



# Annual Report

2017-2018



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Dear members of The Palmas Academy (TPA) community:

On behalf of every member of our Board of Trustees (BOT), I respectfully present our 2nd annual report. The 2017-2018 academic year was characterized by everyone's capacity to cope with sudden changes and inevitable challenges. Our resilience was demonstrated through our diligence in the decision making and problem solving processes that were able to accomplish benefits for our entire school community. The BOT's aim is to maintain the high quality educational services consistently provided in TPA.

As the next academic year begins in August, our school will be equipped with a new power generator. This has certainly been the most rewarding BOT accomplishment because it ensures a comfortable academic environment in our school.

This annual report evidences TPA's team-oriented efforts as well as the hard work and commitment of everyone in this school community. We have been able to accomplish optimum results in a collaborative manner. TPA community has advanced despite the adversity encountered this year. Way to go, Dolphins...success doesn't come easy but our tenacity, vision, and endurance are widely exemplified in this report.

Enjoy your summer vacation!

Sincerely,

Dr. Giovanna Balaguer  
President TPA-BOT



## Mission

To provide an excellent education in a safe, positive and supportive environment, that will foster scholarship, creativity, self-discipline, independent thinking and leadership and will promote values for living in a culturally diverse world.

Dear members of The Palmas Academy (TPA) community:

I proudly present to all of you our 2nd annual report. The 2017-2018 academic year has certainly been extremely challenging. We were severely affected by two atmospheric events where one of them was catastrophic. Nonetheless, our entire school community showed that we possess the capacity to recover quickly. Our resilience has enabled us to come back stronger than ever. After hurricane María, TPA resumed its academic offerings in a remarkable short time period!

This annual report evidences the successful outcomes of TPA as a result of the effective and efficient manner in which all of us handled our adversities. Team work is always essential and more so during periods where multiple challenges are experienced. TPA demonstrated that we moved forward. As you read this report, you will certainly reaffirm your support and commitment to an educational institution that has always excelled academically. One of our many outstanding accomplishments is the impressive admission of our 2018 senior class to universities in Puerto Rico and abroad that are well known and have a high academic reputation. The vast majority of this graduating class obtained scholarship for their university studies. These were granted as a result of their excellent academic accomplishments. Our most recent alumni are on their way to fulfill their lifelong professional dreams. TPA has successfully prepared them for this next step in their lives.

I am also grateful to the unconditional trust that our Board of Trustees, our students, our parents, our teaching personnel, the PTO, and our administrative staff have bestowed on me. These enable me to continue with my hardwork and dedication to our exceptional school community. I look forward to our next academic year. Another essential accomplishment has been our capacity to purchase a power generator. It will certainly provide the comfort that our students and personnel deserve in order to continue providing excellent academic services.

Regards,



Dr. Lidia Verson  
Head of School

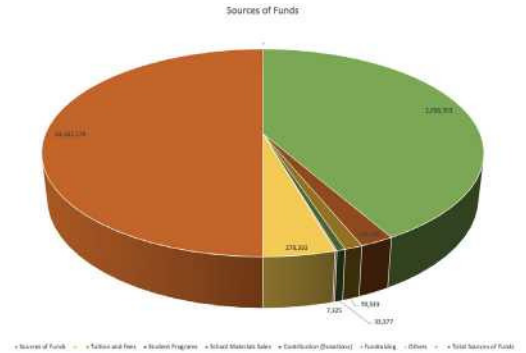




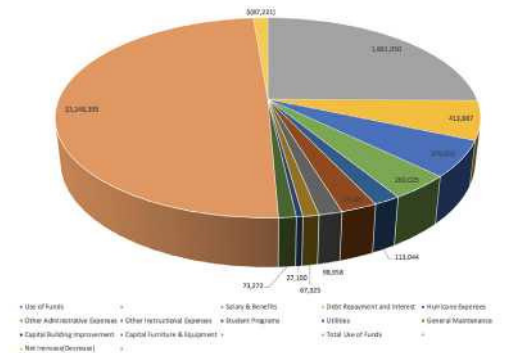
# Financial Report

## School Year 2017-2018

Sources of Funds	Jul17-Jun18	
Tuition and Fees	2,638,353	83%
Student Programs	133,196	4%
School Materials Sales	70,533	2%
Contribution (Donations)	33,377	1%
Fundraising	7,325	0%
Others	278,393	9%
<b>Total Sources of Funds</b>	<b>\$3,161,178</b>	



