

Science PA Bulletin

Parents' Association of the Bronx High School of Science

75 West 205 Street, Bronx, NY 10468 (718) 817-7718

www.bxscience.edu • www.bxsciencepa.org

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Letter from the Principal

At Bronx Science we take our role of “in loco parentis” very seriously. For the entire four years that your child is at our school, we are their second family and we know that it is our partnership with you that will ensure your child’s success.

In pursuing this theme of family, we view our current seniors as our “eldest” children. They set the standard and example for their younger “siblings” in the Bronx Science community. Our seniors are very busy right now with the college process and making decisions that will affect the next four years of their lives. Like any family, their stress translates into concern and stress for all who care for them. Their teachers are busy writing raves and recommendations, their guidance counselors are helping them with their college lists and college essays and all against the backdrop of teaching and learning, doing homework and test taking every day.

The juniors have already gone through their first big hurdle - the PSAT. This test, which mimics the SAT, will earn some students recognition as National Merit Scholars and, for all juniors, serves as an indicator score for their SAT.

Our middle children, the sophomores, began the year having learned the lessons of freshman year well. They have learned the study and time management skills necessary for academic success and they are well aware of the robust extracurricular offerings that will allow them to socialize and decompress.

Our youngest family members, the freshmen, are an eclectic and talented group. I have heard excellent feedback from teachers and guidance counselors about how unique and intelligent this freshman class seems to be. We have spent many man hours trying to recruit the city’s best students and I believe that we have succeeded.

The administrative staff has worked hard to train teachers to recognize the individual learning styles of your children. We will need your help to complete the circle. You must commit to checking your child’s progress from home and reporting to us any concerns that you might have. A great place to start is with your child’s counselor. The more we know about your child the more successful we will be in supporting him/her. Our family is large, but we care about every one of our 3,000 children.

Thank you for trusting us with their education.

Valerie Reidy

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Volunteers Needed
See page 5!

THE SCIENCE PA BULLETIN IS GOING ALL-DIGITAL SOON!

In order to cut costs and give content greater freedom this newsletter will soon go all-digital. Further details will be available on the PA website at www.bxsciencepa.org

LETTER FROM THE CO - PRESIDENTS

Greetings from the co-presidents of your Parents Association!

We know the children have thrown themselves back into the school routine. Now it's your turn to get involved.

As parents of upper classmen, we both encouraged our children when they got to high school to join after-school activities as a way to make friends and pursue new interests. Through our activism in the parents association, we hoped to be good role models and do the same.

But as the song from "City of Angels" goes, "We're nothing, without you. Without you, we're nothing at all!"

Now is the time to sign up to volunteer to make 2011-2012 at Bronx Science another great year.

The Parents Association holds monthly meetings to share information and learn your perspective on a range of topics and issues. We know after a long day, it's sometimes hard to get to a night meeting, especially in another part of the city. So this year, free buses are provided from Manhattan as well as Queens to make it easier for you to get to our monthly meetings.

The PA helps every student and we need the gifts and talents of every parent. We have committees that focus on a variety of events and issues including hospitality, safety, transportation, external affairs, the Phonathon and the highlight of the year – our Spring Auction. It is a major event and fundraiser, and this year we are recruiting new members to assist in the planning.

We know that unlike in the lower

grades, it is often difficult for parents to get detailed information out of their adolescents about their day in high school.

As in:

Mom: "What happened in school today, dear?"

Son/Daughter: "Nothing."

How many times have you heard that?

Well, if you come to our monthly meetings or attend a lecture sponsored by the PA, read our Sunday PA e-blasts or hang around for a committee meeting, you'll know a lot more about 'nothing' just by walking in our wonderful facility and engaging with our dedicated administration and faculty.

So please, we are eager to get to know you. Come get to know us. Visit our website bxsciencepa.org or just email us at president@bxsciencepa.org.

Look forward to seeing you soon.

Anne Reingold and Cary Sheren

2011-2012 Bronx High School of Science Parents' Association Officers

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Anne Reingold and Cary Sheren

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PA Bulletin

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Be sure to visit the PA website:
www.bxsciencepa.org

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WELCOME TO THE NEW SCHOOL YEAR!

This is my ninth year as Parent Coordinator; however, I have been involved with Bronx Science since the mid 1990s. I have been a parent of two Bronx Science students (now alumni), I was employed in the computer department for three years, and in the fall of 2003, I became the Parent Coordinator at Bronx Science. By now, most families are familiar with the position of Parent Coordinator, which was created by the Mayor and Chancellor in 2002. The New York City Department of Education defines a parent coordinator as “part of the administrative team that works for school principals. They work closely with school staff, school leadership teams, parent associations, community groups, and parent advisory councils to engage families and involve them in school communities. They also are charged with identifying issues of concern to families and working with school leaders to ensure that these issues are addressed in a timely manner.”

