th Action Leadership represented Palma School at the annual gathering of student leaders. This conference gathers student leaders from 19 Blessed Edmund Rice Christian Brother schools in five countries and challenges them to develop an advocacy project aimed at creating a more just and peaceful world. Palma's work with inmates serving life sentences at the Soledad Prison earned high praise from all the Christian Brothers and Christian Brother Schools present. Action's goal this year is to read and analyze Steinbeck's *The Grapes of Wrath* along with the inmates and meet for discussion of this classic. The novel's themes speak directly to the language of the *Essential Elements:* to "stand in solidarity with those marginalized" and to "value the dignity of each person." Trip coordinator and chaperone, Mia Mirassou, said this year's group "exemplified our best" with their effort and attitude.

Pictured at right: Seniors Matthew Gastello, Jacob Haas, Bryce Robinson, Robert Batson



## Palma's Top Ten Men of 2015

Palma's mission is to instill in its young men a passion for learning and provide a solid educational foundation on which to build. Each year we salute the seniors whose outstanding performance in the classroom exemplifies this mission. Following are the ten seniors with the highest grade point averages in their class. They reveal their plans for college.



**Jack Burlison** Amherst College Economics and English



**Austin Hussain** Fresno Pacific Business Accounting & Finance



**Matthew Jensen UC Davis** Managerial Economics



Rick J. Keaton Pre-Med Biological Sciences minor in Global Health



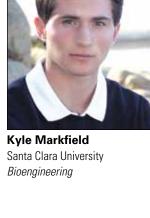
Minshan "Kyle" Kim New York University Stern School of Business Business Political Economy



**David Nunes Rishay Patel** University of Notre Dame Yale University **Economics** 



Wesley Pezzini Cal Poly San Luis Obispo Ag Business





**Schyler Treanor UC** Davis **Economics** 

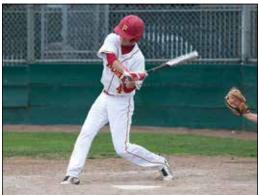
## **Chieftain Spring Sports**

#### **Baseball**

The Varsity Chieftains began the season with new faces throughout the lineup, which made them an inexperienced team despite starting several seniors on the mound, including one of the best pitching prospects, Cam Crone '15. Jack Koster '15, Ryan Pederson '15, Nico DeSantis '15, Chris Childs '15, John Ballie '15, Aaron Flores '16 and Jack Rodoni '15 all had a hand in helping rebuild the team. We won six out of our first nine games, which is a testament to the players and our assistant coaches who were phenomenal. We all bought into the idea of winning, believing in each other, playing for one another and playing with a lot of heart. Noteworthy contributors included seniors Brad Caraccioli, Hayden Spencer and Chris Childs. By season's end Danny Carnazzo '17, Mike Gutierrez '16, Tanner Okamura '17, Anthony DeSantis '17, Josh Zanger '16, Matt Smith '16 (team MVP), Nick Gardoni '16 and Aaron Flores '16 may have been the best players on the field in most games. In the CCS Playoffs, despite losing **Angelo Valdez** '15 and **Jack Rodoni** '15 to injury, the no. 16 Chieftains lost 1-0 in 14 innings to no. 5 Sacred Heart Prep in a game that turned out to be one of the greatest high school games ever played according to fans and umpires.



Sam Stoutenborough '18



Jacob Fajnor '17

In his first year leading a talented group of baseball players for the Palma JV squad, Coach Barry Sharpe and the JV Palma Chieftains took their bumps and bruises. This talented team competed in a top-notch Wilcox Tournament in which we posted a 1-2 record against some stout competition. In a tough Monterey Bay League, it took a collective unit to provide consistent good play, game-in and game-out. During the season there were games when the Palma defense shined like no other and in that, we

witnessed this team posting a three-game win streak that included a 3-1 win over San Benito and a tough win over Monterey on their field in a 4-3 nail-biter. We capped off the season with a 5-1 win against rival Salinas.