Use of Funds		
Salary & Benefits	\$1,661,050	51%
Debt Repayment and Interest	413,887	13%
Hurricane Expen	379,053	12%
Other Administrative Expenses	260,025	8%
Other Instructional Expenses	113,044	3%
Student Programs	154,687	5%
Utilities	98,958	3%
General Maintenance	67,325	2%
Capital Building Improvement	27,100	1%
Capital Furniture & Equipment	73,272	2%
<b>Total Use of Funds</b>	<b>\$3,248,399</b>	
<b>Net Increase(Decrease)</b>	<b>\$(87,221)</b>	



## Accreditations

The Palmas Academy is accredited by the major accrediting organizations.



**ADMINISTRATION - 14**



**FACULTY - 50**

Elementary - 21

Secondary - 26

Learning Center - 3

**TOTAL - 72**



**MAINTENANCE - 8**





Our Computer Class Teachers, **Mrs. Herrans** and **Ms. Rivera** attended the Microsoft Education Forum 2018. The activity had the latest technological innovations. It was focused on an environment of interactive experiences for the teaching of STEAM skills through the project-based learning strategy and virtual reality.



After the passing of Hurricane María, one of our Secondary School teachers, **Mrs. Mayra Echevarría**, felt compelled to create a project that could leave a mark, a legacy of how our community will recover and become the new Puerto Rico. Upon returning to school and listening to each one of her 10th and 11th grade students' personal story with such emotions, she knew she had to do a documentary, a collection of images, testimonies, narratives, and songs that will define our Puerto Rican culture. This project soon became a part of TPA's Community Service Program that united us as one and made every TPA Dolphin stronger than ever.



Our science faculty had the opportunity to meet Joseph Acaba, the first Puerto Rican astronaut to be selected by NASA. From left to right: **Mr. Anthony Castro**, **Joseph Acaba**, **Mrs. Jennifer Seguinot**, **Mrs. Nailyn Santos**, **Mrs. Jennifer Valentín**, **Mrs. Aura de León** and **Mrs. Laura Salamán**.



The spirit of collaboration has proven to be more than its technical definition with **Mr. Johnny López** and **Mrs. María Jordán**. Two completely different teaching styles, effective in their respective deliveries, come together and demonstrate the far-reaching power of creativity, cooperation, and teamwork. Their presentation will showcase their 3-year journey as colleagues at The Palmas Academy and their collective and individual results. They both served as speakers in the Puerto Rico TESOL Eastern Chapter Conference. We are so proud!

**Ida Martínez Reyes**  
our new Educational  
Doctor at TPA.



# Faculty



The Palmas Academy is honored to have been chosen by CADIE and the Middle States Association (MSA), two prestigious accreditation agencies, to be part of the accreditation process of other private schools. **Mrs. Eileen Báez**, The Learning Center Coordinator, has been selected as the CADIE Committee Chair for the accreditation of the Puerto Rico High School Baseball Academy and **Mrs. Verónica Rivera**, our Principal of Student Affairs, as member of the MSA Accreditation Committee of Friedrich Froebel Bilingual School.



## Teacher of the Year

Secondary English teacher Mr. Johnny López was elected teacher of the year by his colleagues.

As the teacher of the year, Mr. López participated in the annual convention of the "Asociación de Escuelas Privadas" on April 16th.