So now that you have the official definition of a parent coordinator, what do I do specifically at Bronx Science? I enjoy working with the three thousand families whose amazing children attend Bronx Science. My work day involves answering calls from parents, where I respond to questions ranging from ‘how can I get a message to my child during school hours?’, to ‘what do I do if my child lost the Bronx Science planner?’ and anything else you can imagine in between. I love speaking with parents; however e-mails are the fastest and easiest way for you

I enjoy working with the three thousand families whose amazing children attend Bronx Science.

to communicate with me, and you can usually find me at my computer, responding to parents’ questions by e-mail. I find that most parents contact me when they’re not sure about whom to approach to solve a problem, and I can then direct parents to the right person to solve their problem. If you’re trying to reach a teacher, an Assistant Principal, the Principal, or any other staff member, and are not having success, give me a call or send me an e-mail.

I also maintain the school’s main web pages to make sure that the Bronx Science community has the most accurate and up-to-date information about what’s happening at school. This ensures that families can be more involved – knowing what’s going on helps families to feel connected to Bronx Science. I send out a weekly electronic newsletter, with information that I gather from the various departments, another way for families to “keep in touch.” Any time that information

needs to be disseminated to families, I get the message out to everyone, as quickly as possible. I am always striving to involve parents in their children’s education by arranging monthly breakfast meetings with the Principal and other staff members, and by working closely with the Parents’ Association to keep a channel of communication open between the parents and the school. I also “serve as facilitator for parent and school community concerns and issues including, for example, school policies or facilities issues.” So if you have anything on your mind and would like your voice to be heard, please contact me. I meet with Principal Reidy on a weekly basis, who is my



Cynthia Golan, Parent Coordinator
The Bronx High School of Science
golanc@bxscience.edu
Office: 718-817-7712 • Cell: 347-563-4846

direct supervisor, and I discuss with her any questions or concerns that parents have, on a regular basis. Having families feel that they are part of our community at Bronx Science is something that I take very seriously. So if you find that you’re not feeling connected with the school, if you have any unanswered questions, or if you just need to talk, please contact me – it’s my job to help you, and I am always glad to do so.

**CHECK OUT
Page 5 - Volunteers
Needed!**

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A MESSAGE FROM THE S. O. PRESIDENT

Welcome to the 2011-2012 school year. As president of the Student Organization (S. O.) it is my job to direct the various student leadership groups at school, which include Senate, Advisory Board, The League of Presidents (LOP), and Student Leadership Team (SLT). This also includes Cabinet, which meets 9th period each day. We organize events, discuss school politics, and provide a voice for the student body in the creation of school policies. In recent years, the S. O. has been an underappreciated and poorly utilized asset of the Bronx Science community. This year, it is our goal as an S. O. to change that. Along with 18 passionate, hard-

working cabinet members, we are working to revamp the communication system with students to keep Bronx Science up-to-date and connected to their school environment. To start, we've created a new tab along the top of the bxscience.edu website labeled "Students." In this webpage, students can find all of the information related to the S. O. including contacts for S. O. officers, event calendars, and video promos. We now have a weekly TV show called "Wolverine TV." The goal of Wolverine TV is to create an easy-to-watch, fun news program to keep students informed about all things Bronx Science. It

is our hope that, with greater communication and awareness, we can build a more spirited community. You can see it here: <http://youtu.be/wxqY44TXQg8>

This year promises some exciting changes!

This year promises some exciting changes. The Student Organization is going to be working harder than ever before to create an atmosphere that students look forward to learning in each day. With the support of students, teachers, the administration, and of course you, the parents, I know we can keep Sciencites saying "it's worth the trip."

*-Lev Ratnofsky, S. O. President
levratnofsky@gmail.com*

GUIDANCE DEPARTMENT WELCOME BACK!

Our Guidance Department is committed to providing your child with the care and respect that is so greatly needed throughout your child's high school career. We feel that we are off to a great start, helping students with program adjustments and with getting back into a school routine. We are especially welcoming to our Freshmen and addressing all of their needs, as quickly and efficiently as we can. We would like to extend our support to all our parents and to let you know that the Guidance Department believes strongly, that we all work as a team. If you have any questions or concerns please feel free to contact your child's Guidance Counselor, either by phone or email, at the following link: <http://tinyurl.com/bxnllink1>

We look forward to working with you throughout the year!

Please welcome our new Guidance Counselors Ms. Lauren Brown, Ms. Jandiere Gutierrez, Ms. Jacole Mills and Ms. Kelly Mueller! We are very pleased that they have joined our staff and we hope that you will also welcome them to Bronx Science. Please go to the following link if you need to search for your child's counselor: <http://tinyurl.com/bxnllink2>

Deadlines looming?
Essays piling up? We can help!

