They Are Counting On Us To Make Their Days Count.

Because tuition only covers 85 percent of our annual operating budget, Palma School relies on contributions to the Palma Fund. This annual giving program enhances the quality of a Palma education, providing teachers and coaches with classroom resources, including state-of-the-art technology like new Apple computers and wireless network infrastructure, and additional funding for financial aid and the arts.

**Why support the Palma Fund?**

Donations to the Palma Fund support all aspects of Palma’s programs and activities during the current school year. Annual giving donations directly support classroom instruction, faculty, staff and coaching salaries, the arts, community service, and all co-curricular activities.

Annual giving funds provide Principal David Sullivan with the resources to attract, hire and retain the best teachers in our area. In addition, annual giving allows our President, Br. Patrick D. Dunne, C.F.C., to respond quickly to unanticipated opportunities and needs when they arise.

Large, small, or somewhere in between, all gifts matter and all gifts make a difference. Please join us in giving the gift of education. Every student will benefit. Make your Palma Fund gift today!

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

Tracy Jones, Director
Cristina Carnazzo, Associate

Writing Credits: Tracy Jones, Cristina Carnazzo

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### Join the Tradition

Palma School is currently accepting applications for the 2012/2013 academic year. If you know of a young man who would be a great addition to the Palma tradition, please contact Mr. Chris Dalman in the Admission Office at 831.422.6391 or email admission@palmaschool.org

**OPEN HOUSE:**
November 6, 2011  12-2 pm

**VISITATION DAYS:**
December 7, 2011
January 9, 2012

**ADMISSION TESTS:**
December 10, 2011
January 14, 2012
January 28, 2012
February 11, 2012

EXCELLENCE  |  VALUES  |  LEADERSHIP
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.
I have had some time over this summer to reflect on a goodly number of items that haven’t really had enough time to percolate through my thought process during the course of a normal school year. I’m not sure if that is because of time restraints on my part or the ultimate realization that “normal” isn’t as common as it used to be. Not that I spend a lot of time staring out my office window and wondering what’s about to happen. I have, over these past 24 years, acquired both a sense of, and an appreciation for, what it is that is happening here on this campus on a regular basis. To me it’s nothing short of remarkable and truly impressive.

I wonder if the folks who worked so hard more than 60 years ago to establish a parish high school for boys and girls here, under the Palma banner, would recognize what their worthy project has turned into as we begin the 2011/2012 school year. There is no doubt in my mind but that Palma is today the premier private Catholic school along the central coast with an impressive array of academic offerings, college-prep courses second to none, and well-balanced athletic program that is, more often than not, in serious consideration for excellence beyond the classroom on a regular basis. I know Palma is a school like no other; it is here that we see, on a regular basis, boys transformed into outstanding young men who have been well prepared for college and beyond.

Growth is certainly “fun” to watch and we have an abundance of “fun” here at Palma on a regular basis; this is not to say, however, that there haven’t been a challenge or two along the way. I’ve heard many terrific success stories over the years and those stories reflect nicely on three components of each success story: on the young man, on his parents and support network, and, of course, on Palma. What a wonderful blend we have here to continue that process on a regular basis, year after year. I will confess, though, that there are usually some surprise stories scattered along the way in that the timeliness or degree of success wasn’t always so obvious or predictable; late bloomers are certainly reality. Those elements of working with adolescent boys are certainly key in making this place we all know as Palma so special.

Our faculty and staff and coaches, no doubt, are key in helping form our young men along the way and they do it so very well. Our parents, of course, have done the early “heavy lifting” and have, for the most part, done a terrific job in pointing their son(s) in the right direction; the parents give us a great product with which to work over a given number of semesters in preparing each boy for college and beyond.

All of these good things happen on behalf of our young men. Some are aware of the process and program along the way. Some don’t begin to appreciate the process and program and sacrifices made until they have the wisdom of experience and comparison. Some have been so close to the process and program that they can’t see it for what it is — a master plan for success now and beyond.

All of you know that we are a tuition-driven school that depends in large part on the generosity of our parents, of our graduates, and of our friends, to help the Palma machine run smoothly. A conscious effort is made every year to keep Palma’s tuition as affordable as possible with the fact that tuition alone means that everyone receives some level of subsidy in attending Palma. This is why the success of the Palma Fund and other fund-raising so common here is so critical every year. Being a Christian Brothers school in the traditions of Blessed Edmund Rice, Palma seeks qualified students from across the economic spectrum of our community. I understand that some boys are at a distinct disadvantage at the start in beginning Palma’s rigorous programs because nothing or very little was required of them elsewhere prior to their arrival on the Palma campus. It is my view that “catch-ups” do happen and when there is a level playing field, we see more common ground than differences that lead to success for all. Palma’s parents, graduates and friends have been instrumental in allowing Palma to provide quality programs to our young men over each of the last 60 years.

Your active participation in your son’s education is expected and will, I promise, bear much fruit eventually. Your active participation in Palma’s various fund-raising endeavors during the year will make, I promise, a difference. Your active participation in Palma’s annual Palma Fund will, I promise, help Palma bridge the gap between what the true expense of a quality Palma education is as compared to tuition dollars realized. You will make a difference — I promise. Thank you.
Another year has flown by. This is my fourth article since being elected Chairman of the Palma Board. June 2012 will mark the end of my nine years on the Board and, per the bylaws, my last. It will also be my final opportunity to thank all of you who have made my tenure so rewarding. The Board brought on two new members this past year: Henry Dill, a Palma alum, and Brother Peter Zawot, Principal of Damian High School in Hawaii. Joe Pezzini, also a Palma Alum, is joining the Board in September.

When you see these fine volunteers, please give them a warm welcome.

Al Friedrich, Vice Chairman of the Board, has finished his maximum Board term of nine years this past June.

Al has been key to our finances, having served as Chair of the Finance Committee for all nine years. His hand-selected committee is comprised of some of the most astute financial gurus any board could have. Thanks to Al and Business Manager George Garibay, Palma has increased its financial position to having a surplus, enabling us to provide financial aid to many of our deserving students. Al has agreed to stay on the Finance Committee, as will I. Thanks, Al, for all you have and continue to do for Palma. Don Chapin has agreed to replace Al as the Vice Chairman. Thanks, Don.

As you all know, we successfully completed our last capital campaign to build the multi-purpose building and track. Our next fund raising effort is channeled toward the future growth of the campus. Currently the school is landlocked and cannot expand unless we acquire more property. Recently we purchased 2 houses adjacent to the campus through bank loans. A committee has been formed to raise funds to pay off the loans and raise additional money to purchase property as it becomes available. The committee is chaired by Lou Calcagno and has named the new endeavor: Palma Tomorrow. You will certainly be hearing more about how you can help in the near future.

Palma continues to assist boys turn into fine young men. I was once again privileged to hand out diplomas to the 115 graduates this past June. I know all the parents are proud and rightfully so. Our world will continue to be a better place with the addition of our graduates.

In looking back at my time on the Board, I can say it has been an extremely warming and fulfilling experience. Thank you to the Board members for successfully guiding Palma toward the future. Thank you to the dedicated teachers and staff who help mold our boys into gentlemen. Thank you to the parents who make sacrifices to make possible the Palma education for their sons. Thank you to all the generous donors who have and will continue to support Palma. Thank you to my wife Mary Ann who has always been my sounding board. Finally, thank you Brother Dunne for your constant support of me and your dedication to Palma. We would not be the success we are without your steady guiding hand.
Principal’s Message

PALMA! It is our mission here at Palma to challenge the growth and development of the entire young man: spiritually, intellectually, morally, physically, and socially. This mission is a daunting task of the highest purpose, and it takes a real community to make this possible. I am grateful to the many who share with us in making this mission so effective: our President, Br. Dunne, CFC, the Palma teachers, staff, volunteers, parents, alumni and benefactors who make it their priority to see to the success of a thriving Palma now and well into the future. I am sure that the Founder of the Christian Brothers, Blessed Brother Edmund Rice, would be proud of the community he would find here united by his vocation and charism. I am humbled by that long legacy of tradition and the storied history of Palma’s transformation over the last 60 years into the top-caliber college preparatory education it is today for so many young men. This is Palma’s 61st year of excellence in education!

There is an essence of achievement that has taken root here over the last six decades. Our students are challenged to take risks for the right reasons — about extending themselves to become young men who are LEADERS — by what they say and, more importantly, by what they do — who they are in and out of the classrooms, on and off these hallowed grounds we proudly call Palma. They are mentored and coached here by exceptionally dedicated teachers and role models to grow, to take risks, to volunteer of themselves, and to learn, all of which require hard work and determination. We challenge Palma students to be leaders. We challenge them to emulate the life example of a saintly hero and founder of Palma’s founders, Blessed Edmund Rice himself. We tell them to be Leaders — we tell them to be Palma Chieftains!

This kind of success does not just happen. Successful schools are created. They are forged by the toils of many highly committed people. In gratitude, I beseech you all to share our joy and energy as we commit ourselves to making Palma School ever more successful. We have a history here of many good and giving people with willing and gracious hearts. I encourage you to continue this legacy with the same generous hospitality of so many leaders before us.