# Demographics

**Students Total: 371**  
at year end

**60%**  
of our students are from  
**Palmas del Mar**

the other 40% is divided as follows:

**Group 1 - 17%**

Humacao, Yabucoa, Maunabo, Naguabo & Ceiba

**Group 2 - 16%**

Caguas, Gurabo, Juncos, Las Piedras & San Lorenzo

**Group 3 - 4%**

Carolina, Fajardo, Luquillo, Río Grande & Trujillo Alto

**Group 4 - 3%**

Bayamón, Guaynabo & San Juan



# Buildings and Grounds



Students, teachers, and administration worked together as a team in the cleaning of the school.

Two weeks after Hurricane María made landfall in our island, we got back on track.

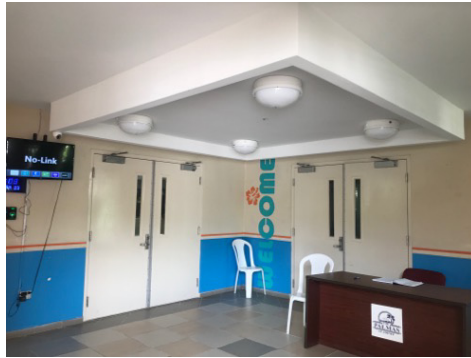


## STRONGER THAN EVER!



# Hurricane María

# Buildings and Grounds



The covered court was completely painted, new ceiling and fences were put in.



Other murals around the school buildings were painted by students from the Advanced Art class.



New security cameras were installed at the Elementary School and school surroundings.

## Safety



Fire/Evacuation Drills: October 13, 2017

Earthquake Drills: October 19, 2017  
(Worldwide Drop, Cover & Hold-on drill)

Lockdown Drill: February 22, 2018

Tsunami Drill: March 15, 2018

In our efforts to keep up with the technology, we are proud to say that these improvements and renovations were done.

## Elementary Lab

Wiring in CAT6 25 stations

Replacement of workstations and monitors

UPS replacements

## “Las Casitas”

Fiber Optic wiring to connect with the school network

CAT6 Wiring in all the “Casitas”

AP Installation to cover all the area.

## Secondary Building

Electrical conditioning and protection of all Stations

25 new UPS for the High School Lab

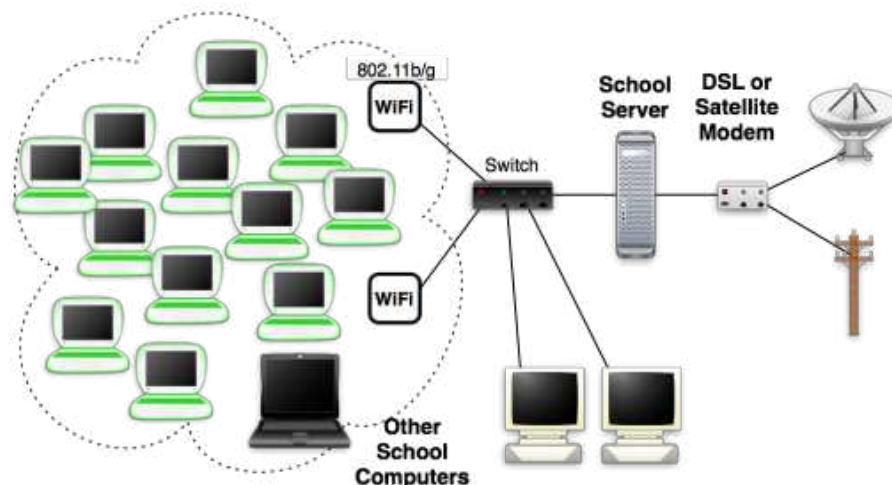
10 new UPS for the Administrative Office

## Server

Extention of the wifi's active infrastructure.

Addition of 10 AP

Addition of 6 switchers





# Academics

The school's curriculum is aligned with the standards set by the Department of Education combined with the Common Core Curriculum. The standards are designed to be robust and relevant to the real world, reflecting the knowledge and skills that our young people need for success in college and careers.



As part of the AP Spanish Class, students exchanged letters with trainees from the Buffalo Seminary High School in New York. In April, they came to Puerto Rico to learn our Hispanic culture. They attended a Master Class at The Palmas Academy conducted by students from our Geography and AP Spanish class.



