Front Cover Interview:
Fresh Start as Freshmen

VIP®



VIP Principal:
Sister Margaret Ann Archbishop Coleman Carroll

VIP 2nd Summer Service Project

Belen's Annual Tombola

Year 5
No. 26
FREE
Miami FL. May 2020

Very Important Purpose is hosting their second sleep-away summer service project for teens between the ages of 15 and 17. We will be hosting this summer service project for six weeks. Teens who participate will be able to serve their community in various ways throughout the week. Each teen will receive up to 100 hours of community service at the end of their stay.

- ☑ The teens will learn teamwork, communication skills and leadership skills.
- ☑ They will gain an appreciation of their everyday life while working and helping local organizations.
- ☑ They will participate in daily forums with invited guests that will encourage them to love themselves and others.
- ☑ They will have the opportunity to participate in various activities such as soccer, volleyball, Zumba, yoga, etc.
- ☑ They will be able to cook, bake, and participate in everyday routines.
- ☑ Activities such as a Talent Shows, Karaoke Night, Game Night will be part of scheduled activities.
- ☑ Throughout the week, students will work with different organizations like La Ventana de los Cielos, The Ronald McDonald House Charity, Foster Care Systems, Humane Society of Greater Miami, a Beach Clean-up, and more.

Our 2020 Dates:

There will be 1 parent meeting held before camp starts (TBA)

- ☑ June 8th – June 13th
- ☑ June 15th - 20th
- ☑ June 22nd - 27th
- ☑ July 13th - 18th
- ☑ July 20th -25th
- ☑ July 27th - August 1st

Summer Camp Price: $700.00 per student

Price Includes:

- ☑ Accommodation at our Homestead Cabin “El Escondite”
- ☑ Breakfast, lunch and dinner all full days
- ☑ Transportation to all facilities
- ☑ 4 shirts that must be worn when out of the cabin.

Chaperones:

We are always looking to involve our parents! If you would like to chaperone this Summer Camp you must have the following:

- ☑ Fingerprints
- ☑ Virtuous Program Participation
- ☑ Must be a parent of a participating student

Cost for Chaperone:
$500.00

Price Includes:

- ☑ Accommodation at our Homestead Cabin “El Escondite”
- ☑ Breakfast, lunch and dinner all full days
- ☑ Transportation to all facilities
- ☑ 4 shirts that must be worn when out of the cabin.












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SPECIAL THANKS FOR THIS EDITION:
The ACE Project from FIU
Are You Kidding Socks
Happy Holidays

FRONT COVER PHOTOSHOOT BY:
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Our VIP305 cover page for Magazine 26 features Alexa Orozco, Isabelle Alfonso-Fornos, Isabella Schwarte, Leah Aguilar, and Jian Hernandez. These five friends spent their Valentine's Day having fun and celebrating their love for each other with a photoshoot. During the photoshoot, our VIP team was able to sit down with the girls and talk about their next chapter in life: high school. They talked about their excitement, fears and more!



Fresh Start as Freshmen

1. **Which high school are you going to?**
2. **Why did you decide to apply to this high school?**
3. **What are you most looking forward to?**
4. **What are you least looking forward to?**
5. **What is your favorite and least favorite subject?**
6. **Which clubs/sports are you interested in joining?**
7. **Which college do you plan on attending?**
8. **What are you planning on majoring in?**
9. **How do you like to spend your free time?**



Jian Hernandez
Current school: Saint Agatha Catholic School

1. Our Lady of Lourdes Academy (OLLA)
2. I decided to apply because it felt like the best option for me.
3. Making new friends and academic challenges
4. All the work that comes along with going to a new high school.
5. My favorite subject is math. My least is social studies.
6. Lacrosse, cross country, swim team, and maybe volleyball and soccer.
7. Virginia Tech, or any Ivy League school
8. In law or the business industry
9. I like to spend my free time drawing, skateboarding, surfing, or anything that is outdoors.



Isabella Schwarte
Current School: Saint Agatha Catholic School

1. I will be attending St. Brendan High School
2. I decided to apply to this high school because I like the academic opportunities.
3. I'm looking forward to making new friends.
4. I'm not looking forward for all the homework and final exams.
5. My favorite subject is Social Studies and my least favorite subject is Literature.
6. I'm interested in joining the basketball team and volleyball team.
7. I plan on attending the University of Florida.
8. I would like to major in Law and Business.
9. I like to spend my free time hanging out with my friends.



Leah Aguilar
Current School: Saint Agatha Catholic School

1. Our Lady of Lourdes Academy
2. I applied to this high school because it is a challenging faith filled school.
3. I look forward to making new friends and participating in new extracurricular activities.
4. Leaving the school I have been part of for so many years.
5. My favorite subject is math and my least favorite subject is social studies.
6. I am interested in joining cross country as well as OLLA TV.
7. I plan to attend the University of Miami.
8. I would like to major in criminal psychology or medicine.
9. I like to spend my free time with my friends.



Isabelle Alfonso-Fornos
Current School: Saint Agatha Catholic School

1) Our Lady of Lourdes Academy
2) I applied to olla because I felt like I belonged there.
3) I'm looking forward to making new friends and making memories that will last forever.
4) I'm least looking forward to all the homework.
5) My favorite subjects in school are science and history. My least favorite is literature.
6) I'm interested in playing tennis and joining religious clubs and organizations as well as many honor societies.
7) I hope to attend the university of Florida, university of Miami, or John Hopkins university.
8) I plan on majoring in either oncology, genetics, or biology.
9) I like to spend my free time playing the piano, shopping, and spending time with my friends.



