

DISTRICT HIGHLIGHTS

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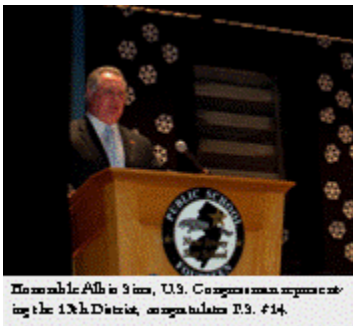
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P.S. #14 Recipient of Blue Ribbon School Award



The Honorable Billie B. Stone, U.S. Congresswoman representing the 12th District, congratulates P.S. #14.

“Somewhere over the rainbow, skies are blue.”

The same can be said of the environment surrounding Bayonne’s newest school - Public School #14. The Bayonne Board of Education is proud to announce that Public School #14 has been designated a No Child Left Behind - Blue Ribbon School by the United States Department of Education, one of only nine schools in the state of New Jersey and 329 schools nationwide.



Pictured (left to right) are: Dr. Patricia L. McGeehan, Superintendent of Schools; Janice Lo Fe, Principal, #14; and Dr. Ellen M. O’Connor, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum & Instruction.

This prestigious award distinguishes and honors schools for helping students achieve in the top ten percent on standardized tests or for making significant improvement in student performance. The Blue Ribbon Award is a testimony to School 14’s teachers, parents, students, and administration for their ‘true blue’ commitment to excellence.

Many are familiar with the saying, *“Something old, something new, something borrowed, and something blue,”* the traditional formula to wish a bride good luck on her wedding day; but the same recipe can be applied to School #14’s recent recognition as a Blue Ribbon School:

- > *“Something old”* - old-fashioned hard work, traditions, and values.
- > *“Something new”* - innovative state of the art technology throughout the school.
- > *“Something borrowed”* - teaching practices ‘borrowed’ from the successes of ‘tried and true’ instructional methods as well as the latest educational research.

Resulting in.....



> *“Something blue”* - a Blue Ribbon - the highest honor - a symbol of excellence!

The Blue Ribbon Award celebration was held at the school on December 12, 2008. The school color guard, accompanied by bagpipes and the School #14 orchestra, began the ceremony with the presentation of colors and salute to the flag. Principal Janice Lo Re greeted the audience and thanked the Blue Ribbon committee members, including teachers Barbara DeBenedictis, Mary Dwyer, Zoe Gonzalez, and Joanne Squitieri, for their dedication.



Partured in Washington, D. C. receiving the Blue Ribbon Award are (left to right): Janice Lo Re, Principal, #14; Kerry L. Briggs, Assistant Secretary U.S. Department of Education; #14 teachers Zoe Gonzalez and Mary Dwyer.

Superintendent of Schools, Dr. Patricia L. McGeehan, spoke of the pride and privilege felt in being personally involved in two Blue Ribbon distinctions, earlier in her career as principal of Midtown Community School, and as the current Superintendent of Schools for the Bayonne school system. Presentations and resolutions were bestowed by the Honorable Albio Sires, U.S. Congressman representing the 13th District; City Council President Vincent Lo Re, Jr, and fellow Council members; Bayonne Board of Education President William Lawson; and PTO Vice President Jane Wodzanowski.

Student song and dance performances included a musical routine entitled, *“Be Our Guest”*, which welcomed federal, state, and local dignitaries, as well as parents and friends. Vocal selections including, *“We’re All In This Together”* and *“Magic To Do”*, under the direction of vocal music instructor Marianne Greiman, were performed by students in grades 2 and 3, and by the Gifted Area Program music students.



Instrumental music teacher Gavin Davies conducted the concert band, string and chamber ensembles in their renditions of *“Arrival at Normandy”* and *“New World Symphony”*. A rousing ‘jaguar cheer’ and a moving slideshow presentation brought the celebration to a grand finale.



No one should be sad when singing ‘the blues’ as they pertain to Public School #14 and its Blue Ribbon status. The award exemplifies the harmony that results when school and community join together in a song of collaboration and celebration, and is a source of pride for the entire city of Bayonne.



IMTT Coleman Family Supports BHS



Bayonne High School received a very generous donation from the Coleman Family of IMTT of \$25,000.00 to create a 21st Century classroom. Superintendent of Schools, Dr. Patricia L. McGeehan and Bayonne High School Principal Richard Baccarella state, “We are extremely grateful for this very generous donation from the Coleman family. Due to their generosity and support, a classroom will be upgraded and refurbished to include innovative learning and technology materials for Bayonne High School students. The 21st Century classroom will be dedicated in the spring of 2009.”