As part of the Portuguese class, students received a visit from a language specialist from Portugal. He was able to talk about the grammatical and regional differences between Brazil and Portugal and how accents vary throughout Lusophone countries. Additionally, on March 5th the students received the visit of Mr. Glauber Rosa, a translator and interpreter from Rio de Janeiro, who spoke about the different regions in Brazil, their accents, and even the Carnival. Finally, the Portuguese class presented a mini play called "A Aurora da minha vida", Act: "Aula de Português", where students had the opportunity to demonstrate what they have learned so far. Well done, **Mrs. Noguera!**



The Portuguese curriculum was developed and the SSL curriculum was revised.



We continued with our vegetable garden project as part of the Science curriculum. The school garden had its first harvest sale of this academic year on January 29th. Among the vegetables sold were arugula, Tropicana lettuce, beets, scallions, cilantrillo, mint, and recao. Students then planted cabbage among other vegetables and, by the end of the semester, they had the Dolphin "sofrito" sale of our own.

"The outstanding scoring performance of TPA students in the standardized college entrance exams administered by the College Board and their percentile outcomes in comparison with other examinees in Puerto Rico and the USA."



105%



SAT 91.2%

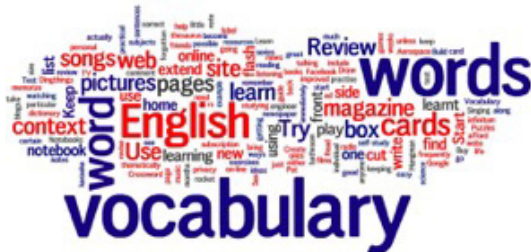
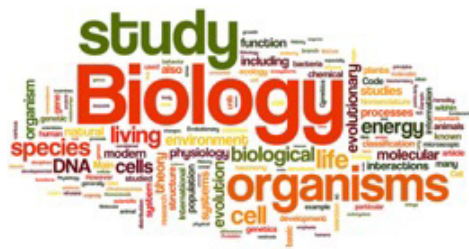
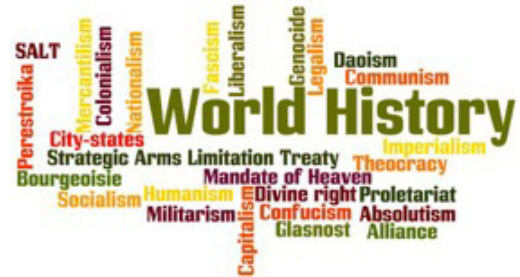


# Curriculum AP Courses

Advanced Placement (AP) classes are challenging, college-level classes that students can take while still in high school. Most colleges and universities offer credit, advanced placement and/or consideration in the admission process for qualifying AP Exam scores. TPA offers AP courses to students that are interested in a more advanced level of work in a specific subject. AP exams are offered at the end of the academic year and scores can be accessed in July.

We offer AP courses for:

- Art History
- Biology
- English
- Spanish
- World History



TPA complements its regular Curriculum with elective courses. They are classes students choose based on their interests. TPA offers electives that cover a wide variety of topics, so students can expand their knowledge and abilities.

- Advance Art
- Advance Culinary Arts
- Art
- Band
- Biochemistry
- Chess
- Choir
- Computer
- Computer Programming
- Computer Research
- Culinary Arts
- Digital Humanities
- Drama
- Film History
- Filmmaking
- Forensics
- Health Fitness and Wellness
- Mastering Life
- Music & Literature
- Music
- Number Sense
- Portuguese
- SAT Math / Consumer Math
- The History of English



# Electives

# Clubs and Organizations

TPA also complements its regular Curriculum with Clubs and Organizations. Clubs and student organizations are a big part of TPA life. A club or student organization is a group of students organized with a similar interest for a social, literary, athletic, or a particular cause. All students are strongly encouraged to pursue club and organizational membership opportunities to help them enrich their school experience.