Alexa Orozco
Current School: Saint Agatha Catholic School

1. I am going to Our Lady of Lourdes Academy
2. I decided to apply to Lourdes because ever since I was little, it was always my dream to attend OLLA.
3. I'm most looking forward to creating amazing new friendships. Something else I'm excited for is to be involved in the many extracurricular activities that Lourdes offers
4. I'm least looking forward to waking up a lot earlier than I currently do.
5. My favorite subjects are Math and English and my least favorite subject is Literature.
6. I'm interested in joining the Lourdes Dance Team and along the way I hope to get involved in any clubs that meet my interests.
7. I'm planning on attending the University of Miami
8. I would like to major in Business
9. I love to spend my free time watching Netflix and most of all, spending time with my friends.

VIP had the pleasure to interview Sister Ann, the principal of Archbishop Coleman Carroll High School. The interview was conducted by Arianna Aparicio, Class of 2020. Arianna Aparicio interviewed Sister Ann on her position as principal as well as her future goals for Archbishop Coleman Carroll.



1. When did you begin your position as principal?
I began 5 years ago, when the community asked me to move from California to Miami to serve at Archbishop Coleman Carroll.

2. What did the first few days feel as principal?
I was so excited to be here. Before I became a sister, I was a high school teacher, so it was very exciting to have the opportunity again.

3. What are your favorite parts about being a principal of a school?
I love being with the students and watching them grow, improve, gain confidence. I love seeing them get excited about life, the future, and what God has given them. I also admire the new teachers and seeing them work together with the students to grow.

4. What is your daily routine as principal?
I start each day with Mass, spend 45 minutes in the hall greeting and interacting with teachers and students and seeing if I can be of service to any of them.

5. What is your favorite day out of the whole school year and why?
I can't say that I have a favorite day because I love every day that I am here.

6. As principal how do you try to do things differently than other schools?
I do not worry about what other schools do, instead I try to listen to the needs of our school and what our Parents, Teachers, and Students need.

7. What are you most proud of in your school?
I am most proud of my students and my teachers by the way they work together to improve Archbishop Coleman Carroll and also grow individually. Every day I see teachers working with our students to help them, rather than punish them.

8. What are your future goals for the school?
To continue growing the enrollment because as it grows, we will be able to do more for our school and students. We are looking in to providing transportation and looking for funding for more students to come, growing our academics, and putting in more dual enrollment classes. We are looking into doing whatever will be of service to our students.

9. How do you as principal like to engage with your students?
I engage in one on one conversations, small group conversations, and just letting the student know that I am here to serve them. I allow students to make mistakes, but we will work together as a family to make sure that everything is okay.

10. If it wasn't for this school where would you be now?
I would be wherever my community would ask me to serve. As a religious sister, I am at the service of God and His church so my community would probably ask me to serve in another school if I wasn't here.

11. What is the best story you have that has ever happened in your school while you were principal?
There is so many of them. Almost on a daily basis, someone will come in and tell me how happy they are to be in this school, and that they feel like a real person and not just a number. Students come and say how the teachers really know and love them, and that they know that God has a purpose for them.

12. If you had no restrictions on what you can do to your school what would it be?
I would build things I know our students really want like a swimming pool, track field, fitness center, etc. I would build a dorm so that we could have international students here since there is a real need for those students who want to have an education here in the United States.

Debaters Make Finals, Medal Round At Fairchild Challenge

2/7/2020

The Columbus Debaters competed in the 17th Annual Fairchild Challenge Debates.



We had four students competing on two teams against 26 schools throughout Miami-Dade and Broward County. The format of this event is the two-person debating style known as British Parliamentary Debate. After preliminary seeding rounds took place, the Columbus teams entered into the third round of debate as the first and sixth overall seeds out of 46 teams.

Both Columbus teams advanced to the semi-final round of competition. Leading the way for the Explorers, the team of Andrew Castro and Javier Hidalgo-Gato won their semi-final round and advanced into the final round as the overall top seed of the tournament! Meanwhile the team of Albert Sanchez and Marcel Van Hemert, ended their great run in the semifinals. Castro and Hidalgo-Gato debated the final round of competition in front of an audience of about 150 teachers, students, and Fairchild staff inside the Garden House.

In finals, the boys faced great competitors from Coral Reef, North Broward Prep, and Mater Academy Lakes. The students debated the topic: This house supports renewal of FPL's operating license of the Turkey Point Power Plant for an additional 20 years., In front of Miami Herald reporters, educators, parents, and Garden guests alike, the boys gave some great speeches supporting Miami's investment into nuclear energy.

After the judge deliberation, our boys earned silver medals and finished in 2nd place of the entire debates slightly missing out to Coral Reef, the tournament winners. This is only the second time in school history (first was in 2009) that we have medaled in the Challenge Debates.

This is the only tournament of its kind where students get a chance to debate outside in a botanical garden discussing local environmental issues that affect the students. Below are the rest of the topics debated yesterday:

- This house will permit the United States to withdraw from the Paris Climate Agreement.
- This house shall pass SB 172, a bill preventing local governments from regulating sunscreen sales.
- This house will end federal aid to rebuild in disaster prone areas.



The Columbus Robotics Club traveled to Washington DC to participate in an invitational competition dubbed 'Night at the Museum' hosted by NOVA Systemic.

