

Science PA Bulletin

Parents' Association of the Bronx High School of Science

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MESSAGE FROM PRINCIPAL VALERIE REIDY

Dear Parents,

Welcome to the 2004-05 school year, which promises to be challenging and fruitful. As has been our tradition for the past three years, our incoming freshmen experienced two days of "Camp Science," an orientation to their new environment. Our efforts to ensure that students had correct programs were somewhat thwarted this year because of the mandated use of a new computer program, HSST. There were and are many problems with this program, and the "bugs" are still being worked out. If your child's program has been affected, we apologize. The problems aside, we continue to make every effort to give students either their first-, second- or third-choice electives, which they chose on bubble day last year. Some classes were oversized and needed to be brought into compliance with the union regulation of a cap of 34 students. This equalization of classes may have affected some students' programs. In order to be fair, we did not hand pick those students who were removed in the equalization process, which was carried out by computer. Our course offerings are extensive, and many students' programs are complicated. We attempted to program as effectively and efficiently as possible.

Budget issues continue to plague us. While all high schools experienced a significant budget reduction, we did not cut instructional programs as other schools did. We decided to put every penny of our budget into instruction. This leaves little remaining for other needs. Our hope and expectation is that, as monies are released at state and local levels, we will receive much-needed funds. In the meantime no cuts will affect the academic programs of your children.

At the end of last year we said goodbye to many valued senior staff members owing to retirements and

(continued on page 2)



MESSAGE FROM THE PA CO-PRESIDENTS

September 27 was a day of sadness for the Bronx Science community, but it was also a day of hope.

A memorial service was held for a sophomore student who died over the previous weekend, a tragic loss of a fun-loving, gifted boy at an early age. As parents, we cannot help reflecting on the perils facing our sons and daughters.

Coincidentally, September 27 also brought *New York* magazine's article on "Generation Rx," featuring drug experimentation by City teenagers, including two other Bronx Science students. Drug ads, stress, boredom, peer pressure, celebrity appeal, drug over-prescribing, and easy availability all propel and seduce teenagers into taking drugs.

For all their smarts, even our kids can succumb. What to the younger generation may be experiencing life is, to a generation with more life experience, self-destruction. Misused prescription drugs as well as street drugs can be lethal.

Perhaps the article's harshest indictment was saved for us: for all their denials, children in New York's hyper culture mimic their parents and, by over-reliance on pill doctors, in many cases it's the parent who first introduces the child to the drug.

Parents are part of the problem. We know it. How can we help?

The answer is in the memorial service. For one brief hour, generations did not exist. In their grief, students, parents, and teachers spoke the same language.

Our hope and pledge as Co-Presidents is to try to capture this spirit in what the Parents' Association does this year. While parents cannot live their children's lives or make their choices for them, we can be more aware of their needs and problems, and we can reach out to them for common solutions. (continued on page 5)

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MESSAGE FROM PRINCIPAL VALERIE REIDY (CON'T.)

to new career opportunities. We welcome 12 new members to our Bronx Science family, including a new member of our administrative team, Ms. Diana Ferrer, who has taken the helm as Director of Guidance and the College Office. Ms. Ferrer has extensive experience with the college process and has been the college counselor at Manhattan Center for Science and Math for 12 years. In addition to her supervisory duties with general guidance issues, she will be focusing on the college process at Bronx Science, attempting to improve the service we provide to our students. As we continue to focus on our theme of "Writing Across the Curriculum" and preparation for the writing component of the new SAT I examinations, entering freshmen will be taking a newly designed writing course, which mirrors those required of college freshmen.

While this year opened with great promise, our enthusiasm has been overshadowed by sorrow. The Bronx Science community has experienced the tragic loss of one of our sophomore students. In the early hours of Saturday morning, September 25, Lewis Dvorkin died in his home after returning from a party. As his family members grieve their tragic loss we, Lewis' Bronx Science family, also grieve. Our hearts and prayers go out to his parents, who are attempting to deal with and make sense of the death of their son. At the school we are supporting grieving students who are dealing with the loss of a friend and contemporary by holding grief-counseling sessions and group discussions. The questions of why and how one so young died will be addressed throughout the year. We will not only be working with students, but also having ongoing discussions with parents. We need to talk about the issues and decisions that our children confront every day and help them make the right decisions. To that end we will be focusing on the issues of stress management, drug and alcohol use and abuse by teenagers, and the warning signals of teens in trouble, by holding evening and afternoon parent workshops that will provide us with information and also give us strategies to work with and help our

children. Please attend, and if you have any expertise in these areas or wish to help us organize, let me know. We must and will work together to help and protect our youngsters and provide them with the tools to navigate through the confusing and often dangerous teenage years.

As always, I welcome your input and thank you for granting us the privilege of working each day with the best and the brightest youngsters in the world—
YOURS!