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SAFETY INFORMATION

A few weeks ago I spoke with Linda from Vallo Transportation. She said she will be pleased to continue the 5:45pm bus to the #4 train station at Jerome and Bedford Avenues.

When my son was a freshman I noted that we had one uniformed policeman assigned to the school, and whenever he had a day off he was not replaced. Meanwhile, crimes against our students predictably occurred near the school and on the corridor to the subway during the normal dismissal hours after the 8th and 9th periods; this is when the perpetrators, students from nearby schools, were in the neighborhood. Therefore we tracked the time and place of these crimes and docu-

mented our need for better coverage to the police department. Thanks to Valerie's hard work and advocacy, the police agreed to replace our officer when he was not available and to add a second officer to patrol the corridor to the subway with special attention to the corner of Paul and Bedford Ave during dismissal. Now that my son graduated, Asst. Principal Mr. Levy and our new PA Safety committee chair, Cliff Stanton will make sure that this service of the NYPD continues.

Parents and students seem to appreciate the safety reminders and recommendations that we've sent over the years. Mr. Levy and the School safety committee will continue to keep you up to date on any

concerns. If you have any safety complaints or concerns, please be in touch with Mr. Levy (levy@bxscience.edu) or the PA safety chair, Cliff Stanton (safetychair@bxsciencepa.org).

By Graduated Senior PA Safety Chair, James Charles

CAN YOU HELP OUR SCHOOL?

A special school like Bronx Science depends on special parents to help sustain and move our goals forward year after year. With budget cutbacks the school needs what the PA can deliver all the more. In the next year we will be losing parents who came with these special skills:

- Strong organizational/management experience.
- Fund raising experience.
- Multi-lingual fluency (Cantonese, Mandarin, Korean).
- Excel spreadsheet proficiency.
- Website management and/or design - Dreamweaver CS3 or other. Experience with CMS.
- Page Layout - InDesign CS5.

Do you have what it takes? Can you spend a few hours a month helping your child's school be THE BEST IT CAN BE? Call (718) 817-7718 or email president@bxsciencepa.org and be counted!

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MORE PA NEWS



NEW! The Bronx Science Annual Auction 2012: Friday, April 20, 2012

We are happy to announce that we have again reserved
Jing Fong Restaurant on

**Elizabeth Street in Manhattan for our event. We
will have plenty of room for dining, shopping and
schmoozing at this classic Chinatown venue. Mark your
calendars for Friday, April 20th!**

**More auction news and information will be provided in
the weeks and months ahead.**

*We are still in need of volunteers and co-chairs for this very important (and
fun) fundraising event. If you are interested,
please e-mail president@bxsciencepa.org.*

HELP US JUMP START OUR FUNDRAISING – MAKE YOUR CONTRIBUTION NOW!

Our suggested annual contribution is \$500 per student, but please be assured that any amount is appreciated. Of course, if you can give more, please do so. The most important goal is 100% participation.

Just click on the Donate Now button on our website <http://www.bxsciencepa.org/>.

Or, you can send a check by mail. Enclose your check made payable to
The PA of Bronx Science and mail to:
The Bronx HS of Science Parents' Association
75 West 205th Street, Room 234A
Bronx, NY 10468

*Congratulations to the Winners for the PA
Executive Board and SLT Open Positions*

*The elections for the Freshman parent reps
for the PA Executive Board and School
Leadership Team were held at the October
18 Open PA meeting.*

*The Freshman parent at-large position
was won by Glen Price III.*

*The winner of Freshman parent to the
SLT is Geraldine Baum Oreskes.*

*Congratulations to the winners and to
all those who ran, and to ALL parents,
all of these meetings are open meetings
and we welcome your attendance and
participation.*

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The PA General Meeting Topics for the rest of the school year are as follows:

Wednesday, November 9

- Extracurriculars

Tuesday, December 13

- Pot Luck - Topic: "Teenagers and Technology" with guest speaker Dr. Michael Fraser

Wednesday, January 11

- The College Process

Tuesday, February 7

- Course Selection Process

Wednesday, March 14

- Town Meeting

Tuesday, April 17

- PA Nominations and topic TBA

Wednesday, May 16

- State of the School

Tuesday, June 12

- College Kids Come to Talk about their first year and their advice on the process and PA and SLT elections

PA General Meetings begin promptly at 7:00pm and Executive Board meetings start at 5:30pm and all are welcome to attend.

Free Bus Service for Queens and Manhattan Parents to attend PA Meetings

For Queens Parents Free transportation courtesy of Vallo Bus. Parents must call 718-961-7600 two days ahead of the scheduled PA meeting date to reserve a seat. Vallo will not schedule a bus if there is no reservation made two days prior to the PA meeting.