Robotics Competes In Night At The Museum Invitational

2/5/2020

The competition was held at the Smithsonian National Air and Space Museum.
It was a very well organized event that brought in 60 teams from 31 different states that had combined for 118x Tournament Champions, 105x Robot Skills Champions, 82x Excellence Awards, and 32x Design Awards. The Club competed alongside the SR-71 Blackbird, the fastest plane ever engineered topping off at 2,193 mph. It was an experience like no other for the Explorers.
After two days of competition, the club members explored the National Mall, the battleground of Bull Run and ended the trip with a nice retreat.
vLog created by Gabriel Paz





Congratulations to the JV and Varsity Sabrettes! Saint Brendan High School's JV and Varsity dance team competed the weekend of February 21-23 in Orlando, Florida at the Dance Team Union National Championship. Both the JV and Varsity Sabrettes brought home National Titles in the Allstar Jazz, Allstar Lyrical, Senior Open Contemporary, and Junior Varsity Jazz. Year after year, the JV and Varsity Sabrettes show everybody that their hard work and dedication will be worth it. Way to go, Sabres!





Catholic Schools Week at Saint Brendan Elementary School

During the last week of January, Saint Brendan Elementary School celebrated every student's favorite week: Catholic Schools Week! The week consisted of 100 days of school, Career Day, a Talent Show, and Field Day. On the last day of Catholic Schools Week, Field Day was celebrated where a color run took place. This week brings all students and faculty together, as it is a week that everyone looks forward to participating in.







Pace High preps and packs 3,500 meals

BY Surella Rodriguez - Monsignor Edward Pace HS | Archdiocese of Miami







Faculty, staff, administrators and 75 students at Msgr. Edward Pace High School worked together to prepare meals for the homeless at the 24th annual Hungerfest retreat held Feb. 7 and 8. During the weekend retreat, 3,533 meal bags were prepared to feed neighboring communities, as well as food service shelters Camillus House, Miami Rescue Mission and Missionaries of Charity. The meal bags contained peanut butter and jelly sandwiches, cookies, and juice boxes. They also included palancas, which are small notes of prayers, scriptures, inspirational quotes or encouraging words. Hungerfest participants also take on a 24-hour fast so that they can experience the challenges that the less fortunate face daily. After packing meals, a period of adoration gave students and others the opportunity for reflection and prayer before the Blessed Sacrament. Guest speaker Alex Fiallo also shared his testimony on formerly being homeless. The retreat concluded on the morning of Feb. 8 with the loading of meal bags onto two buses and delivering them to the food service shelters. Following the merger with Archbishop Curley Notre Dame High School in 2017, Pace High inherited Hungerfest and has continued it for the last three years. Terri Williams, a current Pace teacher who worked at Curley-Notre Dame for many years, coordinated the event with the assistance of a committee consisting of faculty members Katrina Figueroa, Pascal Reseau, Andres Novela, Daniel Reese, Teodora Calero, David Masters and Brother John Corcoran. The Pace family is proud to continue this humanitarian tradition.



Schoolhouse Preparatory

On February 13th, the Varsity Boys Basketball Team at Schoolhouse Preparatory competed and won the title of District Champions! Congratulation on your achievement, all the hard work and dedication was worth it. Great job Wolfpack!

2020 ISSF "Star Student Awards"

Congratulations to Quentavia Daniels, Jackson Gessner, and Michael Gildereal. These are exemplary students who have demonstrated excellence in the following areas: academics, citizenship, effort, and a commitment to positive goals and attitude. They, along with recipients from over 200 schools will be honored at the Independent Schools of South Florida (ISSF) Luncheon on April 22nd









Father – Daughter Dance

On February 21st, Our Lady of Lourdes Parish school celebrated their 2nd Annul Father- Daughter dance. Thanks to the planning of the PSA, the Jaguar family enjoyed a magical night filled with dinner, music, and dancing.





The Lourdes Academy girls' soccer team captures the Class 6A state championship

BY Bill Daley Miami Herald Writer

One by one, the buses filed in. Seven of them in all.

And when all the Lourdes Academy fans were all piled in to Spec Martin Stadium late Friday afternoon, approximately 500 of them, decked out in white-out sweat shirts, they went crazy rooting for their Lady Bobcats. They were duly rewarded for their efforts.

Thanks to a perfectly executed Isabella Guisasola-to-Mia Atrio goal early in the second half, Lourdes captured the Class 6A state championship with a 2-1 victory against Venice at Spec Martin Stadium. It marked the Bobcats' second state title in the past three years having edged Oviedo 1-0 in 2018.

The scene was surreal when it was over as the Lourdes girls only briefly celebrated together before they headed straight over to the fence to celebrate with their euphoric fans.

"Look at that sea of white," said Lourdes coach Ramiro Vengoechea pointing to the stands. "This is what Lourdes soccer is all about. The way the Lourdes community rallies behind these girls I think has a direct effect on the outcome of some of these games and I think that might have been the case today."

Unlike their previous three playoff games — including last week's state semifinal win against Viera when they scored with less than three minutes left in regulation to force overtime — the Bobcats never trailed.
Lourdes took a 1-0 lead in the 21st minute when Francesca DeZendegui got loose down low off a centering pass and headed it goalward. The ball bounced off the inside of the left post where Venice keeper Ashton Pennell grabbed it. But the side referee blew the whistle and crossed her hands signaling a goal as it was determined that Pennell had gone too far into the net to make the save and the ball crossed the line.

Lourdes had the lead. That was until the Indians (15-4-2) tied it just 2:06 before halftime on a Kiersten "Kiki" Slattery goal.

But the game was not tied for long as the Bobcats (18-2-1) got the lead they would never lose five minutes into the second half. That's when Guisasola turned on the burners down the right side and flat out beat two Venice defenders to get the corner turned and centered the ball. Atrio dove forward and just barely got her right foot on the ball as Pennell got there as well and knocked into the back of the net.

"I saw Isabella dribbling down the right side," said Atrio, who will now take her talents to the University of Miami after a decorated four-year career at Lourdes. "I thought to myself if she gets this thing centered — it's a state championship game and knew I would regret it if I didn't make a run in the box for an open chance. So I just came out of nowhere and put my life on the line and just dove to get a foot on that ball."