Matthew D'Arrigo '16

#### Golf

Consistent and excellent play was the theme for the 2015 Palma Chieftain Golf team. The Varsity won our 13th consecutive League (now MBL) Championship and made our way through CCS Finals (top three teams advanced) to the Nor Cal Finals finishing a single shot away from the State Championships. The scoring average for the team in the post season was the lowest on record for the Chieftains. At Nor Cal Finals the throw out score was 77 (5 of 6 scores count). We were solid from top to bottom. Our senior class of last year's State finalist Jack Burlison '15 along with Caleb Cater '15 and Travis Winn '15 (1st Team All-League) have been Varsity starters since freshman year and have contributed some great rounds and memories for Palma Golf. Also, Patrick Abadilla '15 made the cut last Fall in the First Tee Open at Pebble Beach and was one of our most improved players. While we will miss the talent, personality and dedication of each of the departing seniors, Palma has a solid nucleus for the future. Junior Andrew Grogin (1st Team All-League) played solid golf all year. Freshman **Joey Burlison** (1st Team All-League) earned the team low scoring average for the season while **Hansi Hell** '18 joined Joey as the low players in the post season (returning team low scores of 69 in CCS Regionals and 74 at Nor Cal Finals). Dominic Hoover '16, Brian Alarid '17, A.J. Fitzgerald '18 and Max House '18 earned Varsity blocks and



Jack Burlison '16, Tavis Winn '15, Matthew D'Arrigo '16, and Caleb Cater '15

returned some fine scores during the season. Assessing the season Coach **Clem Richardson** '67 noted; "While we were disappointed to come oh-so-close to the State Finals, we had a year to remember. Our seniors will move on to great schools after outstanding Palma contributions. The team spirit, dedication to excellence in the classroom, course and community along with their good example to our younger players will benefit us for years to come. Our coaching staff is great and we collectively enjoy the challenge to be our best. Palma Golf is fun."

Our JV team also enjoyed success, finishing with an 11-4-1 mark. Our low mark as a team during the season was a score of 186 (6 over par). We captured another MBL Finals win over teams including those from Aptos, Carmel and Stevenson. Seven different players shot the low score for the team in various matches this season. The JV's were led by JV MVP Dominick Hoover '16, Patrick Abadilla '15, Brian Alarid '17, Hansi Hell '18, A.J. Fitzgerald '18 and Max House '15 along with Blake Martella '15, Ryan Reade '15, Jacob Haas '16, Twins Richard and Robert Hernandez '17, Ty Dailey '17, 3rd generation Palma family member Carson Souza '17, Carlos Moreno '17, Michael Carrillo '18 and Grayson McGrew '18. The outstanding coaches helping to develop the Palma golfers are John Oliverio '69, Dr. Kimble Cater and Kurt Dillard.

#### Lacrosse

Palma Varsity lacrosse started with all the hopes a team would want...a dynamic new, young coach, a chance for the league title, and a chance to name a couple players as All-Americans. The year began with true wins in pre-season and tournament play, that put Palma on the Nor Cal lacrosse map. With nine seniors, some with lacrosse experience from childhood, a powerhouse was becoming established after only two previous seasons in the Monterey Bay League. Close losses to San Jose's Archbishop Mitty High School, Pacific Grove, and Stevenson did not weaken the resolve of this proud band of Palma brothers. Individual standouts this year were Rishay Patel '15, Anthony Prodis '15, and Gus Brigantino '16 playing attack; Mark Beach '15, Matthew Gastello '16, and Griffin Kaminskis '15 as midfielders; Aaron Burns '16 as our long stick midfielder, and **Austin Pullara** '15 was our key defender. **Cody Lipe** '15 was fearless in the cage, and had an exceptional rate of saves. With the best record in three years, including wins against Scotts Valley High and Aptos, Palma made it to the playoffs, but was defeated in a thrilling and close match against Pacific Collegiate High School of Santa Cruz. So, no league title this year, but two players were recognized by the Monterey Bay League for their exceptional ability. Rishay Patel '15 was granted first team all-



Rishay Patel '15



Gus Brigantino '16

league, and **Anthony Prodis** '15 was granted second team all-league. A strong Palma lacrosse team is brewing, interest is growing, and hope for next year started the day the playoffs were over. Palma lacrosse — it's only getting better!

