

Colleges Welcome Alma Scholars

Every Alma scholar visits a college campus every year. This fall, scholars have visited Boston University, Harvard University, Franklin Pierce University, Keene State College and Hamilton College.

Third grade lead teacher Jessica Summers (and Franklin Pierce University alum) was proud to show her students her alma mater. She was also excited that the scholars visit different colleges every year. "We want them to know that college is achievable and that there are many different colleges," she said.

Morgan, a third grade scholar, was excited to learn about the variety of classes available at FPU. She was particularly fond of "The Bubble," a sports and activities center on the campus, and, after watching a demonstration, the glassblowing classes.

Thank you to all of the parent chaperones, college students, and faculty who made these trips possible for our scholars.

Photo: Hunter, a fourth grade scholar, cradles a snake in the biology department's reptile lab during an overnight trip to Hamilton College.



ALMA
del MAR

December 2013 Newsletter

You're Invited: Expedition Night

**New Bedford High School, 230 Hathaway Blvd., New Bedford, MA
Thursday, December 19, 2013, 6:00 – 7:30 PM**

Alma del Mar is an Expeditionary Learning school. All scholars complete a three-month Expedition in social studies in the fall and a three-month Expedition in science in the spring. Join us on Thursday, December 19 as our scholars present their final projects and share what they have learned!

Fall 2013 Expeditions:

Kindergarten: The Wampanoag people & The Pilgrims

1st Grade: American symbols and government

2nd Grade: Immigration and citizenship

3rd Grade: The Pilgrims and the 13 Colonies

4th Grade: The American Revolution & The U.S. Constitution



These Expeditions took our scholars across Massachusetts and Rhode Island for fieldwork to learn about their topics from experts and hands-on exploration. Fieldwork trips included visits to Buttonwood Park Zoo to see a bald eagle, Coggeshall Farm Museum to learn about 1600s farm life, Plimoth Plantation to tour the Mayflower and see the Wampanoag settlement, Lexington and Concord to learn about the historic battles, the Massachusetts State House to meet with Senator Montigny and Representative Cabral, and a local polling place to see democracy in action!

Top: 1st Grade portrait of Theodore Roosevelt; Bottom: 1st Grade scholars at the Massachusetts State House with Senator Montigny and Representative Cabral



Did you see the pictures of our scholars on their college trips?

If not, you're not following us on Facebook! Follow us on Facebook to see pictures from school events and activities, receive updates and interact with others in the Alma community.

Find us at www.facebook.com/AlmaDelMarCharterSchool.



Would you rather receive these newsletters via email?

Email Cara Beller at carabeller@almadelmar.org or call (774) 292-0949.

It's not too late to make your 2013 donation to Alma!
Use the enclosed envelope or visit us at www.almadelmar.org

Scholars Complete Quarter 1 Assessments

Scholars completed Quarter 1 assessments at the end of October. We are pleased to report that our scholars scored a schoolwide average of 91% on their math assessments, with 73% schoolwide scoring advanced!

In response to data gathered from last year's assessments, we have redesigned our literacy program to allow for more targeted instruction in writing. Scholars now receive direct instruction in reading and writing in separate lesson blocks. We also revised our literacy assessments to include separate reading and writing exams, allowing us to better gauge scholar progress in reading comprehension, fluency, and the mechanics of written language. Scholars in grades 1 – 4 completed Alma's first ever writing assessments at the end of Quarter 1!



Support Alma – By Doing What You Already Do!

- When you shop at Target with your **Target REDcard**, 1% of your purchase price can be donated to a charity of your choice. Just be sure to designate Alma del Mar Charter School as the recipient by calling the number on the back of your REDcard or visiting www.target.com/redcard/main.
- When you use **GoodSearch** as your search engine, 1¢ can be donated to Alma del Mar for every search. You can also earn donations for Alma through the website's **GoodShop** and **GoodDining** features, or by playing games and taking surveys! Register for a free account and designate Alma del Mar Charter School as the charity you support by visiting www.goodsearch.com.



Backpack Club Provides Weekend Food to Scholars in Need

The Backpack Club, a new program that started in December, sends backpacks of food home with scholars in need for over the weekend. **Thanks to generous donors like you**, our scholars now receive healthful food over the weekends to help them grow and develop their minds and bodies to their fullest potential. The Backpack Club is fully funded for the 2013-2014 academic year.



Introducing Alma's New Donor Recognition Program

Alma College Champions and **Star Scholar Society** members demonstrate their commitment to service and belief in our scholars' potential through their financial support of Alma.

ALMA COLLEGE CHAMPIONS

How to join: Donate for two or more consecutive years

Perks: Alma del Mar tote bag, invitations to exclusive Alma events, and recognition as a member of the Alma College Champions in the Annual Report

STAR SCHOLAR SOCIETY

How to join:

Bronze: Donate \$500 or more this school year

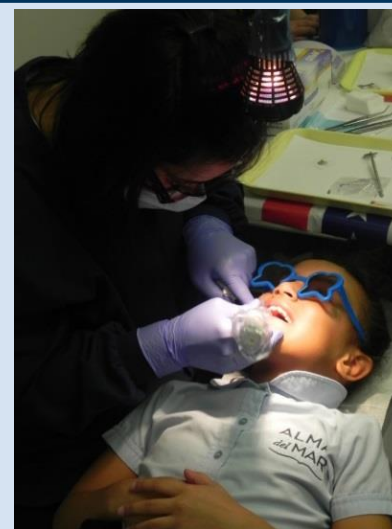
Silver: Donate \$1,250 or more this school year

Gold: Donate \$5,000 or more this school year

Platinum: Donate \$10,000 or more this school year

Perks: Alma del Mar lapel pin, invitations to exclusive Alma events, and recognition as a member of the Star Scholar Society in the Annual Report

If your donations, beginning July 1, 2013 have qualified you for membership in either the Alma College Champions or the Star Scholar Society, you will receive your official welcome in January 2014.



Thanks to Polished LLC, LensCrafters, and your financial support, we were able to provide 68 scholars with free dental care and 8 scholars with free eyeglasses during the first quarter of school.