Valerie J. Reidy

Valerie J. Reidy, *Principal*

A Note from the PA Bulletin Team

This year, in addition to our standard features, we're planning to cover current events by assigning a dedicated Parent Editor to each of several beats, including Clubs, Sports, College, Fund Raising, and other Parents' Association activities. Our editorial team also wants to hear from you about topics that you'd like to see in future issues of the *PA Bulletin*. Please e-mail your suggestions to cmoore@creative4media.com. You can also e-mail us if you're interested in joining our team. We need parents to write articles, take photographs, or help with proofreading or production. In addition, **we urgently need a parent who can handle English-to-Korean translations** and deliver them in an electronic format—ideally as a pdf file.

The *PA Bulletin* is published four times a year by the Parents' Association.

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Be sure to visit the PA website at www.bxsciencepa.org!

GIVE US YOUR TIME AND YOUR MONEY!

BY BARRY BERMAN

This isn't a stickup, but we really do need your time and your money. On November 9 and 10, Bronx Science parents have an opportunity to offset school budget cuts by participating in the Parents' Association Phonathon. "Parents can help their kids and Bronx Science in two ways," says Susan Chang, PA Treasurer. "They can come to the Phonathon and make phone calls to parents in their own language. Or, if they are unable to help on those dates, they can be ready to make a pledge when they receive a call from another parent."

Financial support from the Parents' Association is essential to maintaining Bronx Science as one of the premier public high schools in the nation. Last year the PA raised \$155,000, most of it from the Phonathon. The money buys books and supplies and pays for the College Fair, the Intel Reception and other events. It also supports clubs and athletic teams. Last year the PA provided \$52,000 for the security-camera system now in use in the school.

This year, due to rising costs and excessive budget cuts, our goal is \$200,000. Your donations help ensure that the PA's programs can continue and our students will receive the exceptional education they deserve.

DON'T DELAY

You don't have to wait to be called. You can send your donation now. Please remember to put your child's OSIS or 4-digit ID number on the check, and mail it to The Parents' Association of the Bronx High School of Science, 75 West 205 Street, Room 134, Bronx, NY 10468.

WE NEED YOU

Only a third of Bronx Science families contributed money to the PA last year. "If many more people gave a donation at the level they could afford, our fund raising would be much more successful," says Amy Alleluia, PA Co-President. The suggested donation of \$400 "is only a recommendation for those able

How the Money Raised in 2003-04 Was Spent



- Putting textbooks and other essential supplies into the classrooms
- Upgrading the school's security system
- Supporting clubs, teams, and sports
- Publishing the students' Elective Guide
- Hosting the College Fair (with more than 180 colleges represented) and Parent-to-Parent College Night
- Underwriting our students' version of the Broadway musical *Oklahoma!*
- Sponsoring open houses for incoming students

to contribute that amount," Chang says. "Smaller donations are also accepted and appreciated." A donation need not be made in a single payment. Explains Chang: "We encourage donations in the form of 10 monthly credit-card payments of, say, \$25 or \$40 each."

MAKE THE CALL ON NOVEMBER 9 AND 10

On the evening of the Phonathon, parent volunteers meet at UFT headquarters, at 52 Broadway in Lower Manhattan, and call other Bronx Science parents to solicit donations. This year the event will be held on November 9 and 10, from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. Some parents volunteer for one night only, others for both nights. A light dinner is provided.

CHINESE AND KOREAN SPEAKERS NEEDED



Last year the Phonathon drew a few volunteers fluent in Korean, Mandarin, and Cantonese. Thanks to the Korean-speaking volunteers, a Korean group made a \$10,000 donation, Chang notes. This year the goal is to have at least 10

volunteers fluent in each of the three languages, says Chang. Anna Lee, PA Assistant Treasurer, is helping Chang recruit Asian volunteers.

ALL EXPENSES PAID

Free round-trip bus transportation will be provided for volunteers traveling from Queens on both evenings of the Phonathon. For more information, or to volunteer for the Phonathon, call Muriel Costa in the PA office at (718) 733-8180. Leave a message if she is not there.

ANSWER THE CALL

When a Phonathon volunteer calls, a parent may contribute on the spot, using a credit card, or may request a pledge card, which is a reminder to send a check. Cash may also be handed in person to Muriel Costa, in the PA office near the auditorium.

MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Over the summer, high school budgets were reduced because of a delay in the New York State budget. While the money may be restored to the system, new spending will reportedly be focused on helping struggling students in early grades and in large institutions housing new small schools. So, now more than ever, we need your time and your money to maintain the high-quality education for which Bronx Science is renowned.