The Bobcat defense was air tight as keeper Mia Alexander was never really put in any really tough spots down the stretch.

"Mia is probably the best player in Lourdes history and there have obviously been a lot of great players to come through here," said Vengoechea definitively. "She has stepped up in every single game and especially in big moments when we really needed her. She's never been afraid to put the team on her back when needed and the University of Miami is going to be a better program with her on the field over there."

As far as the crowd was concerned? Atrio had plenty to say.

"I don't think this has never happened in history with this many people coming out," said Atrio. "I actually think it might have had a direct effect on us on the field today. We saw everybody filing in and it really got us fired up. A dream come true to close out my career this way and I wouldn't have wanted it to end any other way."

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Catholic Schools Week at Saint Theresa Catholic School

Saint Theresa celebrated Catholic Schools Week throughout the last week of January. Each day of the week there was something for all of the faculty and over 900 students in the school to look forward to. The week consisted of events such as 100 Days of School, Field Day, Career Day, Students Day and much more! To wrap up Catholic Schools week, they had a Green and Gold Day where everyone dressed up in those colors and had a day filled with activities.













On October 1st, Very Important Purpose announced our first anti-vaping campaign "Slam Vaping" to show students the dangers of vaping. After seeing all the illnesses and deaths from vaping, as well as the affects it has on teenagers' lives, we decided to start this campaign in hopes of opening eyes and putting an end to vaping.

Our VIP team created a presentation to present to the students of Archbishop Coleman Carroll High School to educate them on the health risks of e-cigarettes, factors that lead to the use of it, and how to avoid using e-cigarettes. Thank you to Archbishop Coleman Carroll for welcoming us to present at your school! Our VIP team was inspired to start our campaign after seeing the ACE Project's from FIU (The Antecedents and Consequences of Electronic Nicotine Delivery Systems Project) presentation on the harms of e-cigarette use. Thank you to Dr. Trucco and her entire team from the ACE Project for working with us and teaching us valuable information on the risks of e-cigarette use! We also want to thank "Are You Kidding" socks for helping VIP with the "Slam Vaping" campaign. "Are You Kidding" is a company who is dedicated to helping good causes through the sale of their socks.

If you are interested in receiving our SLAM Vaping presentation at your school contact us at:

info@vip-305.com

(305) 600-1327!



Hamilton at ISPA

By: Sarah Perkel

As of mid-November, ISPA's very own APUSH teacher, Ms. Pascal, has experimented with a particularly creative way of teaching. As a result of her outreach, The Hamilton Education program, a product of the partnership between The Gilder Lehrman Institute and the original producers of Hamilton, has made its way to our high school's classrooms. The innovative organization, through a series of meetings that encourage students to both examine historical documents and create their own unique performances, has created a new association between America's past and theatricality, helping to breathe new life into seemingly untouchable figures/events. These aforementioned assemblies are scattered over the course of several weeks, the goal of which is to fully comprehend a specific historical primary source, and later create a dynamic art piece based upon the information gleaned from said document. As dictated by requirements, slam poetry, monologues, musical pieces, and skits are all acceptable creative formats. If a student is lucky enough to be one of forty selected by their school itself, any work they created during the meetings will be submitted to the Hamilton Education Program to be reviewed by its panel of judges. Though all of these forty will receive tickets to see a production of Hamilton (in the same city in which their school resides), some of their number may be specially picked to perform their chosen piece live for both the current cast and every other attending pupil. Whether students can claim victory in this competition or not, it is practically assured that everyone participating will enjoy their experience, hopefully remembering this golden opportunity long after it has passed.







A Conversation with the French Ambassador to the United States

By: Stella Delmonte

While enjoying his first trip to Miami, Philippe Etienne, the French Ambassador to the United States, gave a lecture at Coral Gables independent bookstore: Books and Books. The discussion spanned the course of a few hours, during which Etienne and his guest, David Kramer (a local professor from Florida International University), discussed challenges that threatened to affect both the U.S. and France, the politics of gender, climate change, and international trade among the most prominent. Audience members were free to participate, transforming the experience into a sort of forum, questioning the academics and forcing them to delve deeper into the implications of the topics they had already touched upon. This event held special importance for the French population in Miami, as it allowed for the community to voice any concerns or questions they had retained about the issues plaguing their home country, showing interest especially in those subjects discussed during the G7 meeting. Overall, the experience proved both meaningful and educational, all participants (including our very own ISPA students) gleaning valuable information from their involvement.







On September 28th, **our VIP team raised $2,245.00 for the Saint Jude Walk/Run.** Our friends from Saint Agatha Catholic School participated with us in helping reach our goal. Our team had a great experience knowing we were able to help children and their families. Thank you, Saint Agatha, for all of your support, we could not have done it without you! Saint Jude Walk/Run is held every September for Childhood Cancer Awareness Month to raise money for Saint Jude, where the families of the children never have to pay a bill.

The event on September 28th had 326 teams and 4,072 participants who helped surpass the goal by raising $475,683!

