

Chimney swifts are now dependent on man-made chimneys for nesting places

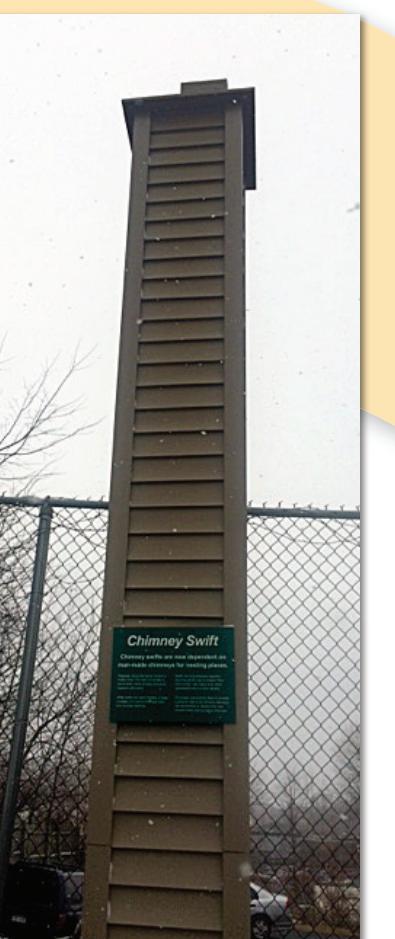
Originally, these fast flyers nested in hollow trees. The nest is built like a small shelf, made of twigs and glued together with saliva.

While swifts will roost together in large numbers, it is rare to find more than one nest per chimney.

Swifts are long-distance migrants, traveling all the way to eastern Peru each winter. Like many birds, swift populations are in a slow decline.

This tower was built for them to provide a place to nest in as old brick chimneys are demolished or replaced by new smooth-sided and unusable chimneys.

In partnership with Constitution Marsh, San Miguel students erected this nesting tower in the school parking lot.



The “Davos of Education” Summit

Each year, the Global Education and Skills Forum is held in Dubai. Sometimes called the “Davos of Education,” the event brings together educators, politicians, activists and thought leaders for a few days of focused conversation about the state of global education. The paper published at the end of the gathering concluded, “To thrive in a rapidly evolving, technology-mediated world, students must not only possess strong skills in areas such as language arts, mathematics and science, but they must also be adept at skills such as critical thinking, problem-solving, persistence, collaboration and curiosity.”



The Student Creed of San Miguel Academy

*When faced with a mountain,
I will not quit.
I will keep on striving
until I climb over,
find a pass through,
tunnel underneath,
or simply stay and
turn the mountain into
a gold mine,
with God's help.*

(The creed is recited by the boys each morning at assembly)

Competencies needed in the 21st Century:

1. Critical thinking/Problem solving
2. Creativity
3. Communication
4. Collaboration

Character Qualities needed in the 21st Century:

1. Curiosity
2. Initiative
3. Persistence/Grit
4. Adaptability
5. Leadership
6. Social and cultural awareness



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making

2015 SPRING EDITION

The Maker Movement

Urban education for low income kids is a work in progress. Thinkers and educators across the United States are continually analyzing what it means to be born into poverty and the effects that birthright has on the learning process. One thing is for certain, low income learners do not perform at a rate equal to their counterparts from middle income and high income families. They are typically far below grade level for a myriad of reasons.

Education reform has become a priority for those seeking equal access for America’s poor children. At San Miguel Academy we undertook a Curriculum Enhancement Project, beginning in 2009, with the full participation of our staff. We embarked on a journey to uncover methods and pedagogies that would bring to our learners optimal receptivity along with greater development of their executive functions. It is well known to social scientists that

low income kids struggle mightily with the ability to organize, manage time and attention, remember details, and integrate past experience with present actions. Aware of these deficits, our professional staff at San Miguel has worked tirelessly to create a learning environment that is both effective and relevant for our students. Meeting the needs of 21st century employers is always on our minds.

