

The Voyage

Paul Cuffee School 🚢 A Maritime Charter School for Providence Youth 🚢 Summer 2018 🚢 Vol. 16 Issue 2

Paul Cuffee Upper School Receives National Recognition

Christopher J. Haskins,
Head of School

THE VOYAGE OUR STUDENTS TAKE LEADS TO PREPARATION for college and career and, along the way, they develop the quality of relationships with their peers, teachers and staff that support their academic success. Our attention to the importance of these relationships is paying off.

Recently, the Upper School was awarded a silver medal by the *U.S. News and World Report* as one of the top high schools in Rhode Island. That's right - the Paul Cuffee Upper School, an independent, urban, public charter high school serving the youth of Providence, was ranked among the top five public high schools in all of Rhode Island, and the top charter high school in the state!

The ranking criteria included overall performance on the state assessment in reading and mathematics; relative performance of underserved students in the school as compared to the

performance of underserved students in the state, including those who identify as black, Hispanic and low-income; graduation rate; and a college readiness indicator which uses the percentage of students who take and pass Advanced Placement (AP) exams.

Paul Cuffee Upper School offers students options to earn college credits in 8 subjects including: AP Biology, AP Human Geography, AP Statistics, AP Psychology, AP Studio Art: 2D Design, AP US Government and Politics, AP Spanish Language and Culture, AP English Language and Composition.

This honor affirms the belief we all hold about our students and our staff: strong outcomes are the result of hard work and high expectations, and that youth who live in urban communities deserve the same opportunities as their more affluent peers. Thank you for being a part of this success story! 🚢

SOMETHING



ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT



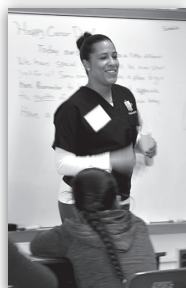
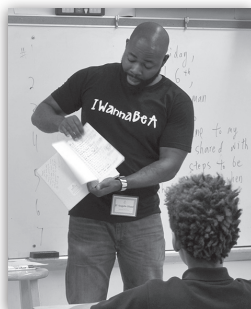
Bryan Osorio
PCS Class of 2014

Bryan Osorio fell in love with the sea at a very early age. Eight to be exact. He marks participating in Paul Cuffee's After School Enrichment Program at Community Boating Center (CBC) in Providence as the beginning of his love of sailing. As a third grader who had never been near a boat, never mind on one, learning to sail and the 5th grade Boat Design Unit changed his perspective on school, his future and ultimately his life.

At CBC he met two instructors, Chris Mannka and Ryan Novak-Smith, both graduates of the Massachusetts Maritime Academy (MMA), who taught him how to sail. Their influence led to his choosing of the Massachusetts Maritime Academy in Bourne, Massachusetts for college. Inspired by his mentors at CBC and Paul Cuffee teachers, Bryan has now completed his sophomore year at MMA, where he majors in marine engineering and minors in marine construction. He is passionate about his career path and MMA.

"I love it. I love the hands-on part. I love being in the engine room, monitoring all the ship's

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Keynote speaker Eric Mack (left) and 26 volunteer presenters inspire our middle school students to think about their future now

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

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systems, trouble-shooting problems that arise and being at sea.” Bryan enthused.

His academic year is busy and diverse. At sea for two months a year, during MMA’s “Sea Term,” he has been to Aruba, Barbados, St. Thomas, Colombia and Florida. He looks forward to his final two years. Juniors get to select a commercial vessel to serve on, traveling throughout the ocean getting the real life experience as a merchant mariner. Senior cadets board the TS Kennedy, the academy’s training ship where they assume leadership and take the underclassmen under their wing. “Sea Term is the perfect time to take what you learned in the classroom and apply it in a real world situation,” Bryan noted.

Both at sea and on land, Bryan enjoys his classes and hands-on training including four-hour “watches” to rotate through, ship maintenance and many other duties. Upon graduation with a Bachelor of Science in Marine Engineering, Bryan will earn his 3rd Engineer’s License after passing the United States Coast Guard certification requirements. He plans to spend a few years at sea before seeking a land side job as an engineer.