Go Chieftains!
Maya Angelou said, “I’ve learned that you shouldn’t go through life with a catcher’s mitt on both hands; you need to be able to throw some things back.” Looking back on this year, it’s clear that the Palma community knows this too. The spirit of giving and volunteerism is alive and well at Palma!

Palma is proud to have remained a priority for our donors and we are grateful for the high levels of support, in its many forms, that we received during the 2010-2011 fiscal year. We are here to assure you that your faith in us is well placed; this President’s Report of giving is but a public record of your generosity and your trust in us.

The real fundraising story for 2010-2011 is the number of donors to the Palma Fund. While in keeping with national trends on giving in times of economic crisis, the average size of gifts to the Palma Fund decreased; however, the number of gifts received from our many constituents increased last year. In fact, we had an 18% increase in the number of gifts over the previous year. There is indeed great strength in numbers!

Participation highlights include a 37% increase of current parents making a gift to the Palma Fund, a figure well above prior years. In addition, for the second year in a row, 100% of Palma’s faculty and staff donated to the Fund as well! All along, we have asked members of our extended school community to give as they are able, but above all, give. They have responded with a great vote of confidence for Palma, and we are extremely grateful. Our record of giving, in a monetary sense, is certainly being celebrated here, but another form of “giving” also deserves mention, and that is the extent to which parents, grandparents, alumni, alumni parents, coaches and many others give of their time and talent in support of Palma. These gifts are in many ways immeasurable but go a long way toward enriching the school experience for all of us.

On behalf of the students and my fellow colleagues, thank you for your generous financial support of Palma School through annual giving. Your contributions play an essential part in supporting and sustaining everything that we love about Palma. Your gift makes an important and affirming statement about both the school and its mission to equip our students for lives of achievement, leadership, and service. Thank you for helping to ensure that Palma continues to be able to meet the demands of an ever-changing world.

Tracy Jones
Director of Institutional Advancement

Your gift makes an important and affirming statement about both the School and its mission to equip our students for lives of achievement, leadership, and service.
Fare Thee Well — Mrs. Mary Val

When Mrs. Mary Val was hired as the office manager 28 years ago, things were a little different. There was no machine cranking out hundreds of copies all day; they all had to be done, by hand, on a mimeograph machine. If one needed a form or a flyer made up, it was done on a typewriter. There was no e-mail, there were no Excel spreadsheets, and, certainly, no endless stream of confiscated cell phones buzzing and ringing in the corner. Through all these changes and new technologies, and the thousands of students that have been handed late passes, detention notices, and of course, razors, some things have remained the same, constants in an ever-evolving environment, and one of those has been the smiling, welcoming, and ever calming presence of Mrs. Mary Val.

Perhaps it was her experience prior to arriving at Palma as the Director of Recreation on a cruise ship that prepared her to handle what one might call the organized chaos that is inevitable with more than 500 young men on campus. Or maybe it was because, in addition to being exceptionally organized, entirely composed, and utterly efficient, Mrs. Val has been, above all, a loving and devoted mother to her own two children that she was able to greet each day thousands of students and endless phone calls with grace, professionalism and some of her characteristic charm and wit.

When given the opportunity to offer their congratulations and to say their goodbyes, the alumni response was immediate and heartfelt. Every comment recognized Mrs. Val’s unique kindness, patience, compassion and her sincere dedication to each and every student and his family. Best of luck to you, Mrs. Val, as you begin your next chapter; you will be dearly missed!

“Mrs. Val always had a smile on her face. I don’t think I ever once saw her in a bad mood. It always made me feel special how she would remember each student’s name especially coming back to Palma long after graduation.”
— Sergio Silva ’10

“I would leave 7th period art class senior year during football season to get M&Ms from Mrs. Val. We were MTAL champs that year! Thanks Mrs. Val for all you have done.”
— Mark Andrew ’87

“Mrs. Val rocks! Enjoy retirement!!”
— Andy Yuan ’86

“I remember Mrs. Val as the nicest lady ever. One time she told me to cut my hair; she was right. Love you, Mrs. Val.”
— Gregory Franke ’02

“Mrs. Val was always nice and really did a great job in the office.”
— Christian Piñón ’03

“Mrs. Val rocks! She always was helpful and treated us like we were her own kids. I spent my share of time waiting in line for Br. Dunne to lecture me. My time with her was the calm before the storm!”
— Corey Riha ’92

“Mrs. Val would always greet me at the office every morning because I was late practically every day. Or I would call to go home sick (I may have faked it but it made me a better actor in my career!!). She knew me better than anyone else in the school at that time most likely! She is such a sweetheart and I wish her the best in life.”
— Joe Quinones ’04

“End of an era. Mrs. Val was there when I started Palma in 7th grade. We all know that was back when dirt was clean!”
— Dave Wiley ’85

“Thanks for your unconditional kindness, Mrs. Val.”
— Efrain Nieto ’00

“I’ve always appreciated Mrs. Val’s smiling face in the mornings. Happy retirement!”
— Vic Hinson ’90

“Congrats and enjoy the golden years of retirement.”
— William Gong ’90

“Thank you for all of your years of working at Palma, and thank you for your kindness!”
— Alec Andalon ’09

“Mrs. Val was always nice and really did a great job in the office.”
— Eric Esquer ’87

“Mrs. Val was awesome. Great help, and was always so supportive. Palma is losing a great woman.”
— Joe Quinones ’04
Mrs. Val always was very pleasant to see in the mornings when I was late to school. She is a very pretty lady with a wonderful smile. Good luck wherever you find yourself.

— Francis Hocke ‘93

“I used to forge my mom’s signature on my excuse notes…she always looked at me as if she knew. When I turned 18, she told me to stop forging my mom’s signature and sign it myself!”

— Javier Jimenez ‘92

“Mrs. Val was probably one of the kindest and most sincere individuals I have ever had the pleasure of meeting. She always had a smile on her face and was willing to go out of her way to help any student. I remember going back to Palma after graduating several times and she always had something nice to say that would cheer up your day. She was (and I’m sure still) easy to talk to and I enjoyed many good conversations with her that kept me at Palma for hours.”

— Luca Casabella ‘92

“Mary thanks for always helping out no matter how busy you were.”

— Dan Jaramillo ‘93

“Mrs. Val, I always thought the world of you…wishing the very best in your retirement.”

— Joe Flores ‘85

“Mrs. Val, I know you couldn’t have forgotten me after how many times I had to visit you. From putting together newsletters with the detention squad to assisting me with my facial grooming needs, you were always pleasant and as helpful as possibly. I wish nothing but good times and happiness upon you in your retirement, and thanks again for your kindness.”

— Dominic Rivelli ‘09

“Mrs. Val: Always smiling and friendly, which is quite a feat when dealing with an avalanche of teenaged boys each day.”

— Andrew Sokolowski ‘93

Fare Thee Well — Mrs. Daryl Lyon

Mrs. Daryl Lyon with her family

Tradition. Commitment. Pursuit of excellence. This is the standard that all Palma students are expected to uphold, and for the past 24 years, young men have had perhaps no better example, no better embodiment of these ideals than Mrs. Daryl Lyon.

In 1987, she came to Palma as Ms. Escalera, hired to Chair the Department of English, to be the Director of the High School Awards Assembly, and to be the Palma Yearbook Advisor. It was a tall order by anyone’s standards, but if there is one thing that has been evident over the past 24 years, it has been that Mrs. Lyon will always go above and beyond for her students, she will give selflessly to others, and she will remain committed to each student until he succeeds.

Mrs. Lyon had a reputation for being a tough teacher, a teacher who will challenge a student and stretch his limits; but this reputation did not stop her from being the most sought-after teacher during her tenure, and the one who alumni remember 20 years later, the one they ask for the minute they step on campus, and the one who they most often thank for pushing them, for demanding their absolute best.

It is because of her fierce dedication to her craft, her enthusiasm for the subject of English, and above all her passion for students that Mrs. Daryl Lyon will be sorely missed as one of the finest members of Palma’s faculty. Mrs. Lyon, we offer our heartfelt thanks to you for 24 memorable years. Your students will miss you!

“Mrs. Lyon, or as I knew her, Mrs. Escalera, was by far the most demanding teacher I ever had, period. She never put up with any crap from any of the boys. Some would say that couldn’t make her a very popular teacher. However, she was loved and respected by all of us. She had a certain compassion for us, sort of like a parent. She actually cared. She was without a doubt the most favorite teacher I ever had at Palma or anywhere else. I wish her the best at whatever comes next, and I thank her for everything she taught us and did for us. Thanks, Mrs. Lyon.”

— Joshua Rudisill ‘95

“Mrs. Lyon was THE best English teacher…I’ve always enjoyed her classes… Happy retirement!”

— Vic Hinson ‘90

“Mrs. Lyon’s was my favorite teacher at Palma. I loved her classes, and I’m so lucky that I had her as a teacher. She taught me so much! Happy retirement, Mrs. Lyon!”

— Carlos Nieto ‘06

“I had Mrs. Lyon as a pre-college writing teacher in ’88 when she was Miss Escalera. You were lucky to have her all those years.”