為學校募款我們需要父母的支持 (在11月9日和 10日)

布朗士科技高中的父母有一個機會可以幫助補償學校預算削減, 在11月9日和 10日參加PA (家長協會) 的募款。 “父母可同時幫助他們的孩子和布朗士高中” 根據家長協會財務長張蘇珊。 她, “他們能在募款時用他們自己的語言幫忙打電話。當他們接到從其它父母打來的電話, 希望他們能承諾對家長協會有所奉獻”。

家長協會籌集金錢買書和供應支付學院會議, 英特爾招待會, 和其它活動。它並且支持俱樂部, 競技活動, 和其它活動, 那許多人認為對於學生申請大學非常重要。 “家長協會去年提供了\$52,000安裝安全監控相機系統為學校使用” 家長協會副總長艾米Alleluia。家長協會在2003-2004 期間學年得到了大約\$155,000, 多數在這次募款會中。

所有父母必須參與

去年只有大約三分之一的父母做了對家長協會的奉獻。雖然\$400 是推薦的奉獻目標, 張蘇珊 “這是對那些可負擔的一個推薦數額”, “我們需要更多父母參與今年的捐款, 並且我們鼓勵捐贈以信用卡形式以10 月付清每月付\$25 或\$40”。她又 “更小的捐款我們也接受並且非常感激”。 艾米Alleluia, “如果他們能在負擔的範圍中捐贈, 我們的募捐一定會更加成功的”。

當您接到一個募款電話

當募款 志願者打電話來, 父母也許用信用卡奉獻, 他或她也許要求寄回承諾卡片, 那是提示寄回支票。現金可直接給Muriel Costa, 家長協會總長。家長協會辦公室在主樓禮堂附近。

需要募款志願者在11月9 日與10日

這個募款的活動, 是志願參加的父母們將打電話給所有父母, 今年將在11月9 日與10日從下午6時到9時, UFT 總部在50 Broadway曼哈頓的下城舉行。提供一頓晚餐給志願參加的父母們。志願參加的父母們可以選擇幫忙一晚或二晚的活動。

需要說中文和韓文的志願者

張, “在去年的募款活動曾經吸引不少講韓語, 國語, 廣東話的志願者”。家長協會副財務長李安娜, “今年我們需要至少每種語言有十位以上的志願者”。張, “在 2003-2004 有一個韓國團體捐贈了\$10,000”。

公共汽車到皇后區(Queens)接送

在募款活動的兩個晚上, 有免費的公共汽車往返皇后區(Queens) 為志願者提供交通服務。須要更多的資訊, 可以打電話給 Muriel 的家長協會辦公室 (718) 733-8180。如果她不在那裡, 可留言。

전화 모금 행사에 학부모님들의 지원이 필요합니다 (11월 9일, 10일)

Bronx Science 학부모님들은 PA(학부모 협회) 전화 모금 행사에 참여함으로써 11월 9일과 10일 양일간 학교 예산 삭감안에 대비한 지원을 제공하실 수 있습니다. PA Treasurer인 Susan Chang은 “학부모님들은 두 가지 방법으로 자녀들과 Bronx Science를 도울 수 있습니다”라면서, “전화 모금 행사에 참여하여 모국어로 전화를 걸 수 있으며 다른 학부모로부터 전화를 받고 PA에 기부금을 낼 수 있습니다.”고 말합니다.

PA는 책과 비품의 구입과 칼리지 페어, 인텔 리셉션 등의 행사에 충당할 경비를 모금합니다. 또한 클럽과 운동 경기를 비롯하여 기타 대학 입학 시에 중요하게 고려되는 활동을 후원합니다. PA의 공동 사장인 Amy Alleluia는 “PA는 현재 학교에서 사용 중인 보안 카메라 시스템을 구축하기 위해 작년 52,000달러를 제공했습니다.”고 말합니다. PA는 2003-2004년도 학기 중에 총액 기준 약 155,000달러를 모금했으며, 그 중 대부분은 전화 모금 행사를 통해 조성하였습니다.

모든 학부모님이 참여하셔야 합니다

작년에는 불과 1/3 정도의 부모님만이 PA에 기부하셨습니다. 권장 기부금 수준이 400달러이기는 하지만 “그 기부액은 단지 권장하는 금액일 뿐입니다.” 고 Chang은 말하면서, “올해에는 더 많은 부모님들이 참여해 주셨으면 합니다. 매월 25달러 또는 40달러를 10개월간 신용 카드 할부로 기부하실 것을 권고합니다.” 고 덧붙였습니다. “금액이 더 적어도 상관 없습니다.”고 Chang은 말합니다. “여유가 되는 수준에서 더 많은 사람이 기부를 해 주시면 우리의 기금 조성이 더욱 성공적이 될 것입니다.”고 Alleluia는 강조합니다.

전화를 받은 경우

전화 모금 행사 자원 봉사자가 전화를 하면 학부모님은 신용 카드로 기부금을 내거나 기부 약속 카드를 메일로 보내달라고 요청할 수 있습니다(이 경우 수표로 기부함). 현금으로 기부하려면 강당 근처의 본관 PA 사무실에 있는 PA 코디네이터 Muriel Costa에게 직접 전달해 주십시오.

11월 9일과 10일에 필요한 자원 봉사자

맨하탄 남부 브로드웨이 50번지에 있는 UFT 본사에서 11월 9일과 10일 양일간 오후 6시에서 9시 사이에 실시되는 전화 모금 행사에서 학부모 자원 봉사자들이 모든 학부모님들께 전화를 걸 것입니다. 간단한 저녁 식사가 제공될 것이며 일부 학부모 자원 봉사자는 하루만 전화 걸기 자원 봉사를 하고 또 일부는 이틀 모두 참여하실 것입니다.