The JV lacrosse team proved that the thrill of the game reins superior to the win/loss record for this 2015 season. All players made every effort to make every practice and game, injured or not, throughout the season, till that last whistle trumpeted the final second of the season. The level of commitment to lacrosse exhibited from each young man kept the coaches pushing and expecting more from every practice. As a freshman, goalie Douglas McDougall '18 anchored this team with his five years of experience with the local Braveheart travel team. His focus to coordinate the defense delivered many close games. Douglas is our MVP this year. As a junior, Isaac Escobar '16 began his third year of lacrosse, and quickly became the voice of the offense. His direction with the younger players allowed the team to learn the game, with the coaching staff thankful for this. Third year veteran junior **Gabe Rianda** '16 led the team in goals per game played, as his expertise in shooting on goal gave Palma JV lacrosse valid fighting power. Veteran sophomores Adam Costa '17 and Keegan Mottau '17 contributed with unique stick skills, which meant solid goals, and hope for next season. Most of the other players on the Palma JV team had never held a lacrosse stick before this season, so a definite learning year, but also a season charged with physical drive and a determination to win, which they accomplished at their last game of the season. The season was a success because of the team's determination to compete as a unit, the iron will shown daily, and the fun we all had!

#### **Swimming**

In the sport of swimming there are no divisions in the CCS Section. However, in the MBL there are the Gabilan and the Pacific divisions. Palma/Notre Dame is in the Gabilan with Salinas High School, Monterey, San Benito, Alvarez, and Christopher High School. Palma held their own in a tough division. In 2015, with a small group of 11 dedicated and enthusiastic swimmers Palma held their own in the Gabilan division. Swim meets were won against Alvarez and Christopher High School. Meets were incredibly close between Monterey and San Benito. Palma bested Gilroy High School and had a blast swimming against Carmel in the MTAL. It was a fun season with swimmers stepping up and doing what needed to be done in the pool and during dry-land training. The season wrapped up with every swimmer making drastic improvement in their times and all who swam at MBL's placing in their respective events. Team Captain **Skyler Blean** '16 and a star swimmer led by quiet example stepping up to do

whatever was needed in order score points for the team. Skyler, for a number of reasons, was Palma's "Most Inspirational" swimmer. Meet Captain Andrew Serrano '16 led by daily example by doing each day's work out with zest and a positive attitude. He was Palma's 2015 "Most Dedicated" swimmer. Diego Munoz '16 was the 2015 "Spirit/Prayer Captain" and has done the best job yet in this position. He also was a consistent breast stroke and 200IM swimmer for the team. "Most Improved" swimmer was **Armando Borrego** '17, not because **Armando** had the most work to do as a swimmer, but because he worked the absolute hardest in practice day-in and day-out. He also demonstrated that a positive attitude means everything. "Most Valuable swimmer" went to **Sam Given** '17. He was at practice daily, worked hard and scored an incredible number of points for the team. He met all the criteria for a most valuable TEAM player. Sam was an incredible sprinter, but improved to become the premier breast stroke swimmer on the team. Honorable mention goes to Doug Jackson '17 and Fermin Calvario '17 for their incredible performances in the backstroke throughout the seaso, **Armando** Borrego '17 for being a dedicated 500 free swimmer and Andrew Serrano '16 for being the 100 fly guy and 200 IMer. Special recognition



Skyler Blean '16

goes to **Austin Hussain** '15 for qualifying for CCS in the 100 and 200 freestyle. **Austin** placed 9th in the 100 free at CCS and 5th in the 200 free earning a berth in the Inaugural State of California CIF Championships in Clovis. **Austin** placed 12th overall in the State of California in his 200 free going 1:40.43 to earn his All American Consideration time. **Austin Hussain** '15 broke Palma School records in the 200 free (1:40.43), 50 free (22.10) and in the 100 free (47.04). **Austin** will be swimming for Fresno Pacific next year. We wish the very best to our two graduating seniors, **Kevin Heffernan** '15 and **Austin Hussain** '15. We also look forward to next year with our fantastic group of returning athletes and a very strong group of incoming freshman swimmers.