Instagram Favorites

Ring Ceremony 2020


















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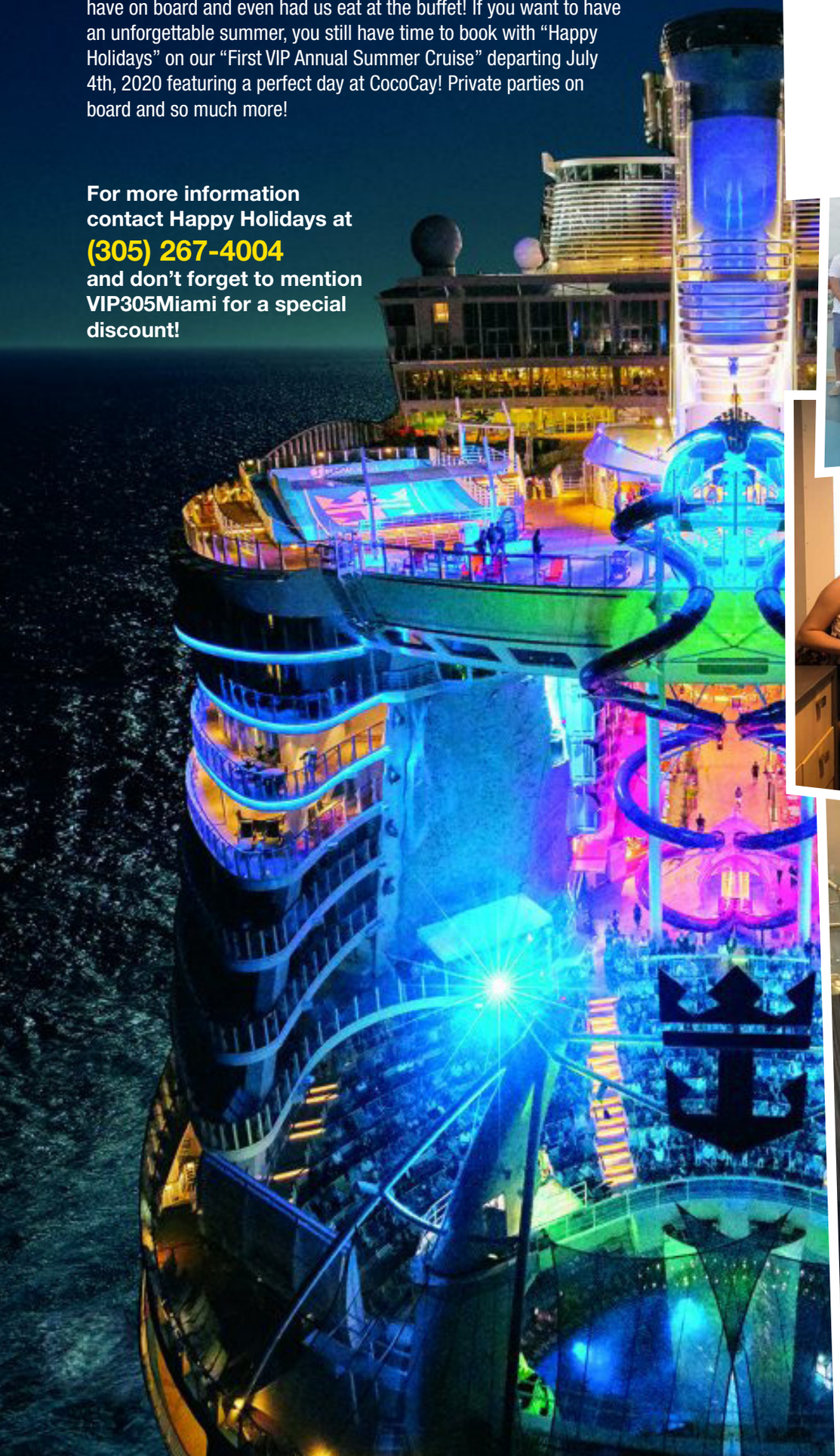
On October 19th, our friends from “Happy Holidays” invited us to visit the “Symphony of the Seas”. We had such a great time! They gave us a full tour of the boat, showing us the different types of rooms, pools, activities, etc. They showed us the restaurants they have on board and even had us eat at the buffet! If you want to have an unforgettable summer, you still have time to book with “Happy Holidays” on our “First VIP Annual Summer Cruise” departing July 4th, 2020 featuring a perfect day at CocoCay! Private parties on board and so much more!

For more information contact Happy Holidays at

(305) 267-4004

and don’t forget to mention VIP305Miami for a special discount!

HAPPY HOLIDAYS TRAVEL











DOING GOOD DOES YOU GOOD

By: Ginelle Alvarez

Life can get crazy, leading us to feel as though we don't have enough hours in the day to take care of everything that needs to get done, so of course, when asked if you give back, work in the community, or help the needy, you think to yourself, "With what time?!? I barely have time to take care of myself!" What if I told you that doing good, does you good? And what if I also told you that giving can positively affect your mental health.

Simply put, giving feels good. Small acts of kindness, or larger acts, can give you a sense of purpose and make you feel happier and more satisfied about life. It promotes positive physiological changes in the brain that are associated with happiness, improves mood, and increases self-esteem. Biologically, giving activates regions in the brain associated with pleasure, connection with others, and trust. Engaging in acts of kindness can have physical benefits as well. The positive emotions we experience from doing good, reduce stress and protect us from disease. We are given the opportunity to eliminate the negative feelings that have a negative impact on our mind and body and replace them with positive emotions that can affect our brain in ways that increase our awareness, attention, and memory. People who experience more positive emotions in their everyday lives tend to be happier, healthier, learn better, and get along well with others.

Relationships with others also influence our mental well-being; therefore, positive social behavior that shows kindness, empathy, and support have a positive effect on your mental health as well. It improves social support, gives us a sense of belonging and reduces isolation. Giving distracts us from our own problems, encourages us to lead a more active lifestyle and in more meaningful activity. It helps us strengthen our relationships and build new ones. One of the greatest gains of doing good and giving back is that it influences your perception of yourself and the world. When we choose to work with the less fortunate, it allows us to realize how lucky we are and enables us to stop focusing on what we feel is missing, which allows us to focus on the many blessings we already possess, in turn giving us a sense of gratitude.