중국어와 한국어 사용이 가능한 분이 필요합니다

“작년 전화 모금 행사에서는 한국어와 중국 표준어 및 광둥어 사용이 가능한 학부모님들 참여가 저조했습니다.”고 Chang은 말하면서, “올해에는 이러한 세 개 언어 각각에 대해 열 분 이상의 자원 봉사자가 필요합니다.” PA Assistant Treasurer인 Anna Lee가 Chang을 도와 다양한 아시아 공동체로부터 자원 봉사자들을 모집하고 있습니다. 2003-2004년도 학기에 한국측 기부금이 10,000달러였다고 Chang은 말합니다.

퀸즈까지의 버스 교통편

양일간 열리는 전화 모금 행사에서 퀸즈에서 오는 자원 봉사자들을 위해 무료 왕복 버스가 마련될 것입니다. 자세한 정보가 필요하시면 PA 사무실의 Muriel에게 전화를 걸어 주십시오. 전화 번호는 (718) 733-8180 입니다. 부재 중일 경우에는 자동 응답기에 메시지를 남겨 주시기 바랍니다.

The Bronx High School of Science School Leadership Team

BY PAULA GANNON CONNOR, PARENT SLT MEMBER

Since 1998, as mandated by the New York State Legislature, the New York City Department of Education has established a School Leadership Team (SLT) in every one of its 1100+ elementary, middle, and high schools. SLTs comprise 17 members: parents (7), teachers (4), students (2), the Principal, an Assistant Principal, a UFT representative, a non-teacher employee, and an alumnus. The SLT provides the primary forum in which parents work with teachers and the Principal to establish school priorities and evaluate a school's progress.

The fundamental purpose of the SLT is to determine the school's educational direction — its goals and priorities, the strategies that will be used to achieve that vision, and the alignment of resources to accomplish those strategies. The Comprehensive Education Plan (CEP) is the resulting document, which, for Bronx Science, runs close to 100 pages long.

A school with a vision that includes high expectations for students and staff and a commitment to finding the most

effective instructional strategies for every classroom helps all students meet high standards. When it succeeds, the SLT can be the catalyst for realizing this shared vision. Effective team members represent the concerns of their constituencies, work closely with others to craft educational strategies that focus

Our CEP addresses the educational goals and strategies of ten departments, including Biology, English, Foreign Languages, Library, Math, Physical Education, Physical Science, Pupil Personnel Services (PPS, a.k.a. guidance), Social Studies, and the Art, Music and Technology department.

Our key goals for the 2004-05 school year are highlighted in the table.

Key Educational Goals for 2004-05

- 1 Emphasize scholarly writing across the curriculum
- 2 Provide appropriate standards of assessment
- 3 Provide the highest-quality academic and guidance services, and enhance and develop greater student, parent, and faculty awareness of the college admissions process
- 4 Facilitate efficient and timely communication among all constituencies in the Bronx Science community

Meeting monthly, the SLT spends the first half of the school year assessing, department by department, the progress made on the CEP's goals, and the ongoing needs and challenges facing the school. During the spring term, those findings are used as a foundation for the development of the

on students' needs, and regularly communicate those strategies to their constituencies and the school community as a whole. Serving on the SLT requires that members consider new approaches, rethink their priorities, and, most of all, reflect on and understand how they can best support the educational activities of the school. It is extraordinarily hard work.

next year's CEP goals and strategies. The SLT's progress on the CEP is regularly reported at Parents' Association meetings, and here, in the *PA Bulletin*. So stay tuned. Your comments are welcome and can be e-mailed to: slt@bxsciencepa.org. ♦

FROM THE PA CO-PRESIDENTS *(con't. from pg.1)*

The PA will be inviting speakers on drug abuse and guidance issues to monthly PA meetings and publicizing helpful information in future *PA Bulletins*. Also in the works is a conference to be co-sponsored with the school with workshops on recognizing and treating drug abuse.

We welcome your comments and suggestions for other ways to improve the safety and survivability of our children.

Together we can make a difference.

Amy Alleluia

Wade Hooker

Editorial note: The March 2004 issue of the *Bronx Science PA Bulletin* featured a number of articles relating to drug abuse prevention and teen depression. A copy of that issue may be viewed and downloaded from the Newsletter section of the PA website, www.bxsciencepa.org.

PARENT-STUDENT DIRECTORY

The Parents' Association would like to list your name, phone number, address and e-mail address in our Parent Student Directory. This directory will be made available to other Bronx Science families. Please submit the following information to:
president@bxsciencepa.org

PARENT'S NAME _____

PHONE# _____

E-MAIL ADDRESS _____

STUDENT'S NAME _____

ID# _____

I would like my information included in the Bronx Science Parent-Student Directory

Bronx Science Is Clubby— But in a Good Way

Groucho Marx famously said, “I don’t care to belong to any club that will accept me as a member.” But if the comedian, who dropped out of elementary school, had attended Bronx Science, he might have found his snobbery vanquished by the broad and enticing array of student organizations sponsored by the school—more than 70 clubs at last count.

