

## WHAT ARE ALMA DEL MAR FAMILIES SAYING?

"How do you thank someone for teaching your child to read and write?" - Kathryn Ford, Alma Parent

I am satisfied with the academic progress my scholar is making.

98%

My scholar receives support when he or she is struggling.

94%

My scholar believes that his or her teacher cares about him or her.

98%

Parents say...

"My teacher makes sure everybody understands the work and doesn't stop until we all know it. Every day she tells us she believes in us. She is the best teacher in the world." - Abby Santos, 2nd Grade



"I like Alma because it gets us prepared for college and the teachers support us when we need help and we have a lot of fun." - Carlos Farias, 3rd Grade

Parents report that our scholars spend an average of 25 minutes reading at home each night.



My scholar is motivated to succeed.

99%

My scholar enjoys reading.

98%

My scholar loves school.

94%

Parents say...

ALMA  
del MAR

## March 2014 Newsletter

### Alma Partners with Friends Academy to Send Scholars to Summer Camp

This summer, Friends Academy will welcome 50 Alma scholars and 10 Students from Our Sisters' School to its picturesque 65-acre campus in Dartmouth for a new four-week summer enrichment program. The program aims to prevent summer learning loss and to offer New Bedford children the opportunity to participate in fun and health-promoting enrichment activities. Students will spend the mornings practicing their literacy and math skills in small classes taught by Alma teachers. In the afternoons, they will engage in soccer, basketball, arts activities, hiking and other summer fun, enabling the New Bedford students, Friends Academy students, and campers from other schools across the region to come to know one another.

We are currently seeking donors to cover program expenses. A \$500 contribution will sponsor a child for the summer, including transportation, food, academic classes and camp activities. All donations are tax deductible.

To learn more about how you can sponsor a child, please visit [www.almadelmar.org/camp](http://www.almadelmar.org/camp) or contact Cara Beller at 774-292-0949 or [carabeller@almadelmar.org](mailto:carabeller@almadelmar.org)



## Volunteer Profile: Sallie Barker



### **Why did you decide to volunteer at Alma?**

I am a retired school librarian and rather new to the area. My friends at Friends Academy (where my husband is headmaster) suggested that I look into the mentoring program at Alma del Mar. The aura at Alma del Mar was so warm, so welcoming, so enthusiastic – how could anyone resist signing on as a volunteer that very instant?! When I realized that the library was in need of some assistance, I offered to turn my ‘mentor’ time into ‘librarian’ time.

### **What is the most rewarding part about volunteering at Alma?**

Everything! This wonderful sense of pride and excitement oozes out of everyone who works here – and that makes me love to walk in the door! The day I checked out a book to my first customer, a little first grade scholar, was a highlight for me. Her excited grin was the best reward any volunteer could ever experience.

### **What are your goals for Alma’s library?**

Great reading goes on in every classroom, every day at Alma. At Alma, instilling a love of reading is clearly in the heart of every adult. I am hoping to honor that love by filling Alma’s shelves with a wealth of children’s books and creating an inviting library atmosphere where scholars will clamor to borrow books for their independent reading. These Alma scholars are hungry for books!

**Follow us on Twitter to get an inside look at our third grade classrooms!**  
[www.twitter.com/AlmaCharter](http://www.twitter.com/AlmaCharter)

## Scholar Art Displayed at Gallery X

During the month of March, artwork created by 156 Alma scholars was on display in the Frederick Douglass Gallery at Gallery X on William St. in downtown New Bedford. On Thursday, March 13 during AHA! Night, we held a closing reception which featured a performance by some of the members of the Alma strings program. Thank you to Gallery X for providing this wonderful opportunity for our scholars and to Ms. Frazer-Rego for all of her hard work putting together the Exhibition.



## Alma Hosts Professional Development Workshop

On Tuesday, March 4, Alma del Mar welcomed 30 educators from across the Southcoast region for a free professional development workshop, “Read, Baby, Read!” focusing on reading diagnostics. Participants included members of the faculty at Renaissance Community School for the Arts, Pulaski Elementary School, Congdon Elementary School, Carlos Pacheco School, Our Sisters’ School and Friends Academy. One participant wrote, “I loved the entire approach to this professional development. I really appreciated the workshop model and the small group as well as work time.” Thank you to Ms. Leiwant for presenting a great workshop.

### **Did you see the video of our scholars’ Whatnots?**

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

**Find us at**  
[www.facebook.com/AlmadelMarCharterSchool](http://www.facebook.com/AlmadelMarCharterSchool)