During this time of year, it is easy to get caught up in the hustle and bustle of the holiday season. I encourage you to find small ways in which you can help your community or take the time to demonstrate small acts of kindness to others throughout the day. Be selfish, do yourself some good!

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Best of Times Indeed

BY Fr. Guillermo M. Garcia-Tunon, S.J. | President





This academic year began with informing the school community about the theme that would carry us throughout the months of studies, sports, and activities. "Be worth your salt," has been a reminder of the need we have to work for what we want, not take anything for granted, and realize that the world owes us nothing. On the contrary, we owe the world.

I confess I was a bit concerned that while the theme was printed on pretty posters hung on bulletin boards around the school, the meaning of the phrase would get lost in the hustle and bustle of Belen life. Then there was Tombola. This is the most important of all Belen events, not simply because it raises more money for financial assistance than any other event, but because it gathers the community at large and gives us an opportunity to be together.

As I walked this weekend through every corner of the Belen campus, I ran into alumni who hadn't been on campus since they graduated, current students and their parents racing up and down the halls picking up food for their booths, and teachers flipping burgers and stuffing Cuban bread with "lechon." I saw parents whose sons graduated long ago come to support and regain the feel of belonging to this awesome community. I saw grandparents whose children were once here and whose grandchildren are now students at Belen, manning a booth and having a great time. These were all people who were being worth their salt.

There may have been some who did not make it to Tombola for one reason or another, but most were here because they understood that for this one weekend, it mattered to be here. It is no coincidence that the gospel for Sunday's Mass was, "You are the salt of the earth."

There are so many people who have to be thanked for the extraordinary success of Tombola 2020 – The Best of Times. Our administrators, faculty, and staff served faithfully and without hesitation. Gigi García-Chang and her army of hardworking, faithful parents were the heart and soul of the weekend. Matthew Jordan and his student posse were ready at any moment to resolve any issue. Yvonne von der Osten and the multitude of Belen mothers put together a culinary extravaganza for the ages. Student Council President Alberto Romero '20 and Vice President Gabriel Robau '20 and the senior class of 2020 manned the pumps, filled in slots to work the booths, and led the charge during the "hora loca" to close us out. The maintenance staff put things up and then took them down.

To all our sponsors, teachers, parents, students, and alumni, thank you for always saying "yes". Because of you, this year's Tombola raised $721,323.14, surpassing last year's total by a lot. This was only possible because of your hard work. On behalf of the Belen Jesuit administration and, especially, all of our students and future students who will have an opportunity to study at our school because of financial assistance… thank you! This weekend proved once again, you are worth your salt.





ENTREVISTA CON **REGINA CARROT**

QUE TUS PALABRAS CONSTRUYAN Y NO DESTRUYAN

Tuvimos la gran oportunidad de entrevistar a Regina Carrot, oradora motivacional, que se ha ido haciendo conocer poco a poco en las redes sociales y hoy cuenta con mas de 600.000 seguidores en Instagram y mas de un millón de personas inscritas en su canal de Youtube.

Nuestra Vip Teen, Tatiana Amezaga, condujo la entrevista y pudimos darnos cuenta que Regina Carrot es una mujer con un angel muy especial.

Tati: ¿Qué fue lo que te motivó en convertirte en influencer y cuando empezaste?

Regina Carrot: Empece hace cuatro años con mi canal de YouTube y para ser sincera no sabía bien qué rumbo tomar y hacia de todo. Pero lo que si sabia, es que quería influenciar a las personas, contar historias que me había sucedido a mí, hablar de mis fracasos, mis miedos. Entonces me di cuenta que no había algo o alguien que estuviera apoyando a las personas, que todo era mas consumismos material. Entonces empece a escribir cosas desde mi corazón ahí fue cuando lance el primer video, hace 2 anos." Se llama, "Cuando sientas miedo en tu vida" y a mucha responsabilidad porque todo lo que yo hago se queda ahi grabado para siempre y me he dado cuenta de el poder de las palabras por eso hay que procurar que tus palabras construyan y no destruyan."

Tati: Como toda persona famosa, también recibirás algunos malos comentarios, ¿Cómo lo manejas?

Regina Carrot: "Pues al principio, obviamente si te afecta y te quieres poner a discutir con esa persona, pero la realidad es que cuando abres tu canal o cuando estas en redes, eres una figura publica." "Y entonces tienes que aceptar que así va ser, "Pero la mayoría de las personas que comentan cosas feas, son personas que no tienen seguidores, es gente que están sentado en el sillón juzgando y tu estas tratando de cumplir tus sueños y no se puede tomar personal."

Tati: ¿Cuando estas por preparar un video, de donde sacas los temas y si te preparas antes o lo gravas espontáneo?

Regina Carrot: "Normalmente siempre le pregunto a los seguidores y me llega la lista, pero ante de yo tener tantos seguidores yo me metía en

Regina Carrot: "Yo les diría que primero tengan una buena propuesta, algo que te diferencie y te haga único, porque ya hay muchas cosas allá fuera como copias, que ya funcionaron. "Entonces tienes que recordar: Uno, cual es el mensaje, Dos, como vas a replicar ese mensaje, no solo en una pieza de contenido, sino para que te de para todas las semanas, y como te vas a diferenciar tu al resto de los demás." "Esto requiere tiempo, es una carrera full time." "Yo le recomiendo que empiecen con un plan de negocio y que desarrolle la idea así con un plan para hacer una estrategia, que no sea como que de la nada."

Tati: ¿Ahora qué consejos les puede dar a los padres de esos jóvenes sobre sus hijos sobre el tema de redes sociales y ser o volverse famoso?

Regina Carrot: " Yo le diría a todos los padres, que si tienen razón en estar detrás de las cuentas de sus hijos porque es un mundo donde tu nunca sabes quien te esta contactando." "Yo les pido a los padres de familias que sigan pegados a sus hijos y que lo lleven de la mano y si se puede hacer una carrera." "Exclusivamente ahora en las Universidades."