- Artistic Makeup
- Chess
- Drama
- Environmental
- Forensics
- Le Petit Chef
- Library
- Math
- My Science Big Brother
- Oratoria
- Otaku
- Poetry
- Reading
- Red Cross
- Robotics
- School Patrol
- Science
- United Nations



## Organizations

- National Honor Society
- National Junior Honor Society
- Student Council



TPA organizes a series of activities that enhance the school's educational program. The purpose is to foster intellectual, cultural, social growth and physical wellness. Activities provide opportunities for student leadership.



# Student Life

- Antibullying Week
- Band Concerts
- Blood Drive
- Book Fair
- Early Childhood Week
- Field Day
- Fund Raisers
- Geography Bee
- Great Kindness Week
- Harvest Sales
- Induction Ceremonies
- Multicultural Day
- Puerto Rican Day
- Red Ribbon Week
- Ring Ceremony
- Santa's Visit
- School Play
- Science Week
- Semana de la Lengua
- Senior Farewell
- Spelling Bee
- Spirit Week
- Sports Awards
- Sports Tournaments
- Student Achievement Day
- Student Assemblies



We believe that teaching art is an essential part of educating a child. The arts unlock and open new pathways of learning to children. A compelling reason to teach the arts is literacy. It stimulates their intelligence and lets them express their interior world.



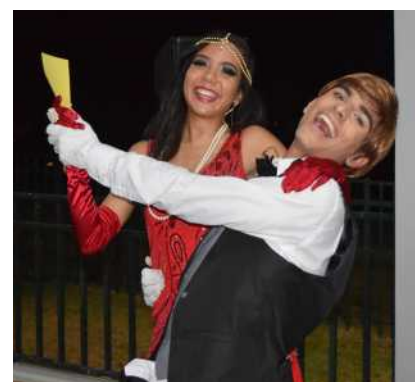
# Art



Students are encouraged to express themselves freely and artistically while developing their creativity, individual talents, interpersonal skills and discipline. This year, TPA's Drama department presented Clue on April 13 and 14. It was a total success!



**CLUE**



Drama



The Palmas Academy Music Program starts as early as Preschool and works its way up to High School. The school bands and choir play in school and Community Service activities. This year we had our annual concert on April 6, presenting a tribute to the music of Disney. We also had the Jr. Recital on May 5.



The Magic of  
**Disney**



# MUSIC



Art, drama, and music departments incorporate efforts and work together in their music, set design and acting.



# Athletics

## COPSAA League

(Central Oriental Private Schools Athletic Alliance)

4th-6th Grade

- Girls & Boys Track and Field Team: Sub-Champions
  - Girls & Boys Soccer: Third Place Mini
  - Girls Volleyball: Third Place

## PRHSAA League

(Puerto Rico High School Athletic Alliance)

7th-12th Grade

- Boys and Girls Tennis Team: Sub-Champions
- Girls Varsity Swimming Team: Undefeated Champions
  - Girls JV Futsal: Fourth Place

## DOLPHIN SOCCER CLUB

- Girls & Boys Soccer: Second Place Mini



The interscholastic Athletic Program is an integral part of an individual's educational experience while he or she attends The Palmas Academy. Participation in athletics provides student-athletes with opportunities to experience self-discipline, teamwork, fair competition, character, leadership and community involvement through athletic competitions. Students who participate in our program will be better prepared as adults for taking an active role in today's world.



# Community Service

The Academy wants to provide its students with the opportunity to be of service to others in need. In this manner, the students will be able to formulate an understanding of community, empowerment and empathy, which are fundamental in the development of the whole individual. Students develop activities such as fundraisers for non-profit organizations. We believe in being continuously involved in the well-being of other and our community.