Book Club Debuts at Philip G. Vroom School

What would cause a group of 5th grade girls to voluntarily forfeit a period of recess? A love of reading sure would! With grade 5 student Cierra McClendon taking the lead, 10 girls began spending Friday's lunchtime recess reading and discussing the book, *"Drums, Girls, and Dangerous Pie,"* by Jordan Sonnenblick.

It was a little noisy and distracting reading in the schoolyard, so this group of take-charge girls approached Principal Maryann Connelly and their language arts teacher Jessica Polera about their concerns. Immediately, a meeting room was provided for the girls and teacher Jessica Polera volunteered to become an active member of their club.

The Book Club has been well-organized by these young ladies. The girls give suggestions for a book selection and a vote determines which book will be read. The girls agree upon an assigned reading for each week and use their pocket-sized readers' notebook to jot down questions and ideas for discussion.



With the support of Principal Maryann Connelly, teacher Jessica Polera, and the PTA, who assisted with the donation of books, the girls are currently reading their second selection, the motion picture hit, *"The City of Ember,"* by Jeanne DuPrau. These intuitive young ladies are not only modeling comprehension strategies for each other, but they are also fostering friendships and a love for reading all at once. Mrs. Connelly is encouraging students in other grade levels to follow the example of these 5th graders and establish a Book Club of their own. "Reading takes you places you can only imagine," stated Principal Connelly. "I am most proud of the initiative that these young ladies have taken and hope that their energies will be contagious to other students."



Bayonne High School Bloustein Recipients



Mr. Richard Baccarella, Bayonne High School Principal has been notified that 11 students have been named Edward J. Bloustein Distinguished Scholars in the Class of 2009.

The Garden State Scholarship Program, which includes The Edward J. Bloustein Distinguished Scholars, is administered by the Higher Education Student Assistance Authority, an independent

agency of the State of New Jersey. Each year more than 7000 students statewide receive scholarships in recognition of their high level of achievement of which approximately 5000 receive Distinguished Scholar status. Students may use these awards to continue their education at New Jersey institutions of higher learning.

“These scholarships are given based on SAT scores and a student’s rank in class. We are proud of the students who receive these scholarships because they are based on academic achievement.” stated Mary Moloney, Director of Student Personnel Services.



PISA Program at Henry E. Harris School

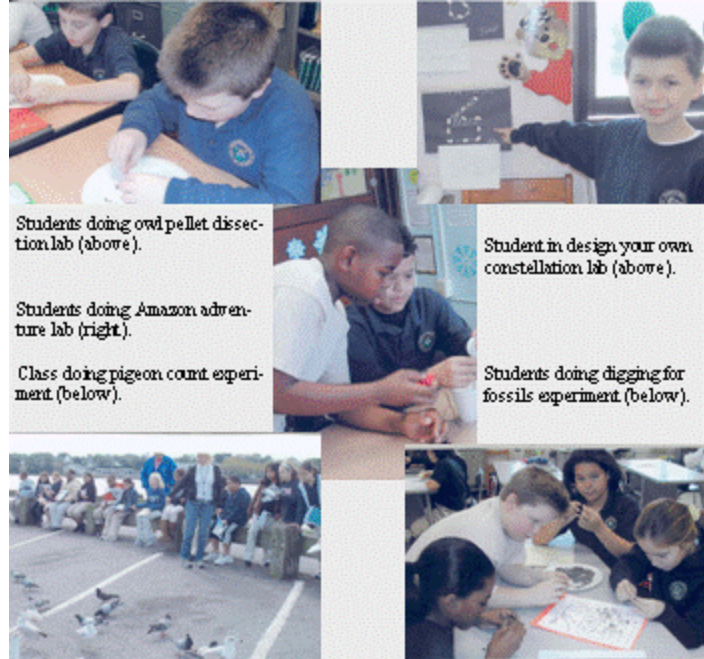
Henry E. Harris School teachers, Vanessa Geerin, Kathleen Jorgensen, and Maryanne Parks, are participants of the PISA (Partnership to Improve Student Achievement) Program administered through Stevens Institute of Technology and sponsored by the N.J. Department of Education. Teachers participate in a dynamic and supportive learning community designed to address topics in key content areas in grades 3-5 science, engineering and technology education. Professional days at Liberty Science Center and monthly visits



Pictured (left) are 5th grade students who designed a wall after creating mortar using an engineering design process they learned through the PISA Program, along with Carol Shields of Stevens Institute and teacher Maryanne Parks

from Carol Shields of Stevens Institute support and help the teachers implement the content and material during the school year.