Although this year’s club fair took place on October 6, it’s never too late to join—even if a group has been meeting for a while. Students interested in joining a club should speak to its adviser, any of its members, or Danielle Klein, the new Coordinator of Student Activities, in the COSA office at the back of the cafeteria.

Among the many clubs with notable achievements are the debate and robotics teams.

Teenagers have a natural talent for persuasive rhetoric—just ask any parent. The **DEBATE TEAM** hones that talent and puts it to good use. A membership of more than 100, plus generous alumni support, enables the team to compete in about 50 tournaments a year. Under the guidance of the team’s adviser, Joseph Gazzola, the Bronx Science debaters have won the J.P. Morgan Chase Lincoln-Douglass city championship for two consecutive years, during which time three Bronx Science students have won individual scholarships worth \$4,000 each. Students with a gift of gab who want to learn more about the club should check out the flyers posted around the school.

CLUBS & SPORTS BEAT

By Joel Chaiken

What would a science high school be without a **ROBOTICS CLUB**? Under the guidance of adviser Robert Stoll, the Bronx Science team is gearing up for its third year in the FIRST (For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology) robotics tournament. Actual construction of this year’s robot will begin in early January after the rules are released for the competition, which takes place in the third week of March at Riverbank State Park in Manhattan. In preparation, the team is taking design and construction courses at Polytechnic

University. In addition to students with engineering and programming skills, the bot squad needs writers to publish press releases, webmasters to maintain the team website, students with business acumen to create a business plan for entry in the competition, and computer animators. Last year the team placed seventh among 33 competitors at the FIRST tournament and won the Delphi “Driving Tomorrow’s Technology” award for engineering elegance. But the greatest reward was the camaraderie that blossomed among FIRST participants. After the contest, Assistant Principal Fred Levy was stunned to find a new Skilsaw on his desk, a gift from the John Adams High School Spartan Warriors, team 1340, which praised the Bronx Science team’s courtesy and respectfulness in an accompanying letter: “In the heat of competition... competitors rarely display those qualities. Thank you again [for assisting us with our autonomous mode programming at the contest site] and please accept this gift as a token of our friendship.” Students interested in joining the team—and using that Skilsaw—should stop by Room 319 on any Wednesday.



Stay tuned for additional club news in our next issue.

Sam Yaggy practices in the lunchroom for an upcoming tournament. ►

◀ *Senior Tyler Penkovsky speaking to potential Robotics Club members at the Bronx Science Club Fair on October 6th while last year’s robot looks on.*



DEBATE TEAM — Top from left to right: Michelle Reyf (vice president, junior), Gaby Collins-Fernandez (president, senior), Joana Sidorov (policy captain, senior), Yakov Feygin (tournament director, senior), Peter Phillips (assistant tournament director, junior), Forrest Pearce (policy novice director, senior), Joseph Gazzola (faculty adviser)

Bottom from left to right: Hannab Rothman (Lincoln Douglass novice director, junior), Angela Lei (team treasurer, junior), Tsz Ting Tam (Lincoln-Douglass captain, junior), Melissa Lee (speech captain, senior), Amanda Kaplan (speech novice director, junior), Lily Wong (team secretary, junior)

Go, Wolverines!

In the real world the wolverine is a loner, but at Bronx Science the Wolverines are all about team spirit. “I tell kids to try out for as many teams as possible,” says Arlene Taudel, Chair of Physical Education. “Team sports teach students how to socialize. It’s really a form of cooperative learning. Kids become a part of something and feel they have a place to fit in.” Besides, she adds, “colleges love it.” This year there are 32 Wolverine teams your child can try out for.

Students who want the “411” on Bronx Science team sports can find Ms. Taudel in Room 048D or check out the listings on the school website. Tryout dates are announced over the school’s public address system during third period or homeroom. And team members and coaches post important information outside the gym and in the locker rooms.

Of course, it’s not just about socializing and learning to work in groups. It’s also about winning. And last year many Bronx Science teams scored at or near the top of their division. Several teams rank as city champs—number 1 in NYC! Some are consistent division winners, like the fencing team, which last year completed its third undefeated year and



is poised to enter this year’s play-offs in November, and the girls’ swim team, which completed its fourth undefeated year, setting three city records (the girls are likely to set seven more this

year, according to junior Kevin Kung, who is making a video about the mermaids’ big splash). Other division toppers last year were boys’ golf (undefeated), boys’ handball (tied for first), girls’ handball (undefeated), boys’ soccer (undefeated in the B division, and this year competing in the A division—“Success brings challenge,” says Coach Joshua Zuckerman), girls’ tennis, girls’ golf (undefeated), and girls’ junior varsity volleyball (undefeated). Honorable mentions: girls’ soccer (placed second in New York City), boys’ swimming (second in the city), boys’ tennis (second



Jr. Callie Hunter (front) and Sr. Justine Drago near the finish line at the girls’ cross country track meet on September 22.

in the Bronx), and girls’ volleyball (second in the city).