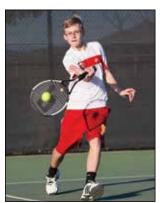
#### **Tennis**

The Palma Junior High tennis team had a very successful spring 2015 season. We were a bit short of players, with only seven, but they practiced hard and improved continuously throughout the season. We had matches against local junior high team competitors from Salinas, Monterey, and Carmel, which gave the players great experience and tested their spirit, endurance and skill. All of our young men played both singles and doubles matches, but three players were generally focused on singles (Hudson Wood '20, Isaac Paulo '20, and Henry McKelvie '20) and four generally played doubles (Luke Song '20, Alex Thomas '19, Jacob Serrano '20, and Nicholas Slater '20). We look forward to more success during the next Palma tennis season.



Nick Ottone '16

Strings are made out of Polyester, not just synthetic gut. Rackets are composite graphite and some are even longer; even our tennis shoes have tire rubber in the soles. The sport of tennis has evolved into the 21st century. And yet the person who is hitting the ball is still the most important part of the sport and, of course, the integrity of the hitter. This year Palma tennis had 24 great ambassadors leading the way. Tennis is a gentlemen's sport and with leaders like our captains **Connor Denier** '15 and **Jack Kesecker** '15 our team was well represented in league. Tennis is all about traditions and Blake Mitchell '17, our MVP this year, let his racket do the talking as he dominated the number two spot in singles. No need for outbursts! Players like Nick Ottone '16 playing three singles just won his match got to the net to shake hands and say good match. Team spirit could be heard from our doubles teams Noel Calinawan '17, Chase Kesecker '17, Ricky Cabrera '16, and Rick Keaton '15. Even when the last Chieftain was on the court, our team would rally around him for support. At practice, the team would stay and play until dark. They loved the camaraderie and the sport. Tennis can be a streaky sport and our number three doubles team definitely proved that. **Ben Snow** '17 and **Fin Rawson** '18 racked up six wins in a row and had the most wins on our team. All sports are about getting better and Evan McNeil '17 our number four singles player did just that, playing almost every match this year and receiving the most improved player award. Our season started with intense practices, learning new positions, teaming up with different partners, mastering top spin and for the new kids learning how to keep score. The boys would learn how tennis is all about the elements, sun and wind and, boy, can the wind blow in the afternoons in Salinas. The boys learned humility (we had a few 0-7 matches), but our boys held their heads high and congratulated the opponents on a great match. In all the matches we played this year, our boys made great line calls and complimented their



Evan McNeil '17

opponents' good shots. The coaches of the league recognized that and awarded our team the Sportsmanship Award for the season. How the boys play tennis reflects on how they live their lives. Our boys would do anything for one another and truly cared about our team. To me as a coach and someone who loves tennis, that is what was most rewarding about our season. It was game set and match and yes, Palma WON!



Emilio Martinez '17 and Vianni Fratangelo '17

#### **Track**

The 2015 spring season for Junior High was one to remember. We had multiple event champions this year. To name some individual standouts, **Sam Lavorato** '19 won both the 1600m and the 800. He broke the mile league record running a solid 4:42 mile and a 2:13 800m. In the 8th grade boys 400m, **Dominic Ballesteros** '19 was the league champion in this event running a 63.56 and **Kevin Beach** '19 running a 26.61 to win the 8th grade boys 200m. **Mateo Martinez** '19 won the 8th grade Long Jump and Palma relay teams won the 8th grade 4x100m and 4x400m titles. This year was a year to remember and the future does look bright for these young Chieftains!