Heidrick and Struggles, a leading executive search firm, is envisioning a world that requires for its future leaders a “ripple intelligence,” that is, “Developing the ability to anticipate and judge how, when, and why contexts may interact and vary in this highly technological age.” (cf: The CEO Report, Heidrick and Struggles, 2014)

We ask ourselves daily what skillsets our boys will need to be employable in the 21st and even more importantly to be leaders in whatever career path they choose.

The ability to collaborate is essential. Project based learning has become an essential in our environment. We regularly ask our boys to work together in small groups, whether it is acting out a scene from a book they’re reading, building a robot, rowing a boat, solving a math problem, or planting a garden. Exposing our children to the benefits of teamwork has proven to produce desired learning objectives in a more efficient manner.

This year Mr. Frank Snyder, our coordinator of S.T.E.A.M. (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Math) has introduced to San Miguel the Maker classroom. Though we are waiting to assess our data at the end of this academic year we can already see that becoming a Maker influences the boys to develop into curious learners and unlocks their potential to become analytical thinkers. Even more, it has added to our academic rigor because it enriches for the boy those executive functions previously underutilized or underdeveloped.



Nehemiah William '17, and Niegier Foley '17, are playing chess with pieces they manufactured on our new 3D Printer which was donated by the Hudson Valley Economic Development Corporation.





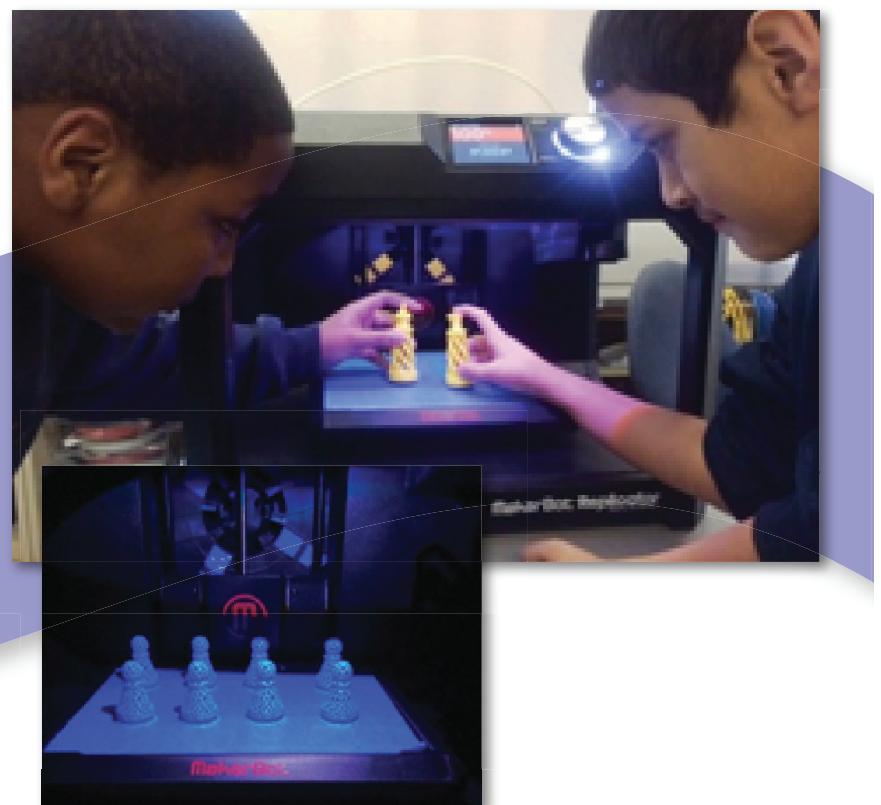
Through a collaborative effort with The Audubon Society and Home Depot, our school entrance was enhanced during the Summer Scholars Program. The boys were supervised by Home Depot employees as



they constructed raised planters for bird friendly plantings. We are grateful to our friends at Constitution Marsh for their vision and support of this project.