It’s also about showing up and watching something grow. The girls’ cross-country track team is bigger than ever, pumped up by veteran runners and a healthy pack of newcomers. Co-captains Jessica Anderson and Malinda Zhu, now seniors, take pride in leading a team that has grown not only in size but in spirit since they joined in their freshman year.

Just as many of you visit the ESPN.com website for the latest in global and national sports news, you can go to PSAL.org to get the latest on the Public School Athletic League. The website is easy to use and up-to-date. Once you’ve opened the site, go to Select a School Profile, at the top right, and click on Bronx HS of Science. You can then click on any team for such details as its complete schedule, current standings, previous years’ standings, and historical statistics. The site also features current division stars.

The 32 sports offered this year at Bronx Science are listed below.

Baseball Boys, Jr.Varsity	Fencing Coed, Varsity	Soccer Girls, Varsity
Baseball Boys, Varsity	Golf Boys, Varsity	Soccer Boys, Varsity
Basketball Boys,	Golf Girls, Varsity	Softball Girls, Varsity
Jr.Varsity	Gymnastics Girls, Varsity	Softball Girls, Jr.Varsity
Basketball Girls, Varsity	Gymnastics Boys, Varsity	Swimming Boys, Varsity
Basketball Boys, Varsity	Handball Boys, Varsity	Swimming Girls, Varsity
Basketball Girls, Jr.Varsity	Handball Girls, Varsity	Tennis Boys, Varsity
Bowling Coed	Indoor Track Girls	Tennis Girls, Varsity
Crew Coed, Varsity	Indoor Track Boys	Volleyball Boys, Varsity
Cross Country Boys	Outdoor Track Boys	Volleyball Girls, Jr.Varsity
Cross Country Girls	Outdoor Track Girls	Volleyball Girls, Varsity

Find Out How to Be a Founder!

Does your son or daughter have an idea for a club that doesn’t yet exist? The student should talk to Danielle Klein, the Coordinator of Student Activities, and ask her for a packet with guidelines, an application, and forms for building, budget-allocation, and flyer-posting requests. Basic requirements for club founders: signatures of 20 interested students, along with the commitment of a faculty adviser. Once the application is approved, a temporary charter is granted for the club, which will be visited by the senate chartering committee three times a semester. At the end of the year, the club is evaluated. If it meets all criteria, the club gains a full charter and writes its own constitution.



The girls’ swim team taking an out-of-water practice session early in the year.

SEPTEMBER PA MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

Amy Alleluia, PA Co-President, opened the meeting with a reminder that parental involvement is the single most important factor in a child's success in school. With the high school years the most critical of all, she urged parents to stay involved by attending monthly PA meetings (held the first Wednesday of every month—except for October 20), by volunteering for PA Committees, and participating in Parent-Teacher Conferences. Amy introduced the PA Committees and gained PA approval for the appointment of their Chairs and Co-Chairs (*see page 11*).

In addition, an e-Communication Committee is being proposed in the set of by-law amendments under consideration.

Mr. Harry Rattien, Assistant Principal (AP) of the Math Department, delivered Principal Valerie Reidy's apologies (she was called away at short notice to a Department of Education meeting) and echoed the plea for parents to stay involved in their children's education. He announced that Dr. Reidy would present her entire Cabinet of APs at the

November 3rd PA meeting. Although there are no new academic department heads this year, Ms. Ferrer has joined the Cabinet as AP of Guidance, replacing Mr. Alan Borer, who has become a junior high school principal. Mr. Rattien reported that the school was coping relatively well with budget constraints and that no courses were cut purely for budgetary reasons, although some classes with low enrollment were dropped. Overcrowding in some classes at the beginning of the year was due to glitches in new Department of Education software. Budget cuts will mean fewer photocopied handouts and assignments, older editions of textbooks, and reductions in before-school tutoring programs and after-school clubs. PSAL sports teams will not be affected and students are encouraged to try out for as many teams as possible. In response to the parent question of why freshmen have to share lockers, Mr. Rattien explained that lack of space, not funding, was the reason. He thanked the PA for the purchase of clocks for the math classrooms and said he looked forward to the renovation of the auditorium, including improved lighting, thanks to the generosity of a

Bronx Science alumnus, City Councilman G. Oliver Koppell.

Cindy Golan, Bronx Science's Parent Coordinator, was introduced by Amy Alleluia as a parent's greatest resource for student-related questions. Cindy called for parents not currently receiving information from her by e-mail to submit their e-mail addresses to golan@bxscience.edu in order to be included in future e-mailings to parents. This address is also the recommended route for seeking answers to parents' questions. Alternatively, Cindy can be reached by phone at (347) 563-4846. For questions about PA functions and activities, parents should contact **Muriel Costa**, the PA's Program Coordinator, at (718) 817-7739. However, Cindy and Muriel work very closely together and both will re-direct parents' queries as appropriate.

Susan Chang, PA Treasurer, reported that there was little financial activity over the summer and stated that the current balance was \$149,986.08.