A member of Mass Maritime’s soccer team, Bryan has learned that whether he is on the soccer field or in the engine room it’s important to be open-minded, intentional and discerning. He certainly has developed these habits and will continue to apply them thanks to the educational opportunities he pursues, the people he meets and the persistence he demonstrates along the way. This is especially important when choosing a college and career. 🚢



Middle School Launches First Career Day

by PCS Middle School Principal, Eric Charlesworth

RISING STAR SUPER LAWYER ERIC MACK, WHO GRADUATED from Tulane with his JD in 07, kicked off the Middle School’s very first Career Day with a captivating story for an audience of 200 students and adults. “Many of my middle and grade school peers are no longer around,” he admitted when responding to a question about the importance of choosing your friends. Another “Aha” moment came when Eric mentioned his grades were not initially good enough to achieve his goal of attending an Ivy League school. The students were surprised to hear those “subpar” grades were actually B+’s and A’s. This is the type of information that is essential for middle schoolers to receive right now, as their friendships and decisions to apply themselves, or not, will impact their future options.

After the keynote, students attended two different sessions, based on their career interests and choices. Every presenter was joined by a Paul Cuffee teacher and spoke to a group of 12-18 students. Chemist, Don Lucas awed the students with a hands-on experiment involving breaking light apart and putting it back together. Another memorable moment was an encounter with a bearded dragon brought in by wildlife care expert Bethany Jakubson. From plumbing to real-estate to software to sports communication, there were more than two dozen professions to explore.

“Thinking about our future now is great,” said 8th-grader Leticia Castillo-Rosario in response to the morning program. “I really enjoyed the Hope Returns

presentation because Mrs. Gantz and Mrs. Hopkins contribute to a good cause by recycling clothing. They also showed me that there are different ways to have your own business.” Sixth-grader Angelee Peralta, who attended the Pat’s Pastured session remarked: “Just learning about sustainable farming made me want to do it even more. I not only learned about how to farm, but also about how it can help other people.”

Career Day had an enormous influence on our middle school youth, whether they realize it or not. Thanks to our volunteer presenters from all across the country, Paul Cuffee students had a diverse group of successful adults to inspire them. We look forward to continuing this tradition next year! 🚢

Paul Cuffee and Civil Rights

by Robert Kelley, Paul Cuffee descendant

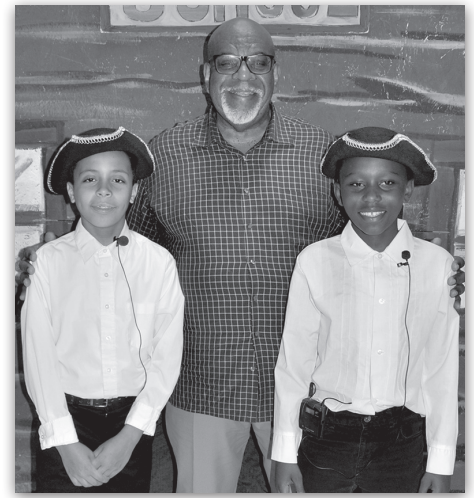
KOFI SLOCUM, PAUL CUFFEE'S FATHER, DIED IN 1772 WHEN Paul was 13 and his older brother John was about 15. At the time of his death, Kofi Slocum owned a 116-acre farm in Dartmouth (now Westport), MA. Also in 1772, the thirteen British Colonies in North America were revolting against English rule. A major cause of their resistance was a 1765 tax levied on the Americans by the British Parliament. Because colonial residents could not vote for anyone who was running for Parliament, the slogan "No taxation without representation" became a rallying cry for the Americans.

Land owned by Native Americans was not subject to real estate taxes in 1772, but land owned by African-Americans was taxable. However, Native American and African-American men could not vote in 1772; neither could a woman of any race. Had they been Caucasian, Paul and John would have inherited their father's farm within a reasonable time after their father's death. However, African-Americans could not inherit property in 1772.

From 1777 to 1780, real estate taxes were levied against the farm approximately ten times. In response to the tax levies, John and Paul submitted two petitions (the first based on their African-American heritage; the second on their Native American heritage) to the Massachusetts legislature for tax relief unless they were granted certain civil rights, including the rights to vote and to inherit land. Their petitions were denied, and the brothers were imprisoned in the Bristol County, MA jail because - even though the Cuffee brothers didn't legally own the farm yet - they had paid no taxes for three years.

In 1781 the two brothers filed a third petition which, ultimately, ended up before the selectmen of the Town of Dartmouth, MA. The selectmen never acted on that petition, arguably because a proposed draft of the Massachusetts state constitution gave Native American and African-American men the right to vote. (Massachusetts continued to deny women voting rights until the 19th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution was ratified in 1920.) Paul and John Cuffee settled their dispute over delinquent taxes by paying less than six percent of the amount that had been levied. Although the dispute was settled in 1781, ownership of the farm was not transferred to Paul and John until 1796.

