

February 2016

## *~ An Interview with Amy Evangelista, Our New Full-time Counselor ~*

*The Academic Senate welcomes Amy to the Coastline family.*

### **Where are you from originally, and what was it like growing up there?**

I am originally from New York City. My parents were divorced, and my mother struggled to make ends meet. We lived in the projects on the upper east side of Manhattan, and I remember those days when the elevator was broken and having to trudge laundry or groceries up 19 flights of stairs. Luckily, I had three siblings that could help!

Growing up in a lower-economic status encouraged me to develop a strong work ethic as well as an independent outlook. I started working part-time when I was 13 and figured when I graduated from high school, I would get a full-time job to support myself. I had always been a good student, but continuing on to college was not an option. It simply seemed out of reach; no one in my family had attended college. It was a prospect we never discussed.

For me, the best part of growing up in Manhattan was the cultural diversity and, of course, the food! To this day I miss the ability to find delicious food at any time and from a variety of cultures

### **Tell me about your family.**

I am divorced and have an 8-year-old son, named Aiden, who loves building Legos, playing video games, laser tag, and having “Just Dance” competitions. Our newest activity is coloring together, which is a leisurely activity that provides a nice respite from the soccer and other activities in which Aiden is involved.

The other day, Aiden told me that when he grows up he wants to be an artist or a cop, so I asked him “Why not be both?” I think that it’s important to let him know that such a dichotomy can exist because we all have multifaceted personalities, interests, and abilities that should be explored and developed.

My fiancé, a high school Spanish teacher, is from Puerto Rico, and, like me, moved to California when he was 17, though his move here was spurred by the dream of becoming a famous musician. While that didn’t exactly pan out, he enjoys playing drums to this day. Our favorite activities together include taking long walks in our neighborhood, exploring and discovering flea markets, watching compelling television shows such as “The Walking Dead,” and traveling.



**Amy Evangelista**

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