— Mark Connolly ‘88
"I can’t think about literature without remembering World Lit with Mrs. Lyon senior year. Happy retirement, Mrs. Lyon! The AP tests I took after your classes were the only ones I passed!" — Phillipe Bernard ‘01

"Mrs. Lyon, congratulations! Thank you for everything you did for me and the class of ’09 (your favorite). You taught us a lot about English but also a lot about how to act like men. Best of luck to you!" — Nico Caro ‘09

"Mrs. Lyon, having you for both junior and senior honors English was a very pivotal point for me. I would never have been able to become a scientist and get my doctorate without the foundation of critical thinking, analysis and writing that could be found in room B1. I will always be very thankful that you pushed us more than most teachers. I’m also thankful because I think you pushed me more than some of my classmates. Who would’ve thought that after all that trouble I had when we first started writing that I’d be a published author! I’m even more thankful for your help and guidance during the year I taught at Palma. I was able to take those lessons and become a fantastic TA when I was in grad school at UC Davis. Most of all, I want to thank you for teaching me how to think and for being one of the best educators I’ve had the privilege of knowing. I sincerely hope you enjoy a very well deserved retirement.” — Michael Varela ‘96

"Thank you for being an amazing English teacher! I won’t forget your kindness and dedication.” — Christian Piñon ‘03

"Mrs. Lyon really prepared us for writing essays in college and the future.” — Alec Andalon ‘09

"Mrs. Lyon was tough! She definitely prepared me for all the reading and writing we had to do at SMC, and for the little bit of journalism I did after college. Enjoy your retirement!” — Michael Hannas ‘98

"Mrs. Escalera is who I remember, and I remember her passing me in English class when maybe I wasn’t supposed to pass. With that I graduated high school on time, and people often compliment me on my ability to write. I also finished my first business plan, and my composition has received many kudos for its content. Thank you Mrs. Lyon…you changed my life.” — Francis Hocke ‘93

"Mrs. Lyon was by far the best teacher I’ve ever had the pleasure of being in class with. I aced so many classes using the skills she taught me.” — Kevin Sullivan ‘92

"Mrs. Lyon, as your favorite student of all time, I would like to sincerely thank you for putting up with me. Beyond the English lessons you gave, you also gave me a whole lot of knowledge about respect, and that is something I will hold with me for the rest of my days. I truly hope you enjoy your retirement, and may you never have to deal with knuckleheads like me again.” — Dominic Rivelli ‘09

"Happy for Mrs. Lyon on her retirement, but the school will miss an excellent teacher. She was always my favorite.” — Charlie Fink ‘01

"Mrs. Lyon is a great teacher, and I’m sure she will be missed.” — Stephen French ‘08

"Mrs. Lyon was one of the best teachers I ever had. No nonsense, and she made us think. That was the best part. Some of my success as an officer in the Marines is due to her positive influences.” — Ryan Orozco ‘97

"Congrats and enjoy the golden years of retirement.” — William Gong ‘90

"Thank you for everything you taught me, Mrs. Lyon.” — James Berrera ‘09

"I love Mrs. Lyon! She was one of the best, most influential teachers of my life (in spite of us not making it the easiest time here)...I am lucky to have had a teacher like her. Thank you so much!” — Chris Rand ‘05

"Daryl, thanks for giving me the confidence to write my thoughts in an articulate way. Your teaching helped me tremendously at the University of Notre Dame, and although we didn’t always see eye to eye you made me a better student.” — Dan Jaramillo ‘93

"Mrs. Lyon was my 7th grade teacher and my senior year English teacher. I have known her for many years. Happy retirement and enjoy your freedom!” — Javier Jimenez ‘92

"Mrs. Lyon (or “The Teacher Formerly Known as Ms. Escalera”): Demand- ing, made you work hard for every grade, chose some great literature for us to read, and was an awesome teacher. Congrats!” — Andrew Sokolowski ‘93

"Mrs. Lyon: Thanks for your understanding towards the Mexican-American students. Because most of us grew up bilingual so you knew that English Lit might not have been our strength, at least it wasn’t mine. Thus thanks for the C- that you gave me my second semester senior year, I probably deserved a D. I am still making the effort to improve my English vocab!” — Efrain Nieto ‘00

"I have one story about Mrs. Daryl Lyon that I would like to share. I was at a former classmate’s wedding. Mrs. Daryl Lyon was also in attendance as a guest. Another former classmate who had failed Mrs. Daryl Lyon’s English class his senior year was also in attendance. Hearing this former classmate tell Mrs. Daryl Lyon that it was okay she had flunked him because, ‘I AM A PHOENIX RISING FROM THE ASHES!’ remains one of the highlights of my life. I can still see him thrusting his inebriated finger towards the heavens to indicate the direction which he was rising from the ashes like it was yesterday. Thank you for having failed the Phoenix, Mrs. Daryl Lyon.” — Dave Stewart ‘88
The Top Ten Men of ’11

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, the ten seniors with the highest grade point averages in their class reveal their plans for college and beyond, reflect on their years at Palma, and offer sage advice to the next generation of Chieftains.

Daniel Brock
University of California, San Diego

“I have really enjoyed my six years at Palma as I have created many lasting friendships and memories. I had many opportunities to pursue what I wanted at Palma. All of the Honors and AP classes allowed me to challenge myself and really prepared me for my college classes by teaching me good study habits and how to manage my time. Basketball and track taught me discipline and helped me learn to work with others. Some advice I would like to give new students is to simply do all of your work. Actually doing the readings and homework your teachers assign will really help you understand what you are learning and you won’t feel the need to have to cram all night before every test. I would also suggest getting involved in sports or clubs as soon as possible as they make it very easy to find new friends who have the same interests as you. My time at Palma has given me the confidence I need to be successful in college and has allowed me to become the well-rounded person I am today.”

“My time at Palma has given me the confidence I need to be successful in college and has allowed me to become the well-rounded person I am today.”

Andrew Ellison
University of California, Davis

“Next year, I will be studying biology with an emphasis in exercise biology. Hopefully, I will attend medical school afterward. I believe I am the only person attending Davis from Palma this year. It parallels the situation of my first day at Palma when I knew absolutely no one because I was commuting from Santa Cruz. Palma has placed me in many situations outside of my comfort zone that have been very positive influences on my personality. Palma for the last six years of my life was a valuable experience full of good friends and excitement. Palma has been a solid stepping-stone in my preparation for college. It has taught me much in terms of patience and determination, especially on the basketball court. Overall, the lifelong friendships are the greatest treasure of my Palma education. A few suggestions for incoming students would be try out for any sport that you may want to play because there is nothing worse than wondering how you might have done, and if you are in a social setting strike up a conversation with whomever is near you because they may become one of your best friends for the rest of your life. My final suggestion would be do your summer reading and don’t be a jerk, those are two things you should always think about.”

“Palma has placed me in many situations outside of my comfort zone that have been very positive influences on my personality. Palma was a valuable experience.”

Bart Bruno
California Polytechnic University, San Luis Obispo

“Going to Palma has been a great experience. It taught me to pursue my goals because I know that with some hard work, I can achieve anything. I’ve learned that I can push myself in the classroom to study harder and give the extra effort to run just a little faster and a little farther on the field during soccer and cross country workouts. I know that in college, there will be nothing that will come my way that Palma has not prepared me for. After looking back at the past six years, the advice I would give to someone entering Palma would be to get involved in everything and to get to know everybody because the great memories and the great friendships will last a lifetime.”

“Get involved in everything and to get to know everybody because the great memories and the great friendships will last a lifetime.”

Daniel Johnsen
Westmont College, Santa Barbara

“I have to admit, the first couple weeks as a freshman at Palma weren’t easy for me; it was a totally new environment with totally new people. However, I found my place at Palma through the simple act of getting involved. I tried out for a sport, began to attend different club meetings, and, in time, found people and activities I could identify with at Palma. Looking back on it, I believe my success, and the success of many of my classmates, can be attributed to the opportunities that Palma provided for us and the extent to which we took advantage of those opportunities. It was through getting involved in the many possibilities surrounding me that I grew closer to my class and began to find what my passions really are. Thus, in this way, a
very important truth was instilled in me through my time at Palma: getting involved, capitalizing on opportunities presented to me, will lead to success and growth in all aspects of my life. Getting involved was how the ESLRs were truly manifested during my four years at Palma.

Obviously, if I were to give any advice to a fellow Chieftain, it would simply be to get involved, to try new things, and, in the process, to discover what you truly love to do. You will never be able to have an honest opinion of something until you experience it for yourself, without the outside pressures of the world to sway you one way or another. You may love to write; join the literary journal team or submit an article to the newspaper. You may love to serve the underprivileged; attend an interact club meeting or participate in an event with the Edmund Rice Society. And who knows? It may not be your thing. All I say is to try it! Try anything that you may have the least bit of interest in. In the end, it just might turn out to be more rewarding than you ever could have imagined.”

“I believe my success, and the success of many of my classmates, can be attributed to the opportunities that Palma provided for us.”

Zayne Johnson
Point Loma Nazarene University, San Diego

“Next fall I will be attending Point Loma Nazarene University in sunny San Diego. I will be studying business administration in hopes of becoming the president of my own business. Over the last six years at Palma, I have really learned how to view hard work as an opportunity to better myself and not just a project or assignment that has to be done. Once I had a positive perspective, Palma became a place of much opportunity, limited only by my own hesitance and apprehension. Looking back, Palma was the best place for me to be and I thoroughly enjoyed my time there. My advice to new students at Palma is have fun, make sure you have your priorities straight. Being too busy makes keeping school a priority very difficult. Make friends, go to sporting events, stay on top of your work and Palma will be nothing but a great experience.”