The 2015 track and field season at Palma High School was full of adversity and road blocks but in the end the result was similar to years past...our fourth league title in a row! This year's version was one that never quit and always rose to the occasion. The team was led by a small group of dedicated seniors; **Kasey Cory** '15, who had the fastest time in the 100 (10.96 #9 all time), 200 (22.03 #5 all time), 400 and was also the anchor on our 4x100 relay that ran the third fastest time in CCS this year at 43.03. Justin Nobida-Lagrimas '15 was MBL Champ in the 100 (11.03) and finished 4th in CCS, was second in the long jump (22'2.25") and was third in CCS and went on to compete at the State Championships in Clovis, and was on the MBL Champ 4x100 team. Eduardo Barbosa '15 was MBL Champ in the shot put (49'11.5") and finished 5th at CCS. Many others contributed to our 155 to 120 defeat of Hollister for the MBL Title. **Marques Cannon** '15 won the high jump (6'2") and anchored the 4x100 relay; Drew Dalman '17 was the MBL discus champion (134'10"); Clemente Villareal '16 was MBL triple jump champ (41'5.75"). Vianni **Fratangelo** '17 was on the winning 4x100 team as well as scoring points



Octavio Rubio '18, Reno DiTullio '18, Zachary Taylor '18

in the 100, 200 and 4x400. Other key point getters for the Chieftains were Stefano Pezzini '16 in the 300h and triple jump; Jack Fling '17 in the high jump and pole vault; Kevin Telford '17 in the 400 and 4x400; Zac Tamagni '16 in the 400 and 4x400; Jose Montes '15 in the 1600 and 3200; Matt Lucas '15 in high jump; Michael Edeza '15, Nick Denny '16 and Neeraj Lal '15 in the throws; Isaiah Blanco '17 in the 400 and 4x400 and **Kyle Markfield** '15 in the pole vault. Unfortunate injuries to Steven Camcam '15 and Emilio Martinez '17 and Cory left the relays shy of their fastest members as we moved on to CCS but we could not have won the championship without them and they deserve to be mentioned! Palma's Frosh-Soph Team finished fourth at MBL Finals despite having six sophomores at the varsity level. The team was led all season by Kyle Haas '18 in the 200, 400 and relays; Michael Volstedt '18 and Daniel Soto '17 in the 800, 1600 and 3200. Ocatvio Rubio '18 in the 300h and relays; Zac Taylor '18 in the hurdles; Reno DiTullio '18 in the high jump and **Beau Winslow** '17 and **Stanley Smith** '17 in the throws. The future of the Palma varsity track program looks very bright!



Kevin Bass '15 (back), Tobias Wisner '15, Adrian Valdez '15

#### Volleyball

This year, the Chieftains won their second MBL title in two years, finishing the season with a 13-1 league record. This was achieved in a season culminating game against second place Salinas High, where the Chieftains asserted dominance winning three sets to zero. These accomplishments lead to their second playoff birth in school history, falling to Sacred Heart Cathedral in the second round. Led by league MVP **Tobias Wisner** '15 and the league's Setter of the Year **Kevin Bass** '15, the team was again defined by great senior leadership and outstanding team unity. First team all-league defensive man **Ben Bustoz** '16 and First team all-league outside hitter **Shane Folck** '15 proved to be standouts this year as dig and kill leaders in their positions. The work of **Alex Serrano** '16 and **Adrian** 



Shane Folck '15

Valdez '15 in the middle blocker position kept opposing hitters and setters in check throughout the season with stellar blocking performances. The Chieftains look ahead to a successful season next year with returning players like Matt Fusanotti '16, Wyatt Maker '16 and Leo Legrimas '17.

## 2014-2015 Annual Report

### **Giving for 2014-2015**

Fiscal year July 1, 2014 through June 30, 2015

We are privileged to witness the generosity of the extraordinary Palma community who believe in our future as much as they honor the past. The success of our programs and their constant improvement to the highest degree of excellence and innovation depends on your support. The future is bright for Palma School and it is Palma people (students, faculty, staff and you) who are the key to fulfilling our promise and realizing our vision. Thank you for helping us on that journey. I trust I can count on your involvement and generosity again this year! Go Chieftains! It's going to be another extraordinary year!