Wade Hooker, PA Co-President, presented proposed changes to the PA by-laws, which would be posted on the PA website. He noted that these changes were the minimum required to remain in compliance with Department of Education guidelines and expressed the hope that a By-Law Committee would soon be in place to work on further changes. He emphasized the need for parent volunteers on the PA College Committee, which coordinates such key
(continued next page)

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events as Parent-to-Parent College Night. Wade also explained the similarities and differences between the roles of the PA Executive Committee and the School Leadership Team (SLT).

Elections were held for vacant SLT parent member positions, in order to ensure a prompt start to the year's work. Susan Chang, Helen Keier, and Paula Gannon were elected. **Nominations** were taken for vacant PA Executive-Board Member-at-Large positions: elections to be held at the October PA meeting. The **appointments** of June Yuson as Recording Secretary and Catherine Bardy-Bowman as Assistant Recording Secretary were approved.

George Sukenick presented his work on e-communications and the PA website, www.bxsciencepa.org. He has created group e-mail addresses to enable teams like the PA Executive Committee and the *PA Bulletin* team to communicate more efficiently and has set up a mailbox for the PA Co-Presidents: president@bxsciencepa.org. George reminded parents who submit their e-mail address to the school or PA to check their "spam" folder, because messages may be filtered out by overzealous e-mail software. This can be resolved in future by adding the sender to their address book.

Bryan Choi presented the work of the Alumni Association (featured in this

Please Attend Our Upcoming PA Meetings:

Oct. 20, 7 PM Workshop on the New SATs—In which a representative from the College Board will discuss the changes in the SAT and PSAT

Nov. 3, 6 PM Substance Abuse Awareness Seminar—Please note the early start time. A light dinner will be served. At the PA meeting, Principal Valerie Reidy will present her Cabinet of Assistant Principals.

issue) in advising students on college admissions. It is generally acknowledged that public school students may need help in "presenting themselves" well to colleges. Bryan also explained how to access Alumni Association resources by following the links on the school website. For example, the "Class of 2005" page has a link to *Kiplinger's 100 Best Values in Colleges* pages and the *US News* rankings. In addition, the school's Naviance program, available from the school Website, contains a wealth of useful information, with addition of the class of 2004 data to be completed within the next few weeks. Students were assigned passwords last year. New entrants, or those who have forgotten their password, can use the guest password, guest1.

Kristin Edwards introduced the Bronx Science Parent Outreach Network through Distance Learning initiative, which provides videoconferencing capa-

bility, enabling parents to talk with other parents on academic, test-preparation, homework, social and health issues. For more information or to share ideas, contact Kristin at edwards@bxscience.edu or (718) 817-7700, ext.108.

EMERGENCY MEDICAL INFORMATION

Is your child's medical and contact information up-to-date? Throughout the year, please report any changes to Mr. Delgado in the Program Office at (718) 817-7700, ext. 427. If your child is on medication or in therapeutic counseling, we suggest you call his or her guidance counselor and have a **confidential** conversation. Someone in the main office will direct your call to the appropriate person.

Bronx Science Parent Coordinator



Under the Chancellor's guidelines, all schools have an in-residence "parent coordinator" available to answer any questions. Ours is **Cindy Golan**, and she can be reached at (347) 563-4846 or by e-mail at golan@bxscience.edu.



Muriel Costa, the PA's Program Coordinator, is compiling a list of parent volunteers who are available during the day to help on an occasional basis with such in-school activities as PA mailings or to chaperone school trips. If you can lend a hand with such tasks, please contact Muriel Costa in the PA Office, at (718) 817-7739 or (718) 733-8180.



Ms. Diana Ferrer is our new Acting Assistant Principal of Guidance.

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Monica	SAT I, SAT IIs, Academics, College Adm. Advising	Harvard / Yale / Georgetown
Jaclyn	SAT I, SAT IIs, Essays	Dartmouth, Cornell, Columbia
Naoko	Math, Sciences, SATs, College Planning	U Penn with scholarship
Arie	All Subjects / Tests, College Adm. Advising	National Merit Finalist, Williams, Middlebury with scholarship
David.	SAT I: 1300s, SAT IIs: 600s, College Planning	SAT I: 1570, SAT IIs: high 700-800, Full Scholarship to NYU Stern
Michael	Math B / Chem / Physics: 80s	High 90s - 100
Kelly	SAT I: 1420, SAT IIs	SAT I 1600, SAT IIs: 800s

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2004/2005 CALENDAR BX SCI

2004-2005 Bronx Science Parents' Association Committee Chairs

Contact a committee chair
and get involved!