Tatiana Amezga (Question 9): ¿Piensas sacar algo de música nueva pronto?

Regina Carrot: "Sabes que esa carrera la trate un rato y la verdad es que me apasiona mas lo que esto haciendo ahorita." "Pero tengo unas canciones guardadas, que no he secado, que las tengo que masterizar y producir bien." "En las conferencias voy a incluir ciertas canciones en unas partes pero no estoy persiguiendo esa carrera de ser cantante." "Si se llegan abrir las puertas, me encantaría luego salir en una seria de Netflix o television."

Tatiana Amezga (Question 10): ¿También actúas, es algo que sigues haciendo o estas dedicada solo a tus videos?

Regina Carrot: "Ahora solamente estoy dedicada a mis videos." "Hace 10 años ,yo empece actuando en una serie de televisión, pero como requería much tiempo, yo necesitaba hacer mis cosas." "Entonces dije, yo hago la plataforma y después que me busquen, ya que tengo todo el following.

Tati: ¿Cuándo no estas trabajando que lo que mas te gusta hacer?

Regina Carrot: "Me gusta ir mucho al cine." "No se si aparezca, pero yo soy mas tranquila." "Yo prefiero ir a platicar con amigos en vés de ir a fiestas o clubs."

Tatiana Amezga (Question 12): ¿Cual es tu deporte favorito:

Regina Carrot: "El tennis."

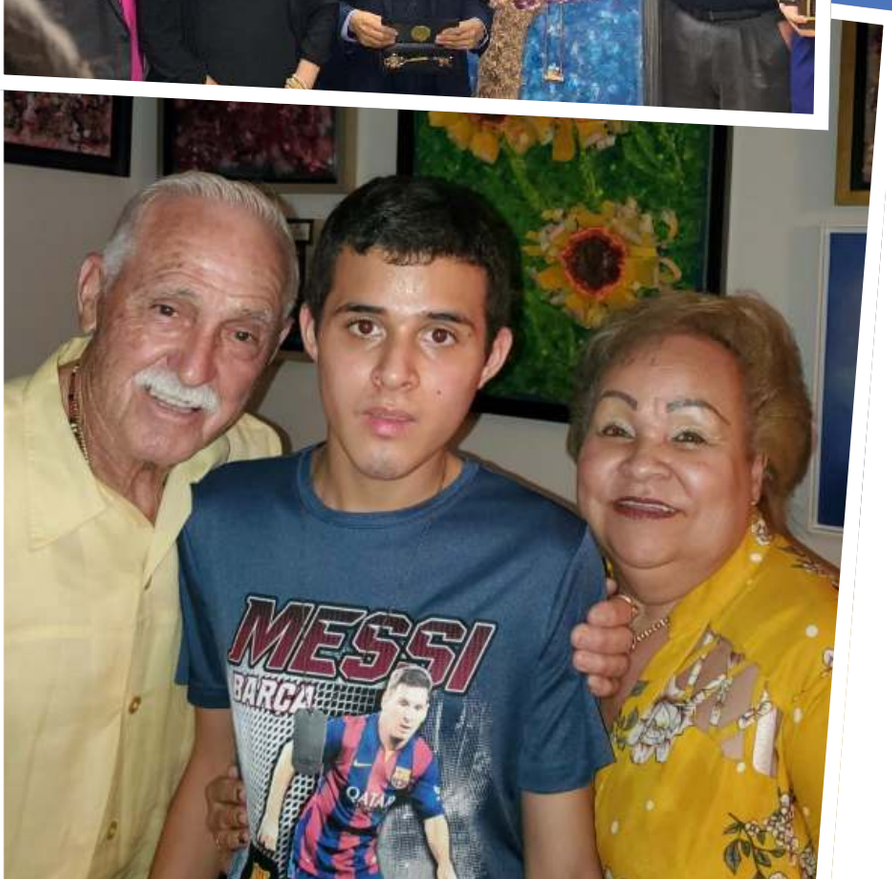
Tatiana Amezga (Question 13): ¿Como te ves en cinco anos?
Regina Carrot: "Yo en cinco años me veo teniendo una jira internacional mas grande con público de cinco mil o siete











Bryan Fernandez-Cornejo starts off the new year on the right note, with new art exhibitions and new masterpieces. His art, which is different in nature and incorporates different textures is loved and admired. It is not uncommon for Bryan to sell out whenever he has an art exhibition.

In February, he was a special guest at the Autism Rescue Foundation Gala, where he was invited to showcase his new art collection. One of the art pieces that stood out was a Sunflower he made out of acrylic and paper. Guests like Alberto M. Carvalho, Superintendent of Miami-Dade County Public Schools and Former Miami Dade Mayor Tomas Regalado had the opportunity to appreciate Bryan's new collection.

Bryan was diagnosed with autism spectrum disorder at a young age and has been shattering stigmas and preconceptions ever since. His art has been showcased in New York, New Jersey, and Florida.

His foundation "Bryan's Art Foundation" is a non-profit organization that helps individuals who have artistic aptitudes develop their art by covering the cost of Art, Music and Dance classes. His parents, Roxana Corcuera and Luis Fernendez-Cornejo invited everyone who wants to know more about Bryan, his art, and foundation to visit www.bryansf.org



The LaSalle cheerleaders give the school its first state championship in history

By: Bill Daley Miami Herald Writer

Dwight Eisenhower was still president of the United States when Immaculata-LaSalle opened the doors to its school in the late 1950s.