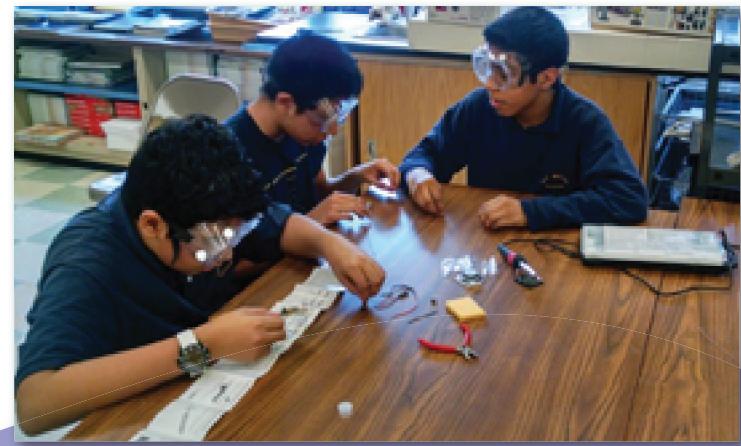
The boys gather around a Rubik's cube puzzle of Abraham Lincoln which they created as a part of President's month at SMAN.



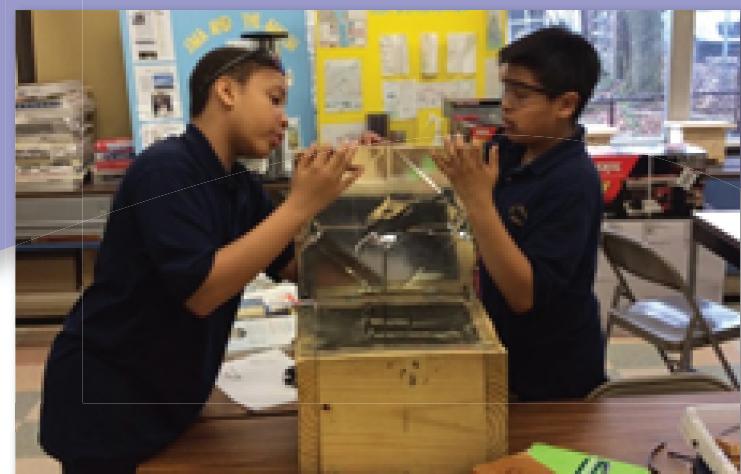
Saheed Dabbs '16 and Henry Natharen '16 gather around San Miguel's 3D printer. The 7th grade is currently in the process of designing and printing a new chess set for the school. Our gratitude goes out the Hudson Valley Economic Development Corporation for gifting the printer to the school.



Through a generous grant from the N.F.L. Snowflake Youth Foundation we were able to create an outdoor learning and physical fitness arena for our students. Pictured here Nasir Carter and Mr. Snyder begin the process of assembling our hydroponics and aeroponics greenhouse. In collaboration with the Hudson Valley Seeds program we will begin growing produce year round for consumption by our students.



Woodworking has become part of our Step Up Afterschool Program. As their first project of the year the boys constructed a toolbox for themselves. Pictured above George Huaqui '16, proudly displays his finished project. George said Mr. Fink taught him "How to use tools properly and safely."



Brandon Miller '15, and Na'zeem Dabbs '15, put the finishing touches on their solar cooker. On a late winter day Brandon reported that "Our solar cooker reached 220 degrees! Warm enough to cook a hot dog!"

Brandon Miller '15, Jordyn Angel '15, and Kevin Marin '15, observed the results of their egg craft car physics experiment. The boys learn to calculate velocity, momentum, and force, after which they can explain how these factors effect the eggs "survival." Later the boys create a presentation explaining the process and how their outcomes apply to real world impacts. In the second photo, Avante Walker '15, prepares his vehicle for the crash test as classmates look on.



Internationally known artist and filmmaker, Imogene Drummond, shares her "Divine Sparks" art therapy program with the fifth grade class. In these series of photos the boys work collaboratively to create the final product on the right. Fifth grader, Brandon Pineda, says, "Making this kind of art makes me feel like I belong to something bigger."