“Over the last six years at Palma, I have really learned how to view hard work as an opportunity to better myself and not just a project or assignment that has to be done.”

Caisen Mirassou
Loyola Marymount University, Los Angeles

“As a kid, I often heard stories of Palma, though they often involved the antics of my dad and uncles. Nonetheless, when it came time for me to enter Jr. High, Palma was definitely the place I wanted to go. I have loved the school since I first set foot on campus and it is with great sadness, as well as a great sense of preparedness, that I leave the school that I have called home since I was 12.

Academics has always been my focus while at Palma, though I have taken part in a number of school activities and have been a member of many of its clubs. Because of this intellectual focus, I feel very well prepared for college. I will be attending Loyola Marymount University this fall, where I plan on majoring in History and eventually earning a teaching credential. I also consider double-majoring or minoring in English, Political Science, or Theology. Palma’s quality staff in these departments, Mr. Carnazzo, Mr. Schipper, Mrs. Lyon, Mr. Bergez, and many others, have all benefited me to great extent and have all inspired me to pursue a career in education, for the fulfillment that comes when the light of knowledge is lit in a student’s mind thanks to the teacher, if not for the pay. I know that the Edmund Rice Christian Brothers’ Education that I’ve received at Palma that has led to my spiritual, moral, intellectual, physical, and social growth, followed by the Jesuit education that I will receive next year, will help me to become what God intended for me to become.

“I have loved the school since I first set foot on campus and it is with great sadness, as well as a great sense of preparedness, that I leave the school.”

Ted Rios
University of California, San Diego

“When I attend the UC San Diego next year, I intend to major in Human Biology in order to go on to study Optometry in graduate school. I’ll be leaving this city and most of its people, and I can’t help but reminisce about the times I’ve had while I was at Palma. A lot of the teachers there have been pretty memorable and very helpful. Whether it’s Mrs. Lyon’s search for the deeper meanings to the great works of literature or Mr. Carnazzo pummeling information about the Great Depression or the Gilded Age, they have all challenged me and prepared me for the next step. Track and Cross Country have also been the most amazing experiences. But it’s really a testament to how supporting and friendly the long distance team has been through all the hard workouts and competitive races. Some advice that I’d give to students going to Palma would be to try to find a sport that you can really love doing because staying active and participating in your school can be a really fun and engaging experience. Another piece of
Advice would be to take applying to colleges very seriously and apply to a wide variety, so one is not limited in their choice. Lastly, try to do one’s best in all classes even if they can seem boring at times. Every grade counts and ultimately helps decide where one will be going after Palma."

“Try to find a sport that you can really love doing because staying active and participating in your school can be a really fun and engaging experience.”

Angelo Scattini  
*California Polytechnic University, San Luis Obispo*

“Before coming to Palma, I was very shy and reserved; I was intelligent but slightly socially awkward. Because of my family’s long history at Palma, I was very excited to come in the seventh grade, yet still nervous, as I would be the only one from my old school attending Palma. Despite all my fretting, the excellent teachers and wonderful atmosphere helped me break out of my shell and have a great six years. Going through classes, clubs, and athletics with my fellow students created experiences that I will always look back on as some of the best of my life, and friendships that will last a lifetime. If I could give a piece of advice to incoming students at Palma, it would be to try everything, and then once you find what you love, to pursue your passions to the fullest. If there’s one thing that my teachers at Palma always instilled in me, it was how to act as a man, to respect others and to be responsible for my actions. I know that this lesson, as well as the rest of my excellent Palma education has prepared me for my next years in college, and the years to come after that.”

“If there’s one thing that my teachers at Palma always instilled in me, it was how to act as a man, to respect others and to be responsible for my actions.”

Kyle Sterrett  
*University of California, Los Angeles*

“Next year I will be attending UCLA. While there I plan to pursue a degree in Psychology with the hope of going into post graduate studies in the field of Industrial and Organizational Psychology. In seventh grade when we were presented with the ESLRs they had little meaning to me. Thinking about them now as a graduate I have seen just how much meaning these educational goals have had for me. In the last six years at Palma I have become a dedicated student, a stronger athlete, a more devout follower of God, and a better friend. Palma has made me into the person that I am today and going off to college next year I know that I am prepared because of the well-rounded education that I have received. If I could give a piece of advice to a student starting out at Palma I would say, although college seems far off, it is right around the corner, so always try as hard as you can in your classes because they all count and in the end it will all pay off when you get that letter of acceptance to a major university.”

“Palma has made me into the person that I am today and going off to college next year I know that I am prepared because of the well-rounded education that I have received.”

James Toan  
*University of California, Berkeley*

“I plan on majoring in business and obtaining a bachelor’s degree in Business Administration at UC Berkeley next year. I have attended Palma since seventh grade and can safely say that the last six years of my life have been forever changed as a result of the friendly and social atmosphere that permeates through the campus. I have had four brothers graduate from Palma before me and although I was somewhat familiar with the environment and traditions of Palma, I could have never expected how much Palma has changed me for the better. Whether it was being challenged by a rigorous course load of honors and AP classes or being involved in diverse array of sports and extracurricular activities offered at Palma, I have become a stronger and a more mature human being because of Palma’s influence. If I could offer a bit of advice to an incoming Palma Chieftain, it would be to follow your passions and do not be scared to challenge yourself. In high school, it is so easy to just go with the flow and follow suit in what everyone else is doing. But realize the great opportunity that attending Palma School is and take advantage of every opportunity afforded to you. If you have a passion for football, then join the prestigious Palma football team. If you want to be a lawyer, then join the Mock Trial team for some good experience. And if your passion does not happen to be represented at Palma, then get a group together and start your own club. Palma teachers and staff will do everything in their power to develop well-rounded individuals and leaders, but it is up to you the student to choose if you want to be one of them.”

“Palma teachers and staff will do everything in their power to develop well-rounded individuals and leaders, but it is up to you to choose if you want to be one of them.”
Eighth Grade Retreat

Led by Campus Minister Jim Micheletti, the class of 2015 joined forces with Apex Adventures and Happy Valley Conference Center for an interactive retreat held this past spring in the Santa Cruz Mountains. Students began the day with Mass and then continued on to a challenging ropes course meant to encourage team building, foster community spirit, and stretch the limits, both physically and emotionally, of each student. Students responded to each element of the course with determination and positivity. Students came away from the day bonded a bit more closely with their classmates, and with a sense of pride in the teamwork they all displayed.
College Bound

The graduates from the Palma School class of 2011 were accepted to a variety of colleges and universities across the United States. Our hard-working and distinguished graduates earned an array of scholarships from local organizations, foundations, and universities. Congratulations, graduates!

Palma Class of 2011 College Acceptances
Arizona State University
Azusa Pacific University
Bentley College
Boise State University
Boston College
Brigham Young University, Idaho
Butte College
Cabrillo College
California Lutheran University
California State Polytechnic University, San Luis Obispo
California State Polytechnic University, Pomona
California State University, Channel Islands
California State University, Chico
California State University, Dominguez Hills
California State University, East Bay
California State University, Fresno
California State University, Fullerton
California State University, Long Beach
California State University, Monterey Bay
California State University, Northridge
California State University, Sacramento
Chapman University
Colorado State University
Concordia University, Irvine
Cornell University
Creighton University
Cuesta College
Diablo Valley College
Drexel University
Florida Institute of Technology
Fordham University
Gavilan College
Gonzaga University
Grossmont College
Hartnell College
Humboldt State University
Linfield College
Loyola Marymount University
Loyola University Chicago
Marymount College
Menlo College
Mesa State College
Monteith Peninsula College
Northern Arizona University
Oregon Institute of Technology
Pacific University
Pepperdine University
Point Loma Nazarene University
Polytechnic Institute of NYU
Purdue University
Radford University
Rensselaer University
Rockhurst University
Saint Mary’s College of California
San Diego State University
San Jose State University
Santa Barbara City College
Santa Clara University
Seattle University
Sierra Heights University
Sonoma State University
Southern Oregon University
Spring Hill College
Texas A & M University
The Citadel
The King’s College
The University of Arizona
Tulane University
United States Military Academy
University of Arizona
University of California, Berkeley
University of California, Davis
University of California, Irvine
University of California, Los Angeles
University of California, Merced
University of California, San Diego
University of California, Santa Barbara
University of California, Santa Cruz
University of Colorado, Boulder
University of Dayton
University of Idaho
University of La Verne
University of Massachusetts, Boston
University of Miami
University of Nevada, Reno
University of New Mexico
University of Northern Colorado
University of Oregon
University of Portland
University of Puget Sound
University of Redlands
University of San Diego
University of San Francisco
University of the Pacific
University of Washington
Valparaiso University
Vanderbilt University
Viterbo University
Westminster College
Westmont College
Whitworth University
Willamette University
High School Graduation Awards

Monsignor Thomas J. Earley Gold Medal For Scholastic Proficiency
Daniel Cole Brock
Daniel Jobe Johnsen
Savin Nathaniel Damkar
Andrew Michael Ellison
Tanner James Gaughf
Daniel Jobe Johnsen
Zayne Taylor Johnson
Howard James Leach
Caisen James Mirassou
Max Wang Nguyen
Kyle Thomas Sterrett
Angelo James Scattini
Kyle Thomas Sterrett