Br Patrick D. Dunne C.F.C.

President

### Total Income - \$9,639,381

**\$7,861,998 (81%)** - Tuition, Fees & Auxiliary Income

**\$443,539 (5%)** - The Palma Fund & Other Unrestricted Donations

\$362,247 (4%) - Athletic Council

**\$210,157 (2%)** - Bingo (net)

**\$631,028 (7%)** - Scholarship & Other Restricted Donations

**\$130,412 (1%)** - Parents' Club & Sober Graduation

# Who are our donors?

The figures presented in this report are unaudited numbers.

Palma School sincerely appreciates those individuals who generously made annual, capital and endowment gifts between July 1, 2014 and June 30, 2015. To accomplish the school's goals, it takes the support of the entire community — alumni, board members, businesses, faculty, foundations, grandparents, parents, parents of alumni, staff and friends. Through their contributions, these valued constituents ensure that our students continue to have the very best educational experience possible.

**Total Expenses – \$9,639,381** 

**\$5,755,640 (60%)** - Education/ Institutional

\$832,628 (9%) - Plant & Maintenance

\$942,672 (10%) - Financial Aid & Scholarship

**\$535,868 (6%)** - Administrative

\$319,481 (3%) - Athletic Council

\$1,158,167 (11%) - Future Reserve

**\$94,925 (1%)** - Parents' Club & Sober Graduation

#### 2014-2015

# The President's Circle

The President's Circle, established in 2008, gives special recognition to those Palma supporters who have made gifts of \$1,000 or more during the preceding fiscal year. Many families, alumni and friends choose to continue their membership in the President's Circle year after year in recognition of the superior achievements of the school. We salute the following members of the pace-setting group and hope that the power of their example will serve to encourage others to consider investing in Palma School.

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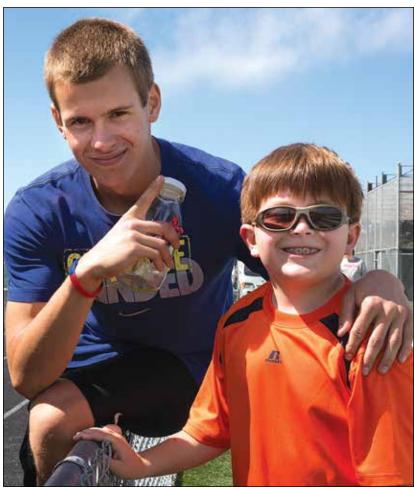
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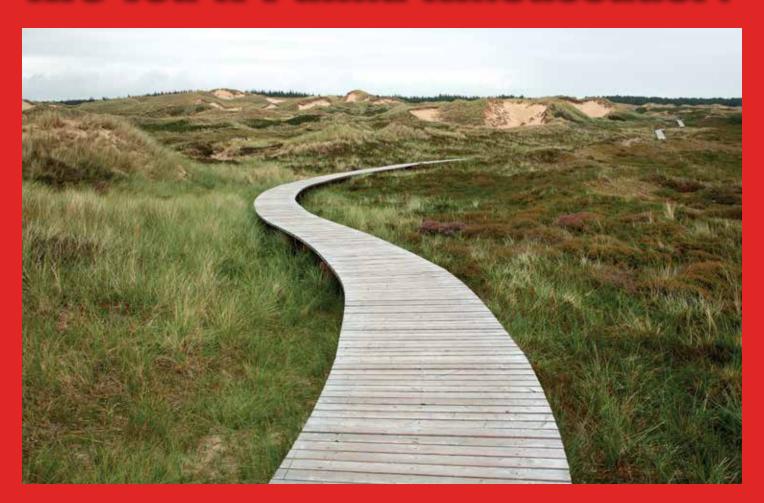
Zachary Flores '17 makes a new friend at IM



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