Best of all, exciting hands-on science and math activities that develop critical thinking and inquiry are used in the classroom. PISA not only supports the learning of science, but also integrates language arts and math in many aspects as well.



Students doing owl pellet dissection lab (above).

Student in design your own constellation lab (above).

Students doing Amazon adventure lab (right).

Students doing digging for fossils experiment (below).

Class doing pigeon count experiment (below).



Bayonne High School Hispanic Scholars



Pictured (left to right) are: Richard J. Baccarella, Principal; students Gerardo Santacruz and Marcus Flores; and Mary Moloney, Director of Student Personnel Services

Mr. Richard Baccarella, Bayonne High School Principal, announced that Marcus Flores and Gerardo Santacruz have received Honorable Mention in the National Hispanic Recognition Program. Gerardo has also been named a National Merit Commended Student.

The National Hispanic Recognition Program, established in 1983, is a College Board Program that provides national recognition of the exceptional academic achievements of Hispanic

high school seniors, and identifies them for post-secondary institutions.

“This is truly an honor”, stated Mary F. Moloney, Director of Student Personnel Services. “From a pool of 200,000 students nationwide who identify themselves as Hispanic, only 5,000 have been named as a Scholar or Honorable Mention Finalist.”

“The Bayonne Board of Education is proud to issue formal proclamations to honor students who distinguish themselves academically”, said Dr Patricia McGeehan,

Superintendent of Schools. “Marcus and Gerardo will be honored at a meeting of the Board Of Education in the near future”, she continued. Marcus plans to continue his studies at Rutgers University Pharmacy Program . Gerardo would like to attend Princeton to major in mathematics.



Well-Known Brain Scientist & Author Visits Bayonne High School



Pictured are Dr. Jill Bolte Taylor and Holly Levin, BHS science teacher.

When Bayonne High School biology teacher Holly Levin saw an interview with well-known brain scientist and best-selling author Jill Bolte Taylor, Ph.D. on the Oprah Winfrey Show, she felt the need to bring this amazing woman’s message to her classroom. Mrs. Levin arranged to provide each of her forty anatomy and physiology students with a copy of Dr. Taylor’s book, *My Stroke of Insight*, and after reading, the students sent letters to her regarding their reactions. Dr. Taylor indeed responded and

kindly agreed to meet with the students in the Bayonne High School Library on February 23, 2009.

On the morning of December 10, 1996, Jill Bolte Taylor, a thirty-seven-year old Harvard-trained brain scientist, experienced a massive stroke when a blood vessel exploded in the left side of her brain. A neuroanatomist by profession, she observed her own mind completely deteriorate to the point that she could not walk, talk, read, write, or recall any of her life, all within the space of four brief hours. As the damaged left side of her brain – the rational, grounded, detail and time-oriented side – swung in and out of function, Taylor alternated between two distinct and opposite realities: the euphoric nirvana of the intuitive and kinesthetic right brain, in which she felt a sense of complete well-being and peace, and the logical, sequential left brain, which recognized Jill was having a stroke and enabled her to seek help before she was lost completely.

In her book, *My Stroke of Insight*, Taylor shares her unique perspective on the brain and its capacity for recovery, and the sense of omniscient understanding she gained from this unusual and inspiring voyage out of the abyss of a wounded brain. It would take eight

years for Taylor to heal completely. Because of her knowledge of how the brain works, her respect for the cells composing her human form, and most of all an amazing mother, Taylor completely repaired her mind and recalibrated her understanding of the world according to the insights gained from her right brain that morning of December 10. Dr. Jill Bolte Taylor is the national spokesperson for the mentally ill at the Harvard Brain Tissue Resource Center (Brain Bank) and the consulting neuroanatomist for the Midwest Proton Radiotherapy Institute (MPRI). Since 1993, she has been an active member of NAMI (National Alliance on Mental Illness). She was named one of Time magazine's *100 Most Influential People in the World for 2008*.

Mrs. Levin adds, "My students and I are forever grateful to Dr. Jill Bolte Taylor for her visit and for the inspiration and enlightenment she brought to us. Having her here was truly a dream come true. She has enriched our lives and given us an experience we will never forget."



Philip G. Vroom Celebrates 100th Day of School



Philip G. Vroom School's all-day pre-kindergarten students display their 100th Day of School projects. Students had the opportunity to speak about their projects to their special guests that visited the school for this special occasion.



Washington Community School Spotlight on 4th Grade



READ ALOUD

Teacher Danielle Nese's class was given a writing assignment to entice volunteers to read a book to their class. Pictured are the 4th graders writing their letters. The response was impressive and appointments are in the process of being scheduled for the volunteers to come into the school and 'read aloud' to the students.