## 100 Hours As Graduation Requirement



- Beach Cleanup
- Blood Drive
- CAP
- Casa de la Bondad
- Casa de Todos
- Christmas "Parranda" to Veteran's Hospital
- Cineret - Food for the homeless
- Instituto Psicopedagógico
- Red Cross - Donate Your Change Campaign
- Visit to Punta Santiago Community - donation of basic needs after Hurricane María
- Visit to Ryder Elderly Home

# Achievements



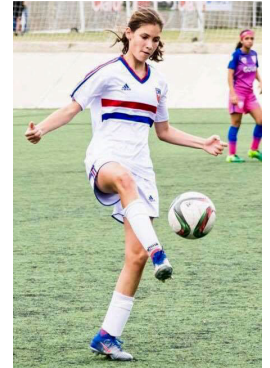
**Lorenzo Báez** Lorenzo Báez is among the top 5 players nominated for the 2017-2018 Prospect Soccer Player Award by the FBNET.

**Bianka González and Lorenzo Báez** were chosen as the All Alliance-All Star Futsal players of PRHSAA.



**Stanford University**

Our student athlete **Soleil Maldonado** was selected once again in the Puerto Rico Soccer Women National Team Sub 17 that played in Nicaragua at the CONCACAF Pre World Cup.



**Camille Uldry** won a Bronze Medal during the Second Phase of the PR Math Olympics at University of PR - Mayagüez Campus. She was admitted to the Pre-Collegiate Summer Institute at Stanford University and, she also won a bronze medal in the United States Dressage Federation (USDF).



**Joseph Vargas**



**Jorge Ortiz**

**Joseph Vargas and Jorge Ortiz** received one of the highest scores islandwide in the College Board PAA test. The Palmas Academy, as an educational institution, surpassed the general average score obtained by other private schools in Puerto Rico.



**Gabriel Sánchez** represented Puerto Rico at the International Soccer Pachuca Tuzos Tournament in Mexico.



**José Luis Umpierre** won one gold medal, two silver and one bronze medals in the Federated Swimming Competitions.



**Dylanie and Dehray Eleutice** were accepted to the Bartlett School of Architecture at University College London, Summer Short Courses 2018 Program UCL Bartlett has been second highest ranking school of architecture, only topped by MIT.



# Achievements



The English Department is very proud of the effort and commitment of the students who participated in our Spelling Bee competition. Special recognition to the 2018 Spelling Bee winners: **Amanda Pérez** (5th grade), 1st place; **Ambar Quiñones** (6th grade), 2nd place; and **Natasha Falgueras** (4th grade), 3rd place.



**Fabiola Gregory** was selected among 200 students to attend the Pre-Engineering Camp at the University of Puerto Rico, Mayagüez campus.

**Sophie Uldry** will be studying Computer Science and Video Game Design at Northeastern University and received a Full Scholarship.



**Esteban Chamorro** was selected as the Distinguished Student in the Annual Convention of the Association of Private Schools in Puerto Rico.

Esteban was also this year's Senior class Valedictorian.

**Alejandro Caballero** won first Place in the regatta at Club Náutico in Ponce.



**Gina Calise** was this year's Senior class Salutatorian



In addition to completing 500 hours of community service, **Danielle Rivera** received this year's TPA Distinguished Graduate Award.



**Idielis Hernández** finished 2nd place in the Forensics competition.

**Esteban Chamorro** won a Senior medal for his 3 years of participation in the EFL and a certificate for being ranked 1st place by one or more of the judges in the Original category.

**Nicolás Ortiz** was given a certificate for being ranked 1st place in the Comedy category.







# Our Seniors

*Go Dolphins!*

# College Acceptances

## Congratulations to our Senior Class 2018

We are very proud of your College acceptances  
and wish you all the best!