Palma Gold Medal in Foreign Language
Palma Gold Medal in Science
Palma Gold Medal in Music
Palma Gold Medal in Theology
Brother Frank Luke Dalton Memorial Award for Excellence in Social Studies and Service
Palma Leadership Award
Brother Martin D. Cunningham Award for Excellence in English
Palma Gold Medal in Mathematics
W.H. “Hank” Muller Outstanding Scholar Athlete Award

The Reverend Monsignor Thomas J. Early Award for
Religious Studies
English Award
Mathematics Award
Music Award
Literature Award
Social Studies Award
Science Award
Foreign Language Award
Fine Arts Award
Brother Edmund Rice Service Award

The Gerald D. Flowers Golden Chieftan Scholarship Award for Service

Junior High Graduation Awards

Peter James Griva
Matthew Ryan Jensen
Dillon Yu Leslie
Rick Keaton, Jr.
Austin Daniel Hussain
Austin Daniel Hussain
Peter James Griva
Austin Daniel Hussain
Jacob Michael Rosales
Jonathan Alexander Garibay
Jonathan Thomas Bennett

Brother Charles McMannus Award for Scholarship, Leadership, Citizenship, and Sportsmanship
Father Victor Farrell Memorial Scholarship

David Alexander Nunes
Jonathan Alexander Garibay
Jose Montes
Steven Camcam
Good afternoon Mr. McCarthy, Brother Dunne, Mr. Sullivan, Mr. Sterrett, faculty, parents, family, and fellow graduates. Today we can rejoice in the completion of our high school years. Today we finish one journey and begin another. Today is the last time all of us will be together. Through our time at Palma we have learned so much, not just about academics but also about each other and ourselves. We have formed great friendships and had experiences that we will never forget. Our teachers and coaches have prepared us for college and our future lives. Without the love and support of our parents, none of us would be here. While today is a day to celebrate and be thankful, it is also a day to look to the future.

We have graduates moving into the University of California and the California State systems, to private schools, and to colleges throughout the country. No matter where we are going, college will create challenges not found in high school. While leaving the safety and comfort of our homes may seem daunting to some, college is a place of new and exciting opportunities for all of us. Our years at Palma have prepared us for the world by teaching us the values that will allow us to be successful men wherever we go. Through our time in the classroom and on the field, we have been instilled with discipline. Whether it be studying before the test instead of going out with friends, or finishing the project our bosses will spring on us at the last minute, Palma has given us the self control we need.

While our teachers may have had different teaching styles, they have all prepared us for the classes we take in college. From getting filled with nonstop information in Mr. Carnazzo’s class to learning about life and growing as people in Mr. Beesley’s class, there is nothing that we are not prepared for. More importantly, Palma has taught us to have honor and be truthful. These are more than just terms in a religion class as they are virtues to be lived by. Truth and honor will help us raise our families in a way that everyone can be proud. These qualities will cause people to respect us and want to be around us. By living with truth and honor we will be able to look ourselves in the mirror and be happy with what we see.

The only thing that can truly hold us back from having the lives we want is fear. Fear is defined as being apprehensive, viewing the future with anxiety or alarm. Whether it is heights, the monster under the bed, or something in between, everyone has fears. Many people are afraid of what the future might hold. Everyone has this uncertainty, and it is this uncertainty that can keep us from our goals. We are afraid because we do not know if we can achieve them, so some might not even try because then at least they wouldn’t fail. At least then they can always think that they could have done it if they had tried. I don’t want to be left wondering, though. I want to be looking back and smiling at the decisions I have made to allow me to reach my goals. Don’t let your preconceived thoughts determine what you can and can’t do. Vince Lombardi once said, “We would accomplish many more things if we did not think of them as impossible.” I am asking you today to take risks and travel outside of your comfort zones. You may not reach every one of your goals, but I guarantee that you will achieve more of them than if you wait until all the pieces line up just right.

Today, our world faces many problems. From the poor state of the economy, to the unsettled governments of the Middle East, to the millions having to go to sleep without any food, our world has a lot of room for improvement. The world also faces the challenge of finding alternative fuel sources that don’t harm the environment. While nuclear power has a lot of potential, we need to find a safer way to take advantage of it. While these problems and problems like these may seem too large for us to solve, it is important to remember that every single solution to every single problem begins with one person, so why can’t that person be any one of us? Even though it may be easy to just let others solve these problems, all of us need to contribute to finding the solutions. As Daniel mentioned, some of us have already started doing our part by helping through the Center for Life program and by building homes for the underprivileged in Mexico. Unfortunately though, most people have a tendency to be bystanders rather than participants. If everyone were to make helping his fellow man a priority, the problems that plague our society would begin to diminish.

As we look into the future, we need to remember today as a day to celebrate and be grateful. We need to remember all the good times we have had throughout high school and be thankful that we have finally reached the end of this chapter of our lives. We should all thank our teachers, coaches, friends, and families who have supported us and helped us grow. Most of all, we should thank our parents for sending us to Palma and always being there for us in the good times and in the bad. And personally, I would like to thank my mom and dad because without them I would not be the man I am today. Now, as we start looking towards the future, I ask all of you my fellow graduates to reach for your goals and to make the world the place you want to live.
Salutatory Address

Daniel Johnsen

Good morning, Mr. John McCarthy, Brother Patrick Dunne, Mr. David Sullivan, Mr. Daniel Sterrett, faculty, parents, family, friends, and fellow graduates. It gives me great pleasure to welcome everyone to our celebration as we complete this phase of our lives.

The Palma School Class of 2011; I don’t have time to express all of the thoughts, emotions and memories that come to mind when I think of my class. It’s amazing how so much can happen in each person’s life during the short time frame that we call high school. Possibilities become accomplishments, efforts become honors, and dreams start to become realities. Today, I would like to highlight some of these accomplishments, honors and dreams that have come to define the class of 2011, a class that has certainly made its mark on Palma School.

I can imagine myself one day in the future sitting in my Lazy Boy chair, fresh cup of tea in hand, and reading glasses resting on my nose, thinking back on what Palma and the class of 2011 really meant to me. I’ll think of the clubs and programs that we started and strengthened; of how we helped pioneer two programs which have become instrumental in both promoting Palma to prospective students and welcoming new students to the Palma community—the former being the Palma Ambassador program and the latter being Palma’s CORE leadership program. I’ll think of how my fellow seniors led the band and Mock Trial team in continuing the success of those programs; of how my class worked together to not only lead existing clubs, but also to establish new clubs like Palma Fellowship of Christian Athletes and the bagpipe club that add to the diversity which helps make Palma what it is. I’ll think of the Diversity Workshop club that, with the help of Mrs. DeSantis, put on Palma’s first ever Diversity Week, in grand fashion I might add.

Then, my mind might just wander to athletics; to think of how our class added new achievements to an already exceptional standard set by classes past; of how the class of 2011 worked with each other to lead the Palma 2010 Varsity Football Team in an undefeated season in league, a thrilling CCS run, and yet another T-CAL title. I’ll probably think of the 8 all T-CAL selections on the team and how a guy named Jack Baird set the all-time rushing record for Palma; I’ll remind myself of the league titles in basketball, cross-country, track and field, golf, swimming, and baseball that our class played a part in winning. I’ll think of the athletes with whom I had the privilege of sharing the field, the court, the track, and the course, that inspired me to work hard in sport, but also in study. And maybe, I’ll think of five of my fellow classmates who went on to play their sports at the division one collegiate level; of guys like Matt Pinizotto, who went on to play golf for the nationally ranked UCLA Bruins (and also taught me how “Cat Daddy” in Calculus.) I’ll remember how I got to read about them in the paper but, even more importantly, of how I got to share genuine experiences with them off the field.

Next, my classmates’ achievements in the classroom may come to mind. I may think back to the first time I shared a classroom with my new high school peers, how I found myself wondering how I was ever going to keep up with these guys sitting around me. I’ll think of how nearly forty percent of my class was represented as NHS members and as California Scholarship Federation Life Members. I’ll think of my fellow classmate and friend Gabe Mathews, who was one of only 800 students nation-wide chosen as a National Merit Scholar. I have to admit, his ridiculous dance moves that he enjoyed performing in class might be brought to mind as well. I’ll think of how many of my classmates stepped up to the challenge of taking an AP class; and how over seventy percent of them succeeded in passing at least one AP exam by the end of their junior year. All this may lead me to think of how my classmates’ hard work in and out of the classroom led to acceptances to some of the most competitive institutions in the country such as UCLA, Berkeley, Vanderbilt, Cornell, and USC.