Pickup time and the stops are as follows: Queens Center Mall - Queens Blvd. and 59th Ave. at 5:30pm
Fresh Meadow Movie at 6pm
14 Ave & Cross Island Parkway North (Professional Building on Northbound Service Rd. C.I.P.) at 6:20pm

For Manhattan Parents Free bus service courtesy of Merit Transportation Corp. Reservations for a seat on the Merit bus are not necessary.

East Side bus leaves 86th and Lexington, NE corner at 6:15pm.

West Side bus leaves 86th and Broadway, NE corner at 6:30pm.

Bus returns upon end of PA meeting.

IMPORTANT DATES

Nov 1	Report Card Distributed	Mar 29	Spring P/T Conference Evening
Nov 3	P/T Conference 6-8:30PM		
Nov 4	P/T Conference 12:30-2:30PM	Mar 30	Spring P/T Conference Afternoon
Nov 8	No School	Apr 6-13	School Closed
Nov 9	PA Mtg 7pm	Apr 17	PA Mtg 7pm
Nov 11	No School	Apr 18	Social Studies Acuity
Nov 14-15	PA Phonathon		SLT Mtg 4pm
Nov 16	Social Studies Acuity SLT Mtg 4pm	Apr 19	English Acuity SLT Mtg 4pm
Nov 17	English Acuity	Apr 20	Earth Day
Nov 18	Foreign Language Acuity	Apr 20	Spring Auction
Nov 21	Science Acuity	Apr 23	Foreign Language Acuity
Nov 22	Math Acuity	Apr 24	Math Acuity
Nov 23	Science Acuity	Apr 25	Science Acuity
Nov 24-25	No School	Apr 27	Science Acuity
Dec 1	S. O. Blood Drive Intel Dinner	Apr 30	End of 2nd Marking Period
Dec 6	End of 2nd Marking Period	May 1-3	Spring Musical
Dec 8-9	School Play	May 7	AP Exams Begin
Dec 13	PA Mtg 7pm	May 10	Report Cards Distributed
Dec 14	Winter Concert	May 15	SLT Mtg 4pm
Dec 15	Report Cards Distributed SLT Mtg 4pm	May 16	PA Mtg 7pm
Dec 26-30	No School	May 18	AP Exams End
Jan 3	School Resumes	May 23	Spring Concert
Jan 11	PA Mtg 7pm	May 24	Spring Concert
Jan 16	No School	May 28	No School
Jan 17	SLT Mtg 4pm	May 29	Debate Awards
Jan 24-27	January Regents	June 4	Senior Awards Ceremony
Jan 30	No School	June 5	Sports Awards Ceremony
Jan 31	Spring Term Begins	June 7	No School
Feb 7	PA Mtg 7pm	June 12	PA Mtg 7pm
Feb 16	SLT Mtg 4pm	June 13-15	June Regents
Feb 20-24	School Closed	June 18-21	June Regents
Feb 27	School Resumes	June 22	No School
Mar 13	SLT Mtg 4pm	June 22	Graduation 2-5PM
Mar 14	PA Mtg 7pm Pi Day	June 27	Last Day for all Students
Mar 16	End of 1st Marking Period		
Mar 20	S. O. Blood Drive		
Mar 22-24	SING		
Mar 27	Report Cards Distributed		

In Order to Maintain our Standards of Excellence at Bronx Science - We Need Your Help
SUPPORT THE STUDENTS OF BRONX SCIENCE

Bronx Science provides our children with a uniquely high quality, well-rounded education. To teach "the best and the brightest", the school needs quality resources and state-of-the-art equipment.

We parents can make a difference. This year, our ambitious fundraising goal is \$300,000. The money supports the school in many ways: computer maintenance and facilities, supplemental textbooks and supplies not provided by the city, college programs, math and science research projects, uniforms for sports teams, maintaining the school's security systems and much more.

You may donate 1) online – go to bxsciencepa.org and click the **Donate Now** button or 2) by mail - complete the attached form and enclose your check made payable to *The PA of Bronx Science*. Our suggested annual contribution is \$500 per student, but please be assured that any amount is appreciated. Of course, if you can give more, please do so. The most important goal is 100% participation. The PA is a not-for-profit 501(c)(3) organization, and your donation is tax deductible to the extent permitted by law. Ask your employer if they will match your gift.

Please return this form to: **The Parents' Association of the Bronx High School of Science**
75 West 205th Street, Room 234A Bronx, New York 10468

Student 1 Name: _____ **OSIS #** _____ **Grade in 2011-12** _____

Student 2 Name: _____ **OSIS #** _____ **Grade in 2011-12** _____

Support the Students of Bronx Science



Go online instead! Go to bxsciencepa.org and click the **Donate Now** button on the home page.

Please enclose your tax-deductible contribution. You will receive an acknowledgement for your records.

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