**Adelphi University**  
**American University**  
**Arizona State University**  
**Assumption College**  
**Barry University**  
**Bentley University**  
**Berklee College of Music**  
**Boston University**  
**Brandeis University**  
**Brenau University**  
**Bryant University**  
**Chestnut University**  
**Clemson University**  
**Dean College**  
**Drexel University**  
**Duquense University**  
**Emerson College**  
**Embry Riddle Aeronautical**  
**Emmanuel College**  
**Fairfield University**  
**FC Indiana 2018 NPSL**  
**FIU**  
**Fordham University**  
**George Mason University**  
**Johnson and Wales University**  
**Loyola Marymount**  
**Loyola New Orleans**  
**Loyola University at Chicago**  
**Loyola University New Orleans**  
**Lynn University**  
**Marquette University**  
**Marymount Manhattan College**  
**Miami Dade**  
**New York University**  
**Northeastern University**  
**Pace University**  
**Penn State**  
**Providence College**  
**Purdue University**  
**Regis College**  
**Rollins College**  
**Rutgers**  
**Saint Joseph University**  
**Saint Leo University**  
**St. John's University**  
**Stetson University**  
**Suffolk University**  
**Temple University**  
**Texas A&M**  
**Texas Christian University**  
**The Catholic University of America**  
**Tyler School of Art**  
**University of Connecticut**  
**USC**  
**Universidad Interamericana**  
**Universidad Politécnica**  
**University of Colorado at Boulder**  
**University of Dayton**  
**University of Illinois at Chicago**  
**University of New Haven**  
**University of North Georgia**  
**University of Tampa**  
**University of Tennessee**  
**UPR Humacao**  
**UPR Mayaguez**  
**UPR Rio Piedras**  
**Wingate University**



# Scholarships



The Parent Teacher Organization was created in order to encourage parents, teachers, and interested community members to engage in activities that facilitate and correspond to the priorities of the Academy's administration.

PTO

Thanks to the PTO we were able to have and accomplish the following:

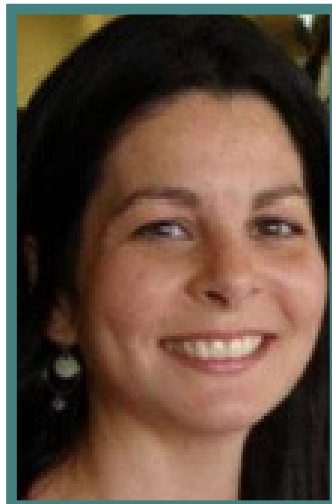
- Ping Pong table and accesories for the Athletics Department
- Restoration of the Covered Court
- New rubber tiles for the Playground

The Palmas Academy held elections for the 2018-2019 PTO and these are the new directors:

## The new faces of our PTO



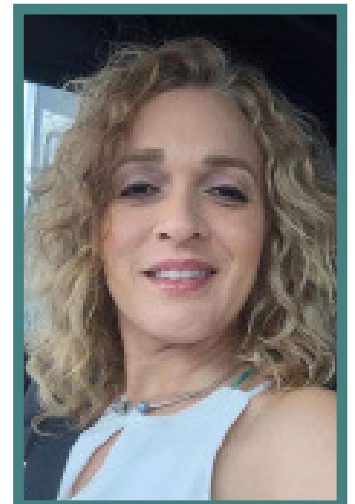
**Janina Viejo**  
President



**Jennifer Odell**  
Vice President



**Maricarmen Quiles**  
Secretary



**Marivet Bonilla**  
Treasurer



## ATHLETICS

- Industrial ceiling fans for the Covered Court
- Gym, lockers and bathrooms
- Lap Pool
- Lights for the Soccer Field
- Track and Field



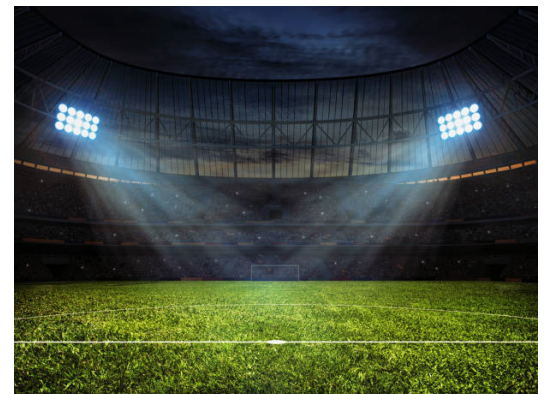
## AUDITORIUM

- Band Concerts
- School Plays
- Graduation Ceremonies



## TECHNOLOGY

- Technological capacity
- Equipment





**787.850.9120**

**[www.thepalmasacademy.com](http://www.thepalmasacademy.com)**

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