Teacher Danielle Nese's 4th grade students are holding some of the books that will be read aloud to their class by volunteers willing to share a story with them.



LENNI LANAPE

Teachers Marian Mari's and Rosanne Farber's students researched village life of the first Americans to live in New Jersey, the Leni Lanape Indians. They created the Leni Lanape teepee villages after a visit to the New Jersey Native American Dancers at Staten Island College.



KINDNESS & JUSTICE

Teacher Gail Scalera's 4th grade class is learning the importance of kind deeds. During Kindness and Justice Week, students were assigned a writing project, listing and detailing kind acts they have witnessed and/or taken part.



REACH - MATH IN THE REAL WORLD

Teachers Marian Mari and Ann Edmundson's 4th grade students at Washington Community School are learning how to apply "Math in the Real World" in their REACH class. The students learned about area and perimeter by measuring their own feet, using giant graph paper, string, and markers.

Bayonne High School Chooses DonorsChoose.Org



Pictured are students in Spanish 4 Honors class in front of the new bookcase. They are holding various items that were also donated.

DonorsChoose.org improves public education by engaging citizens in an online marketplace where teachers describe and individuals can fund specific student projects. Lisa Martinez, Spanish I and Spanish 4 Honors teacher at BHS, has been working closely with donorschoose.org since September 2007. She had five proposals funded through this organization for a total of \$2,000 and is currently working on getting her sixth proposal funded. The items she received include: two tiered wire book rack for the

classroom library, thirty copies of basic vocabulary and grammar books to help with writing skills, twenty copies of a Spanish classic novel, *“Bodas de Sangre,”* by Federico Garcia Lorca, for Spanish 4 Honors class, ten Spanish/English dictionaries, and a variety of items for the school’s Diversity Fair which included musical instruments, tablecloths, multicultural posters, and display boards.



P.S. #14 Recognized by Governor with REAL Award

Bayonne School District’s Public School #14 was the recipient of the annual prestigious Recognizing Educational Achievement & Leadership (REAL) Award for receiving the 2008 No Child Left Behind Blue Ribbon School Award. Governor Jon S. Corzine and Commissioner of Education Lucille E. Davy honored School #14 along with other New Jersey award winning educators and schools.



Pictured (left to right) are: State Board President Josephine Hernandez, Acting County Superintendent of Schools Monica Tome, Superintendent of Schools Dr. Patricia L. McGeehan, #14 Principal Janice Lo Re, #14 teacher Zoe Gonzalez, and Commissioner of Education Lucille E. Davy.

Bayonne High School Student Diversity Essay Winner



Pictured (left to right) are: Robert C. Craig, Assistant Superintendent for Personnel; Mary Moloney, Director of Student Personnel Services; Ara Mitchell, Board of Education Vice President; William Lawson, Board of Education President; BHS student essay winner Qurratulann Khokhar; Dr. Patricia L. McGeehan, Superintendent of Schools; Mayor Mark Smith; and Erehyn Taraszkiewicz, Director of Social Studies & English/Language Arts.

On March 4, 2009, the American Conference on Diversity-Bayonne Chapter held its Annual Diversity Day breakfast at the Bayonne Jewish Community center. Bayonne High School student Qurratulann Khokhar was an essay winner for the essay she wrote on the topic, *“Have you ever reached out from your usual circle of friends and made the effort to get to know someone of another race or religion? What did you learn from this? What can others learn from doing this?”*



Midtown Community School Fire Poster Winner



Pictured are (left to right): Dr. Patricia L. McGeehan, Superintendent of Schools; Eileen Kosmiski-Piszko, art teacher; Denise Leonard, teacher; and Christina Menzun, Principal.

Jesse Wolleon, 6th grade student at Midtown Community School, was the 1st Place Winner for the Saint Barnabas Burn Foundation 20th Annual Poster Contest. “The Bayonne School District congratulates Jesse Wolleon for receiving this exemplary fire prevention award,” states Superintendent McGeehan.



BHS Students Tour Historic Hudson Valley



Students in Donna Zervoulis's BHS poetry class were treated to a tour of the historic Hudson Valley. This included an afternoon at Sunnyside, the estate of Washington Irving. The tour was guided by Hal Greenberg who, ironically, is a 1966 alumnus of Bayonne High School! Afterwards, the students lunched at The Tarrytown Inn and purchased souvenirs about "Rip Van Winkle" and "Sleepy Hollow", two of Irving's well-known works of fiction.