In 1848 British anti-slavery advocate Wilson Armistead wrote about the role that the Cuffee brothers played in enfranchising Native Americans and African Americans stating "the exertions of Paul Cuffee and his brother permanently influenced the welfare of the whole colored population of North America."



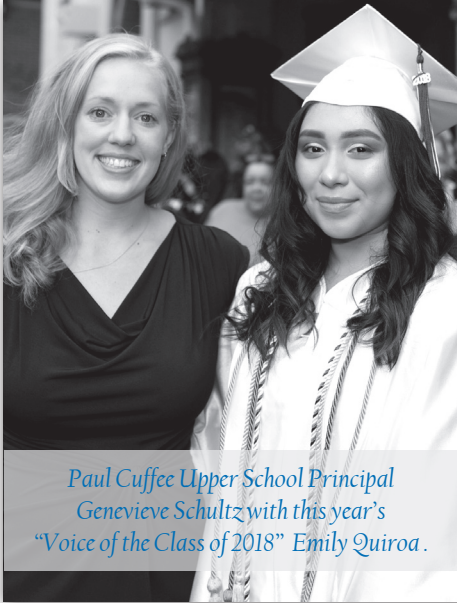
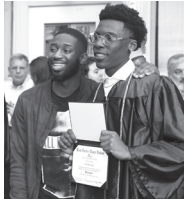
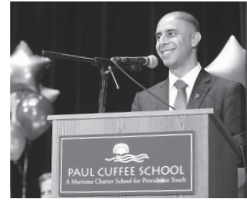
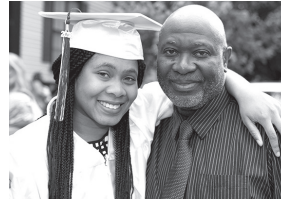
Robert Kelley with Dariell Diclo and Alphonse Kayitare who portrayed our namesake in this year's annual 4th grade play

So, where are we now? According to www.politico.com, there were more than 200 million registered voters in the United States at the time of the 2016 Presidential Election, and 135.7 million votes were cast in that election. This means that approximately one-third of the registered voters did not vote in 2016. According to www.usnews.com, the population of the United States was approximately 320 million people in 2016. This means only 62 percent of the population was registered to vote, and it likely means that many people who were eligible to vote in 2016 did not even bother to register. I urge everyone who has not yet done so to (i) register to vote, (ii) vote whenever possible even if one is challenged to find the time to vote and (iii) ask family members and friends to do the same. In a democracy, voting is a responsibility of citizenship, and I believe that Captain Paul Cuffee would applaud your efforts to get out the vote. 🚢



Thanks to a grant from the Providence Shelter for Colored Children, every student in 4th and 5th grade will be learning more about Paul Cuffee's life and contributions to American history. Next year, field trips to the New Bedford Whaling Museum and the African American Native American Heritage Trail in Westport will make it possible for students to see where Paul Cuffee lived, explore outdoor exhibits and discover more about Captain Cuffee's remarkable entrepreneurial, social and civil rights accomplishments.

Congratulations, Class of 2018



Paul Cuffee Upper School Principal
Genevieve Schultz with this year's
"Voice of the Class of 2018" Emily Quiroa.

PCS's Class of 2018 was Admitted to...

American International College *
Anna Maria College
Becker College *
Bryant University
Community College of Rhode Island
Columbus College of Art & Design *
Curry College
Dean College
Emmanuel College
Franklin Pierce University
Full Sail University *
Johnson & Wales University
Keene State College *

Lasell College
Manchester University *
Manhattanville College
Massachusetts College of
Pharmacy & Health Sciences
Mitchell College
New England Institute of
Technology
Nichols College
Northern Vermont University *
Rhode Island College
Ringling College of Art & Design *
Roger Williams University
Salve Regina University
Simmons College *
St. Joseph's College - Brooklyn *
Stonchill College

Temple University *
University of Hartford
University of Massachusetts
Darmouth
University of Massachusetts
Lowell *
University of Rhode Island
University of San Francisco *
University of Southern Maine
University of the Sciences in
Philadelphia *
Utah Valley University *
Washington State University *
Wentworth Institute of Technology
Wheaton College MA

* indicates college acceptances
that are new for this year.

Graduation photos courtesy of Melissa Brightman, Sky Studio