Sitting there, I am certain that I will think back on the impact that my graduating class had on Palma and on the surrounding community through its service. I’ll think of how my classmates and I didn’t just recite the words “Live Jesus in our hearts, FOREVER,” but how we integrated those words into our lives daily. I’ll think of guys like Colin Spencer who devoted 337 hours of his time in high school to serving those in need—almost six times the requirement of the school; or I’ll think of Kyle Sterrett, who introduced the Palma community to the Get on the Bus Program which, in turn, brought hundreds of items to children whose parents are in prison. Indeed, I won’t be able to help but think of Brother Edmund Rice because of Kyle, who had a heart for those who are imprisoned. This may bring to mind Adam Leavenworth, who embodied what Brother Rice saw as a true Christian Brothers education by acting as the spark of Palma’s involvement in the Center for Life program by dedicating himself week after week to teaching and reaching at-risk youth on the East-side of Salinas. If I remember right, this was the exact same work that Brother Rice dedicated his own life to. Moreover, I’ll think of the service done by...
larger groups within the community; of the Brother Edmund Rice Society, which, with the hard work of my fellow classmates who selflessly sacrificed multiple spring breaks, essentially built a village of small homes for many underprivileged peoples in Mexico.

Lastly, I’m sure that I’ll think back to how, in the year of 2011, my classmates and I were part of donating a total of 50,000 pounds of food to the underprivileged of our community through programs such as Ag Against Hunger and through monthly donations of food to farm workers and their families. I will wonder how our country and our world could be different had every high school donated a similar amount. I’ll think of what the world could look like if we were all “living Jesus in our Hearts, Forever.”

Finally, it will be this thought of putting others before oneself that will lead me back to what the class of 2011 really meant to me. Yes, I’ll feel proud thinking back on all the athletic accomplishments, milestone events, and college acceptances that my class was a part of. Yet, these are not what will truly make my class stand out to me. Rather, I’ll think most of how, by putting each other before themselves, the class of 2011 became more than a class; it became more of a brotherhood — a brotherhood bonded together by strong friendships, memories that stood the test of time, and acceptance of fellow classmates. I’ll think of how, throughout our four years at Palma, barriers of differences were broken down and how, though differences still existed, they came to be appreciated and loved.

Thus, in this sense, the class of 2011 has given me a vital insight into the world outside the property boundaries of Palma School; that people — despite different backgrounds, races, classes, and beliefs — really can come together as one body with a similar purpose. As one of my favorite authors, C.S. Lewis, once wrote, “...union exists only between distincts; and, perhaps, from this point of view, we catch a momentary glimpse of the meaning of all things.”
For those of you who don’t know me, I used to play football for Coach Carnazzo. I was the kicker on the team. Kyle was around 7 years old at the time and only came up to my hip — he literally looked up to me. Kyle used to run onto the field to grab the kicking tee and bring it back to me on the sideline. Kyle has always been a great kid who listens to my advice. But my brother Nick, or Mr. Sterrett as you call him, he’s a bit more stubborn, but I’ll save those stories for another time.

It is an honor and privilege to talk with you today. When Mr. Sullivan asked me to speak today, I wasn’t sure what to talk about. So being a product of the Millennial Generation, I logged onto YouTube. I listened to hours of commencement speeches from presidents, authors and intellectuals. These gifted orators probed the most challenging philosophical and political issues of the day.

I am not qualified to do the same. I am, however, uniquely qualified to address some of the challenges you will face over the next few months and years as I sat where you are sitting a short time ago.

Let me tell you about the day I left Salinas for UCLA. I was sitting in the back of my parents’ car, surrounded by clothes, granola bars and blankets. It looked like I was going to summer camp. We were driving down River Road, heading towards 101. As we headed down the road, it felt like the car was spinning. I started to sweat. I closed my eyes, took several deep breaths. Nothing helped. We hadn’t even gotten to Chualar, and I told my dad to pull off to the side of the road. I jumped from the car, ran to a nearby ditch, and vomited. Both of my parents were obviously concerned, but being the tough football player that I was, I shrugged it off as carsickness, got back into the car, and we continued on.

At the time, I couldn’t put my finger on why I was feeling that way. Now I can. I was leaving my family, my friends, and my community at Palma that I had been a part of for six years. I was scared.

Soon, many of you will be leaving home for the first time. You are going to be feeling a lot of things — hopefully not nausea, but possibly fear, anxiety, and excitement about all the unknowns ahead of you. Will I make new friends? What classes will I take? Who is going to do my laundry?

If you’re going to college in the fall, you may notice something different during your first lecture. Some of your classmates will have shiny, flowing hair. These are GIRLS. Gentlemen, a word of advice on going to class with the ladies — before you go to class, take a shower and brush your teeth.

But in all seriousness, your teachers, friends, and parents expect you to do great things. And I want to assure you that you are leaving Palma equipped with the skills to do so. When Coach Clayton, Coach Carnazzo, Coach Corner, and Coach Giammanco pushed you through summer double sessions and wind sprints in the rain, they were teaching you that discipline and commitment lead to success. When Mr. Viarengo, Mrs. Lyon, and Mrs. Cambier drilled you on the five-paragraph essay and the subtleties of Faulkner and Poe, they were teaching you the importance of organization and attention to detail. Mr. Sterrett taught some of you Latin — but unless you plan on becoming a priest or a Latin scholar, I’m not sure how that is going to help you. When Mr. Bregez and Mr. Beesley presented their lessons from scripture, they were teaching you the importance of acceptance, love, and faith. These were the most important lessons of all.

You don’t see it now, but these lessons will give you an advantage in all that you do. Palma has made each of you well-rounded men, and this community will continue to support you in the years to come. My first job in college came from a Palma family — Sam and Shirley Lavorato. I worked at Mr. Lavorato’s firm when I came home from college in the summer. This experience inspired me to pursue a career as an attorney, and Mr. Lavorato ultimately introduced me to the firm that I have worked at for the last four years. My experience is not a unique one — many of my classmates have been given similar opportunities through their connections to Palma.

I’d like to tell you a story that one of my professors at UCLA shared with me. My professor worked on Henry Kissinger’s staff. I don’t think this is possible, because the man has more energy than a Notre Dame cheerleader, but for those of you who weren’t paying attention during Coach Carnazzo’s history class, Henry Kissinger was the secretary of state for President Nixon.
Back to the story — on his first day on the job, Mr. Kissinger called my professor into his office. He said, “Tom, I want you to draft a report and have it on my desk by tomorrow morning.” So my professor sprang to work and had a report on Mr. Kissinger’s desk that night.

The next morning, Mr. Kissinger called Tom into his office and asked one question: “Tom, is this the best you can do?”

So my professor took the report back to his desk, and for the rest of the day, and into the night, he redrafted the report and left it on Kissinger’s desk. The next morning, he was called into Kissinger’s office for a second time. Mr. Kissinger asked again, “Tom, is this the best that you can do?”

So again, Tom took the report back to his desk. He brewed a pot of coffee and worked all night. He finally finished the report early in the morning and left it on Kissinger’s desk. Later that morning, Kissinger called him back to his office. The same question: “Tom, is this the best that you can do?” Exasperated, Tom said, “Yes, yes, this is the best I can do. I’ve spent the last three days reworking this report.” Kissinger paused and said, “OK, now I’ll read it.”

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**Gentlemen, your coaches, teachers, friends and family expect one thing from you:**

*Do the best you can. Whether you are the valedictorian, or you barely got by, each of you now has a blank script before you.*

As you each begin to write your script, I’d like to leave you with four pieces of advice from my experiences:

First, go to the gym. It’s a lot easier to stay in shape than to get in shape. The freshman 15 is a reality even for finely tuned Palma athletes.

Second, give back. Your parents, grandparents and this community have given so much. You need to do the same. I know I have poked a lot of fun at my brother Nick today, but I truly admire his dedication to Palma and its students, and by the way, I use Latin almost every day.

Third, as Brother Dunne told me when I started at Palma in the 7th grade and what he has told all of you: don’t be a jerk. I want to add one thing to this — when you’ve been a jerk — seek forgiveness.

And finally — call your moms. No matter where you go or how busy you think you are, don’t lose sight of the people who love you. On behalf of the entire Palma community, I want to congratulate the Class of 2011. Be proud of your accomplishments, continue to do great things — and whatever you do, remember to do your best.

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**Washington D.C. Trip**

In June Palma faculty members Mr. Noroian, Mr. Saucedo, and Mr. Sterrett joined with World Strides Student Travel Group to bring 32 junior high students to Washington D.C. for a four-day adventure in our nation’s capital. Students and chaperones had a busy schedule for their trip and soaked up loads of history, as well as got a feel for up-to-the-minute politics that governs our great nation. Highlights of the excursion included George Washington’s home, Mount Vernon; the Vietnam War Memorial; Arlington National Cemetery; a tour of the Capitol Building; a hike up to the top of the Washington Monument; a stop at the Newseum; the American History, Naval, and Air and Space Museums; a visit to the National Cathedral; and even a stop at the White House!
Varsity Baseball
The Varsity Baseball season ended with the Chieftains losing to Santa Cruz in the CCS D III Quarterfinals at Monterey Peninsula College. It was, however, a very successful season as the team compiled a 21-6 overall record and came within one out of winning their first TCAL title since 2004. Standout pitcher and West Point-bound Senior Julian Larimer ’11 was named TCAL Pitcher of the Year for his efforts on the mound, and Jack Ross ’13, and Cameron Neff ’13 were given All-TCAL first honors as Sophomores. Joe Schulman ’12 shined defensively, and Reuben Rubalcava ’12 and Greg Salazar ’12 contributed on the mound and in the field.