In all that time, no team in any sport ever won a state title. The boys' soccer team came tantalizingly close one year ago, dropping a penalty-kick heartbreaker to Orlando Lake High Prep in the state final.

The LaSalle drought officially came to an end when the Royal Lions cheerleaders traveled to the Stephen C. O'Connell Center in Gainesville to compete in the Competitive Cheerleading state finals and came away with a first-place finish.
Led by team captain Sophia Peñas, LaSalle won the Class 1A Extra Large Division, Non-Tumbling division with a score of 78.10, four points ahead of second place Fort Lauderdale Stranahan and five ahead of third place Ocala Trinity Catholic.

"Through injuries and people quitting, the team went through a lot this season," said LaSalle coach Coral Buxeda. "We practiced almost everyday from November to the day before states to make sure that we had a perfect showing. When they announced us as state champions, it made all the blood, sweat, tears, long practices and sleepless nights extremely worth it. I believed in this team since the beginning. The cherry on top was it being our school's first state title in 60 years. What an honor."

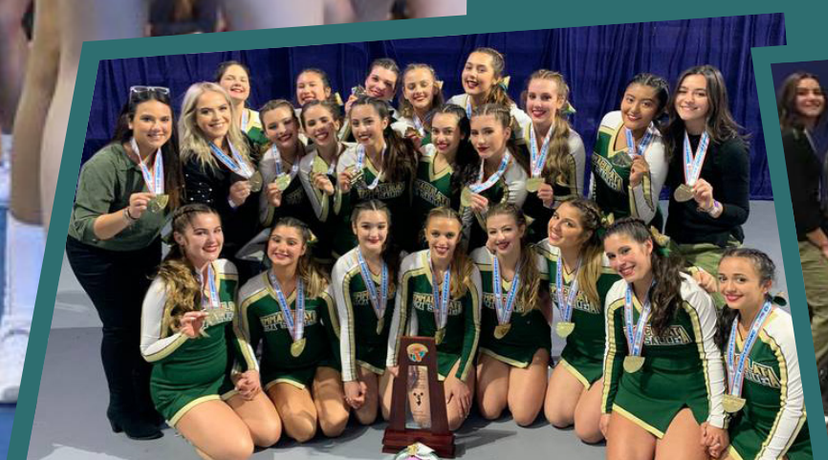
Meanwhile, St. Brendan continued its dominance in the Class 1A Extra Large Division by winning a fifth consecutive state title with a score of 83, two-and-a-half points ahead of second place Doral Academy which has finished runnerup to the Sabres all five years. West Broward also won in Class 2A Large Division Non-Tumbling.

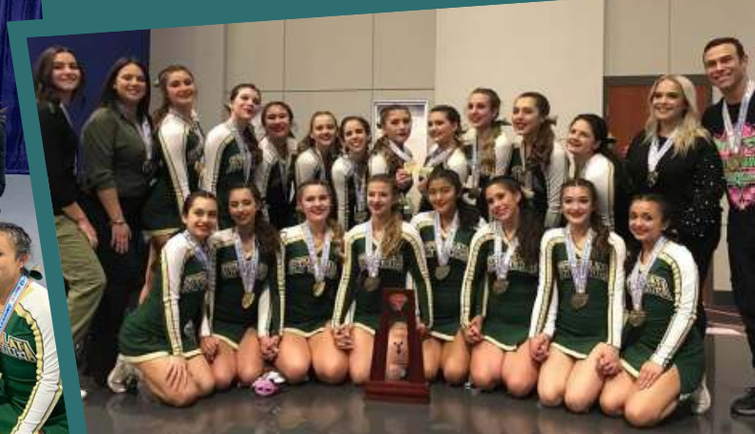
"We actually work hand in hand with St. Brendan and their coaches, so the fact that we both won together was amazing," Buxeda said.

"We had a goal this year and it was to win states and with hard work and lots of dedication it all paid off," said Peñas.

"Going into the competition we were very confident but still nervous. As soon as I stepped on the mat I knew that this was going to be our winning routine. It feels amazing to be the leader of this amazing team and make history at Immaculata La Salle."

Other area high finishers (all from Broward) included Miramar (2nd in 2A Small Division, Non-Tumbling), Coral Springs (3rd in 2A Medium Division, Non-Tumbling) and Coral Glades which finished 2nd in Class 2A Extra Large Division, Non-Tumbling.







HIGHPOINT ACADEMY



On December 11th, Very Important Purpose visited Highpoint Academy and Schoolhouse Preparatory to host our second toy drive and collect toys. With a $7.00 donation, students were able to purchase a toy of their choice to be able to sponsor a child in need. Our VIP team visited Miami Rescue Mission for Women and Children and were able to interact with the families. Seeing the smile on the faces of the families after receiving their toys made our VIP team feel happy and fulfilled knowing we had brightened several people's days. Thank you to the students and faculty at Highpoint Academy and Schoolhouse Preparatory for helping us put smiles on the faces of underprivileged children in South Florida!

SCHOOLHOUSE PREPARATORY





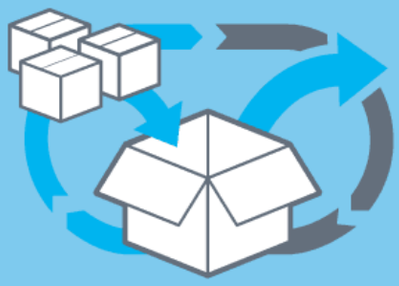


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Are you a company or non-profit who needs teen volunteers or interns? Work with us and we will find the best candidates for you! Are you a teen in need of community service hours? Keep up with our monthly events for chances to receive community service hours.

Contact us at **info@vip-305.com**

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VIP announces our second sleep-away Summer Camp Service Project at El Escondite. For more information contact us at **info@vip-305.com**



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