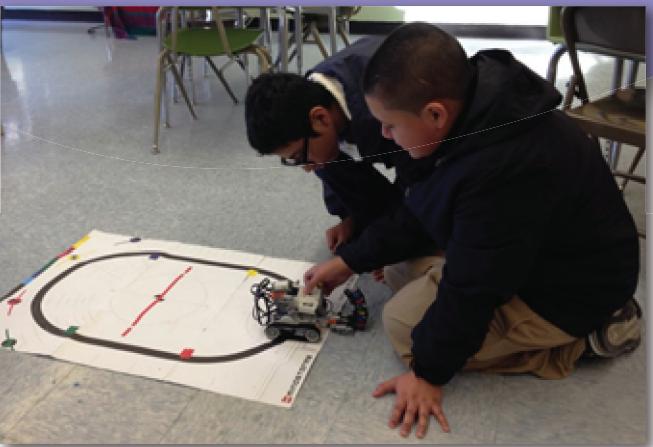
Cindy McEvoy coordinates our Step Up Saturday Morning Food Club. In this photo Cindy is helped by George Huaqui '16, Daniel Ruiz '15, and Angel Silva '17, as they prepare delicious tacos for everyone else in our Saturday programming. Enjoying their fresh homemade tacos are Saheed Dabbs '16 and Anthony Cruz '16.



San Miguel fifth graders traveled to the Fox Hill School in Walden, NY, on a cold March day to gather the sap flowing through the sugar maples. Together with Fox Hill students our boys boil down the sap to create some of the finest maple syrup in the region. Pictured here, Diego Quispe '18, and Aldair Rodriguez '18, gather the sap filled buckets for the journey to the boiler.



Through a generous donation from Gary and Helena Dulanski, we now have a fully equipped wood working shop in our new outdoor N.F.L. learning space. Pictured here Juan Paul Colon '16, is working on a project assigned to members of the Woodworking Club.



Juan Martinez '17, and Jason Luna '17, have just completed and programmed their LEGO robot. Now they anxiously watch to see if the robot will follow their commands. The Robotics Club is part of our Step Up After School Program and is directed by Mrs. Kerry DiMeo.

International Boy School Coalition Conference

Boys as Makers

Wednesday, April 8 to Friday, April 10, 2015 • University School, Cleveland, Ohio
Our own Mr. Frank Snyder will be presenting his research on the results of our Maker Days at San Miguel Academy.



SPRING 2015

SMAN GRADUATION June 4, 2015

ANNUAL DINNER Westchester Country Club October 22

2015 SPRING EDITION



Date: Saturday April 25th

Time: 9:00am—12:00pm

WALK with us!

Friends and Students of San Miguel Academy are walking across the Hudson River on the Newburgh-Beacon Bridge to mark the school's nine years in Newburgh providing an educational alternative to underserved children.

Highlights

- Rides from SMAN provided to & from the Bridge
- Student-led tours
- Coffee and refreshments provided

Register/Donate/Sponsor with the click of a button at:
<http://newburghsanmiguel.org/>

Or mail the following registration form to:

**San Miguel Academy of Newburgh
245 Renwick Street
Newburgh, NY 12550**

845.561.2822



San Miguel Academy of Newburgh

2015 Annual Walk-a-thon & Open House



**"You never will get where you're going
If you never get up on your feet
Come on, there's a good tail wind blowin',
A fast-walking SMAN man is hard to beat"**

Lyrics borrowed from: "Put One Foot in Front of the Other".

***Put one foot in front of the other
DON'T QUIT!
DO IT***



4th Annual San Miguel Walkathon

I am Walking with SMAN

Register here and walk with us! Friends and Students of San Miguel Academy are walking across the Hudson River on the Newburgh-Beacon Bridge to mark the school's nine years in Newburgh providing an educational alternative to underserved children.
Saturday, April 25th, 9-12.

Walk begins at 9:30am!

Your Name/s: _____

Email address: _____

I Would Like to Sponsor a Friend

Friend of SMAN Sponsorship - \$50.00

Name of Friend/s: _____

Total Amount: \$ _____

I Would Like to Sponsor a Student

Student Sponsorship - \$50.00

Indicate the number of student/s you would like to sponsor: _____

Total Amount: \$ _____

I Would Like to Donate to SMAN

I am unable to attend but would like to Donate to SMAN

Amount: \$ _____

OR you may Register Online at www.newburghsanmiguel.org

For further information contact Marty Borras: mborras@newburghsanmiguel.org

245 Renwick Street • Newburgh, NY 12550 • 845-561-2822

www.newburghsanmiguel.org