JV Baseball
The JV Baseball team finished the season 18-6 overall and 15-3 in TCAL. Team MVP Jacob Regester ’14 anchored the defense at shortstop and was a leader on the mound and at the plate as well. Charlie Kesecker ’13 and Amos Strauss ’13 earned co-Offensive Player of the Year Awards while Michael Armento ’13 was the team’s defensive specialist, making only 2 errors all season. Two all-around contributors, Angelo Maturino ’13 and Armando Casetellanos, Jr. ’13, were the recipients of Coaches Awards for their all-around contributions and joined Nicholas Leavenworth ’13, Carlo Aliotti ’13, Cord Given ’13 and Sean Robison ’13 with solid performances throughout the season.

Frosh Baseball
Freshman Baseball put forth an incredible effort this season, finishing 11-9. Offense was led by Ryan Scarr, Peter Lukas, Kyle Swanson, Stuart Haller, and Maverick Enz. Defensively, Zack Panzierra and Mitch Kidd handled most of the work behind the plate while Alex Normil and Shae Wiley anchored third base. Danny Souza and Christian Sergent rotated at second base and shortstop, and Zack Zender held down the fort at first base.

Varsity Golf
Varsity Golf took the TCAL league title for the 9th consecutive year. In the post season Palma finished 2nd in the CCS Finals and 5th in the CIF Northern California Golf Finals. This year Golf boasts two athletes who will go on to Division 1 competition in the NCAA with full-ride scholarships: Matt Pinizzotto ’11 will play for UCLA, and Sergio Rios ’11 has signed on to play at San Jose State. In addition to Pinizzotto and Rios, 1st team All-League honors also went to Jay Burlison ’13 and Jack Tardieu ’13. They were joined by 2nd team All-League selections Marc Moreno ’14 and Cody Hontalas ’11.

JV Golf
JV Golf enjoyed success this season, winning nine times with a very difficult schedule. Junior Varsity was led by MVP William Sergent ’12, along with John Fierro ’14 and Branden Hontalas ’13. Among the coaching staff who helped to develop the Palma golfers were alumni John Oliverio ’69, and Michael Clayton ’86.
Junior High Golf
The success of this year’s Junior High Golf team cannot be measured by wins and losses alone; the real victory was the dedication put forth by each member of the team as they worked to improve their skills in all areas of the game. Players new to the game, including Aaron Berry ’16, Ricky Cabrera ’16, Andrew Luker ’16 and Alex Villalobos ’16, were joined by more seasoned players Jonathan Bennett ’15, Kevin Heffernan ’15 and MVP Case Fisher ’16, who were always ready to lend a hand to their teammates.

Tennis
Thanks to the leadership of Coach Alice Cory and fierce dedication from all players, Palma Tennis came within one point of becoming co-TCAL Champions. This year’s team was 21-strong and led by veteran singles players Dominick Ottone ’11, Hunter Johnson ’11 and A.J. Yates ’12. Several great doubles teams emerged this season, including Justin Sampolo ’13 and Aengus Fanoe ’13 playing at number three, Henry Mirassou ’13 and Christian Calinawan ’14 at number two, and Christain Bengard ’13 and Mitchell Huntingon ’13 filling the number one slot.

Jr. High Tennis
2011 marked the first year of a Junior High Tennis team, a great addition to the Athletic Department. Seventh grader Nick Ottone was instrumental in organizing this team, and thanks to his foresight and fortitude, in its inaugural year the team was 11 players strong. Ottone’s teammates included fellow members of the class of 2016 Ricky Cabrera, Jacob Gomez, Jonathan Gomez, Michael Gutierrez, Joseph Keller, Diego Munoz, Steven Ochinang, Shea Valenzuela, and Alex Villalobos, along with eighth grader Kevin Bass. This brand new team has a lot to be proud of this season and a lot to look forward to next year.

Varsity Track and Field
Varsity Track and Field finished up 5th at TCAL Finals this year. MVP Jon Osborne ’11 led the team in the jumps and sprints and was an integral part of the 4x100 relay. Spencer Gamble ’13 qualified for CCS with a personal best 51.78 in the 400. The lone TCAL Champion and CCS Finalist was Matt Clary ’12 in the pole vault. Clary won TCALs with a 13’ vault and missed going to the state meet by one miss, coming in 4th with a personal best of 14’ at CCS Finals.

JV Track and Field
The JV squad relied on a strong core of freshmen and sophomores to take them all the way to a 2nd place finish in the TCAL. MVP Will Chilton ’14 took 2nd place in the 300 hurdles and 1st in the 4x100 relay. Other TCAL champions included Peter Lucas ’14 in the 200 and 4x100 and Devin Hinson ’14 in the 65 high hurdles. Chase Pacheco ’14 had 2nd place finishes in the long jump and high jump. Ben White ’14 was 4th in the 400 and on the 2nd place 4x400 team and Brandon Olivares ’14 ran the opening leg of the winning 4x100 team.
Junior High Track
Junior High Track and Field had a great season in the MTJAL. Eleven students came out for track this year, including seventh graders Jack Richardson, Bryce Robinson, Scott Sutliff, Palmit Takhar, and Clemente Villareal, who were joined by eighth grade team members Steven Camcam, Shane Folick, Matt Lucas, and David Nunes. Both the seventh and eighth grade 4 x 400 m relay teams set a school record, and one individual, Steven Camcam, set a very high mark of 18'1” in the long jump event.

Swimming
This year’s Palma Swim Team was guided through an exciting championship season by coach Dia Rianda. With incredible performances throughout the season by veteran swimmers Alex Hussain ‘12, and MVPs Daniel Fridley ‘11 and Michael D’Arrigo ‘11, the Chieftains took top honors at the TCAL Championships. Most Improved was earned by both Jacob Gumke ‘12 and Christopher Ho ‘13. Most Inspirational Swimmer was awarded to Brent Keller ‘13, and Most Dedicated Swimmer went to Tanner Carrillo-Zazueta ‘12, who both turned in fine performances meet after meet.

Varsity Volleyball
Varsity Volleyball put up a great fight this season against some tough competition. They played a high level of volleyball and excelled at both the sport and the competition. Chieftains used great sets and big swings to break out of ties in crucial moments of all their big matches. MVP Blake Hughes ‘11 anchored this squad with his talents and leadership, along with MVP Shayne Rogers ‘11, who was also a huge asset on the court. Dedication Award went to Billy Wang ‘11, who was a tireless worker, and the Coaches’ Award was deservedly given to Shivan Singh ‘12 for his efforts on behalf of his team.

JV Volleyball
The Chieftains saw some great successes on the volleyball court this season. Big swings and amazing kills by all players led to victory for JV Volleyball. MVP James Clark ‘14 was instrumental as a both a player and a leader for this squad. Most Improved Player was earned by Austin Wahl ‘13, who demonstrated incredible effort and was a model of sportsmanship throughout the season. The Coaches’ Award went to Jeremy Dicks ‘14 for his contributions on and off the court.

Jr. High Wrestling
Junior High wrestlers were a force to be reckoned with. The team grew both in numbers and talent this year, and all worked together to cheer one another on towards winning matches. The Chieftains were led by eighth graders Adam Lucero (MVP), Barret Bonfantini, Jonathan Garibay, Jack Gillott, Anthony Pacheco, Trever Seeley, and Austin Greene. Among seventh grade contributors were MVP Matt D’Arrigo, Alex Alonzo, Jacob Houle, Jared Cook, Gabe Rianda, and Tristan Babaian. Co-Captains Barret Bonfantini and Alex Alonzo were great leaders and helped to inspire and encourage their teammates all season.
Giving for 2010-2011
Fiscal year July 1, 2010 through June 30, 2011

This President’s Report is published to recognize the many generous donors whose gifts support Palma School. Every effort has been made to produce an accurate and comprehensive listing of donors. If you contributed a new gift or pledge to Palma School during the 2010-2011 fiscal year and your name has been omitted, misspelled or incorrectly listed, please accept our sincere apology and bring the error to our attention so that we may correct our records. Questions about the President’s Report should be directed to Palma’s Office of Advancement. Thank you to those who have supported Palma with Palma Fund gifts, capital improvement gifts, Athletic Council gifts, planned giving gifts, endowment gifts and other designated gifts. You are all part of an incredible heritage and generously working to make the future even better.

Br. Patrick D. Dunne C.F.C.
President

Total Income – $7,500,774

- $6,418,926 (85.58%) - Tuition, Fees & Auxiliary Income
- $104,717 (1.40%) - Bingo (net)
- $409,053 (5.45%) - The Palma Fund & Other Unrestricted Donations
- $140,718 (1.88%) - Scholarship & Other Restricted Donations
- $360,493 (4.81%) - Athletic Council
- $66,867 (8.9%) - Parents’ Club

The figures presented in this report are unaudited numbers.

Total Expenses – $7,500,774

- $5,141,423 (68.55%) - Educational/Institutional
- $348,031 (4.64%) - Administrative
- $413,803 (5.52%) - Athletic Council
- $537,333 (7.16%) - Financial Aid/Scholarship
- $54,961 (.73%) - Parents’ Club
- $717,288 (9.56%) - Plant & Maintenance
- $175,431 (2.34%) - Capital Expenditures
- $112,504 (1.50%) - Future Reserve

Who are our donors?