Fundraising:

Gloria Castro, castroski@aol.com;
Grace Lum Yee,
gly20@nyc.rr.com;
Marta Rivera,
MRIVERA@Hostos.cuny.edu

Budget:

Susan Chang, PA Treasurer

Hospitality:

Teresa Alvarez,
talvare@nycboe.net and
Farina Wang, fwang133@aol.com

Safety:

Carlos E. Moreaux,
carlosmoreau@aol.com

Transportation:

Grace Lum Yee (Queens),
gly20@nyc.rr.com;
Co-Chair for Manhattan TBA

College Committee:

Chair or Co-Chairs TBA

By-Laws Committee:

Chair or Co-Chairs TBA

PA Bulletin:

Nancy Jervis, njervis@aol.com
and Carolyn Moore,
cmoore@creative4media.com

* SAT test dates and registration:
www.collegeboard.org
(School code: 333480;
Test site: 33-170)

** ACT test dates and registration:
www.act.org
(School code: 333480)

† PA Meeting dates are subject to
change. Please refer to the PA
website at www.bxsciencepa.org
for the most up-to-date
information.

2004

October	11	Mon.	Columbus Day Observed (school closed)
	13	Wed.	PSAT (daytime)
	20	Wed.	PA Meeting, 7 PM[†]
	23	Sat.	ACT Assessment**
	28	Thu.	Parent/Teacher Conferences (evening)
	29	Fri.	Parent/Teacher Conferences (afternoon)

November	2	Tue.	Election Day (school closed)
	3	Wed.	PA Meeting, 6 PM[†]
	6	Sat.	SAT Testing* (Old SAT I)
	9 & 10	Tue. & Wed.	PA Phonathon (52 Broadway, NYC)
	11	Thu.	Veterans Day (school closed)
	25 & 26	Thu. & Fri.	Thanksgiving Recess (school closed)

December	1	Wed.	PA Meeting, 7 PM[†]
	4	Sat.	SAT Testing* (Old SAT I)
	11	Sat.	ACT Assessment**
	24-31	Wed.-Fri.	Winter Recess (school closed)

2005

January	3	Mon.	School Reopens
	5	Wed.	PA Meeting, 7 PM[†]
	17	Mon.	Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day (school closed)
	22	Sat.	SAT Testing* (Old SAT I)
	25-28	Tue.-Fri.	Regents Exams
	31	Mon.	Fall Term Ends (students not in attendance)

February	1	Tue.	Spring Term Begins
	2	Wed.	PA Meeting, 7 PM[†]
	12	Sat.	ACT Assessment** (with new optional writing test)
	21-25	Mon.-Fri.	Midwinter Recess (school closed)

March	2	Wed.	PA Meeting, 7 PM[†]
	12	Sat.	SAT Testing* (new SAT I; no SAT IIs on this date)
	25	Fri.	Good Friday (school closed)

April	6	Wed.	PA Meeting, 7 PM[†]
	7	Thu.	Parent/Teacher Conferences (evening)
	8	Fri.	Parent/Teacher Conferences (afternoon)
	9	Sat.	ACT Assessment** (with new optional writing test)
	25-29	Mon.-Fri.	Spring Recess (school closed)

May	2-13	Mon.-Fri.	AP Tests
	4	Wed.	PA Meeting, 7 PM[†]
	7	Sat.	SAT Testing* (new SAT I)
	30	Mon.	Memorial Day (school closed)

June	1	Wed.	PA Meeting, 7 PM[†]
	4	Sat.	SAT Testing* (new SAT I)
	11	Sat.	ACT Assessment** (with new optional writing test)
	16-24	Thu.-Fri.	Regents Exams
	28	Tue.	Last Day of School

The Alumni Mentor Program

by Bryan Choi

The Alumni Mentor Program (AMP) has dozens of alumni volunteers who return to the Bronx High School of Science to work with students on the college admissions process, career planning, and any other issues or questions that students may have. Their input includes, but is not limited to, helping students highlight their accomplishments, reviewing college applications and essays, and engaging students in practice interviews. Look at it as an extension of the Big Sibs program, in which a senior or junior helps a freshman in the transition to high school.

Students can identify with alumni who went through the college process or faced similar career-related issues years earlier. Alumni are there to supplement the guidance and advice of Bronx

Alumni Mentor Program 2004-05 Schedule

Where: The Teachers' Cafeteria (Room 027)
When: 3-6 PM on AMP Fridays

- Sept. 24 How to Present Yourself to Colleges
 - Oct. 1 Essay Writing
 - Oct. 15 Interviewing
 - Oct. 22 Financial Aid
 - Nov. 19 Topic to be determined
 - Dec. 17 Topic to be determined
- Tentative dates for spring 2005: 3/19 (a Saturday), 4/1, 4/15, 5/13, and 5/20

Science college mentors, parents, older siblings, and others. Students with a signed parent-consent form may send drafts of essays to alumni via e-mail and discuss them by telephone.

During the fall, the emphasis of the program is on helping seniors and juniors gather more information about college admissions and career choices. In the spring, the focus is on juniors and sophomores. All students and parents are welcome.

The format of our Friday afternoon sessions (see box for dates), which run from 3 to 6 PM in the Teachers' Cafeteria (Room 027), is as follows:

- 3:00 PM to 3:40 PM:** Reception
- 3:40 PM to 4:30 PM:** A featured speaker's presentation of a specific topic
- 4:30 PM to 5 PM:** Alumni introductions and a townhall meeting
- 5:00 PM to 6 PM:** One-on-one or small-group meetings

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