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- Alumni ........................... $86,585.39
- Grandparents ..................... $40,763.55
- Faculty/Staff........................ $7,682.50

Br. Patrick D. Dunne C.F.C.
President
The President’s Circle

The President’s Circle was established in 2008 to celebrate a distinguished group of philanthropists within the Palma School Community. Members who have made cumulative gifts of $1,000 or more in the past fiscal year in support of Palma School are included in this year’s report. This visionary group provides the school with vital and valuable resources to support a wide range of important needs. In recognition of these generous benefactors, Br. Patrick D. Dunne, C.F.C., President, hosts a special reception held in their honor each fall.

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Year after year, unrestricted support is critical to sustaining and expanding Palma’s commitment to unparalleled teaching and learning, while helping to address the full financial needs of all students. Tuition alone does not cover the cost of education at any private institution, and Palma is no exception. Palma’s annual giving campaign, The Palma Fund, ensures that all of today’s students have the same unparalleled experience as the generations of students who came before them.

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Palma holds the families of the following alumni in its thoughts and prayers.

Joe Scales ’60 – April 15, 2011
Patrick Burke ’77 – June 15, 2011
Sydney Darington ’82 – July 21, 2011
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The following Alumni are considered “lost” by the Alumni Relations Office, meaning that no current contact information is available for them. If you know, or are one of these individuals, please contact the Alumni Relations Office at 831-422-2309 or alumni@palmaschool.org.

1955
Stephen Avina
Penny Hersey

1957
John Fitzpatrick
Gloria Navalta

1958
Dora Scarpino

1959
Karen Clark
Stephen Clarke
Ailda Hurtado

1960
Shirley Downs
Edward Spencer
Michael Ullmann

1961
Geoffrey Hains
Jerry Janoski
Louis Lopez
James Reed
Erin Ross

1962
Karen Alexander
William Cowie
Olivia Favela
Joanne Frazure
Judy Kristofferson
Maggie Matthews
David Mitchell
Christine Salgado
Nancy Wilson-Rush

1963
Charlotte Allan
Mary Ellen Austin
Mrs. Mary Ellen Briel
Pat Carr
Richard Duron
Judy Ferris
Kathy Friedrickson-Boswell

1964
John D. Bell
Richard Bo
Kevin Callahan
John Collins
Timothy Dixon
Jennifer Copley
Henry Davila
Nicholas Lumsden
William Matthews

1965
James Churchill
Gary Grimes
Patrick McGrath
John Powers
John Rothstein
Matthew Stevens
Richard Thorup

1966
Richard Baxter
Robert F. Lindstrand
William Powell
Albert Rocamora
Daniel Sanchez

1967
John Carrillo
Paul Cava
William Collins
Thomas Diggins
John Grant
Bradley Johnson
Thomas Lee
Charles Marriott
Glenn Myrsk
Mark Rothstein

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David Hughes
William McClure

1969
David Barlogio
John Benoit
Kevin Bowen

1970
David Cooper
Kevin Foster
John Garcia
John Heidinger
Dave Kennedy
Marc Kirch
Harry Pilkington
Chris Russell
John Serrato
Jerry Tovey

1971
Sammy Alamillo
Joe Bowman
Tom Fitzgerald
Joe Gabriel
Chuck Martin
Frank McGuire
Mike Nye
Ray Salazar
Dan Umatomo
Tom Wecker

1972
Tom Deschler
Kevin Dunn
Eric Eckhart
John Edwards
Guy Elia
John Farina
John Hitchcock
Robert Jefferis
Carl A. Lindstrom Jr.
Corey Marshall

1973
Pat Bowman
Fermin De Guzman
Paul Drummie
Bill Guilford
Joseph Lacaze
Andrew Nye
Richard Potter
William H. Smith
Tim Workman

1974
Jim Echeveria
Anthony Ellis
Pedro Liano

1975
Kenneth F. Henke
Michael Higuera
Mike Horn
Gary Lindstrom
Thomas Link
Joe Liu
Glenn Markle
David D. Martinez, Jr.
Stephen Quinn
Glenn H. Smith
William Thompson
Gustavo Zavala

1976
Keith C. Bentley
Lerom T. Berclla
Michael Cooper
Gary Nelson
Kevin T. O’Kane
Thomas Quinn
Farhad Sadeghi
Mark Stoffers

1977
Bill Archuleta
Larry Boughton
Reg Bravo
Jim Dion
Lynn Garcia
Scott Mitchell
Jonn Nogge
Darrel Roberts
David Truman
Javier Zavala

1978
Benjamin Benafiel
Lloyd Fiorio
Darrel Gorse
Tim Hamby
Eric Hoff
Jeffrey Jones
David McDonald
Timothy McQuire
Sjoa Sepehri
Paul Stanford
Andrew Toms
Carl Vucinich
Lindsay Wheeler

1979
Ed Broome
Joe Costa
Don Fleming
David King
Douglas MacMillan
James Mary
Pat Nelson
Zahid Noorani
Dan Quinn
Mark Robbins
Mohammad Shakouri

1980
Steve Friedman
James Liu
Thomas McCann
Fred Redick

1981
Scott D. Anderson
Mike Bendle
Jeffrey Demers
Matt Flores
Paul Moscovic
Marciano Pitarque
Randell Reinhardt
Mark Schlatter
Shahrokh Shakouri
Ron Whitehead
Greg Whitfield

1982
Syd Darington
Chris Goldman
David Moore
Chris Napolitano
Greg Souza

1983
Dwayne Castronova
Fel Cruz
Sean Decker
Alfonso Fillion
Michael Fonsaugh
Thomas Goodnow
Layton Han
Eric Lottemoser
Richard Martinez
Kevin Roberts
Sean Ryan
Jack Smiley
Donald WALLS II

1984
Mike Barlait
Jeffrey C. Carr
Chris Castillo
Wayne Denson
Peter Donnelly
Jim Echorsz
David Feernea
Fred Fox
Ron Hendricks
Steve Shaffer
Brian Souza, Sr.
Scott Stoddard
Antonio Vela
Ted Wood

1985
Michael Clune
Robert James
Julian Liu
Jefferson Louie
David S. Martinez
Anthony Miller
Michael O’Grady
Alan Reade
Edward Smick
David Souza
Joseph Toan

1986
Joseph Amader
Mark G. Andrade
James Branden
Jeffrey Buttel
Shawn Farrell
Sean Gillis
James Icard
Roger Muro
James Quares
Timothy Wood

1987
Curt Cornell
Alan Devilliers
Jason Fogle
Kenneth James
Matthew Riddell
Carl Sutton
Kurt White
Kenny Yun

1988
Matthew Dean
Douglas Gray
Richard Harris
David Hoey
Miguel Lopez-Vigo
Bryan Macon
Jason Phillips
Shayne Somavia

1989
Ricardo Gonzales
Alexander Hahm
Robert Icard
Andrew James

1990
Monell Angeles
Jonathon Baker
Matthew P. Eaton
Joseph Drilling
Christopher S. Lee
Jason Martin
Garin Ranzenberger
Andrew Shaw

1991
David Apo
Eric Aspden
Jason Bone
Joseph Drilling
Christopher S. Lee
Jason Martin
Garin Ranzenberger
Andrew Shaw

1992
Juan P. Aguilera
Luis J. Arellano
Kenneth Young Jr.

1993
Casey M. Kelly
Bryan Leonard
Cristian Martinez
Chael L. Rubalcava

1994
Shayne Somavia
Joseph Hoey
Richard Harris
Matthew Herbert
Jason Shin

1995
Marcus A. Barbosa
Steven Jackson
Charles S. Park
Saam Shahbazi
Scott Sierra
Stephen Spadoni

1996
David Donahue
Leonie Magfalt
Joseph Quinones
Brandon Young

1997
Austin Saunders

1998
Tylar Case
Cody Leitevere
Andrew Reyes

1999
Nathan Ramirez

2000
Jonathan C. Baptista
Vincent Barrientos
Christopher Boyd
Jason R. Brunson
Andrew J. Corlett
David M. Creager
Christopher S. Lee
Jason Martin
Garin Ranzenberger
Andrew Shaw

2001
Luis J. Arellano
Kenneth Young Jr.

2002
Ranch Birch
Travis Gibson

2003
Austin Saunders

2004
David Donahue
Leonie Magfalt
Joseph Quinones
Brandon Young

2005
Austin Saunders

2006
Tylar Case
Cody Leitevere
Andrew Reyes

2007
Nathan Ramirez

2008
Austin Saunders

2009
Austin Saunders

2010
Austin Saunders

2011
Austin Saunders

2012
Austin Saunders

2013
Austin Saunders
A much-needed renovation of the gym floor took place over the summer. The home of Palma basketball and volleyball was completely refurbished and is now ready to host athletic competitions, rallies and assemblies for the next generation of Chieftains.
From the Archives: Lawrence Viole (left) talks with Monsignor Thomas Earley in what is now the Palma Gymnasium. Originally constructed in 1951 as an auditorium, the space was quickly converted to accommodate Palma’s Basketball team.
If this issue of the President's Report is addressed to your son who no longer maintains a permanent address at your home, please help us update our records by calling the Institutional Advancement and Alumni Relations office (831) 422-2309 or email the correct address to alumni@palmaschool.org.