

District Highlights

Volume XXVII, April 2008



Woodrow Wilson School Unveils Life Skills Center

This March, Woodrow Wilson unveiled its Life Skills Center which will give students an opportunity to grow, learn, and become successful citizens,” according to Dr. Patricia L. McGeehan, Superintendent of Schools.

“An approximately 375 square foot room, which includes a stove, refrigerator, dishwasher, washer/dryer, wood dining room table, and work desk with phone connection has developed into an innovative classroom which will help autistic students become more independent,” states Marguerite Baber, Founder and Chairman of the Simpson-Baber Foundation and teacher at Woodrow Wilson School.

This Life Skills Center was made possible with the \$15,000 raised by the Simpson-Baber Foundation for the Autistic and the labor provided by Bayonne Board of Education personnel.

Dr. Catherine Quinn, Principal of Woodrow Wilson School, adds, “This certainly is a special day at Woodrow Wilson School. I know that our students will benefit tremendously by the many learning activities that will take place in our new Life Skills Center.” An actual bank account was coordinated and set up with Bayonne Community Bank in order to enhance math learning concepts and the Bayonne Community Bank gave each student \$5.00 to start up their bank account.

Superintendent McGeehan adds, “I would like to thank the Simpson-Baber Foundation, Dr. Quinn, Mrs. Baber, Bayonne Community Bank, and Michael Kubert, Superintendent of Buildings & Grounds and his staff for making this exemplary learning facility a dream come true!”

BHS Wrestler #1



Jerome Otis-Harris, a Bayonne High School junior and a member of the wrestling team, had a 1st place finish this year in the Region 4 Tournament in the heavyweight class. He is one of ten Hudson County top wrestlers that competed at the 2008 NJSIAA State Championship in Atlantic City.

Jerome won a match at the annual All-Star Challenge and climbed to #1 in the state rankings at one point this season. He won Gold

at the Bayonne Varsity Tournament, Patriot Invitational, and the Newark Academy Invitational. Jerome won a match in Atlantic City and had a 30-3 record this season.

Jerome traveled to Virginia Beach to compete in the NHSCA Junior High School Nationals. He advanced to the pre-quarter finals with a win over the current Maryland state champion. He then lost a close match (3-1) to the New York state champion and eventual national champion.

Dr. Patricia L. McGeehan, Superintendent of Schools, states, “On behalf of the entire Bayonne Board of Education, I would like to congratulate Jerome and his family on all of his major accomplishments. I extend special thanks to Coach Joseph Collins, Bayonne High School Principal Richard J. Baccarella, Athletic Director/Assistant School Business Administrator Michael Pierson, and his teachers for all of their help and support.”

Board of Education Welcomes New Board Trustees

Bayonne residents, Maggi S. Khalil, Esq., and Brian M. O'Connor were recently appointed as new Board of Education Trustees. "On behalf of the entire Bayonne Board of Education, I welcome and thank Ms. Khalil and Mr. O'Connor for volunteering their time, commitment, expertise, and service to the students, staff, parents, and the entire Bayonne community," states Dr. Patricia L. McGeehan, Superintendent of Schools.



Maggi Khalil graduated from Rutgers University with a B.A., double major in Criminal Justice and Journalism/Mass Communications. She attended New York Law School, studied at the Institute of Advanced Legal Studies in London, and received her J.D. from Rutgers University School of Law. Ms. Khalil was admitted to the New Jersey State Bar in May 2006. She is in private practice, as well as working for another attorney. Ms. Khalil was president of the Young Lawyers Division of the Hudson County Bar

Association, and is a member of the New Jersey State Bar Association and the American Bar Association.

Brian O'Connor is a graduate of Bayonne High School and attended St. Peter's College, where he played 4 seasons of college basketball. He is currently sales manager for Universal Hotel Supply, Inc., handling accounts with major hotels across the U.S. Trustee O'Connor worked as an account executive for Serta Mattress and Down, Inc. In the 1990's, Mr. O'Connor served as a Bayonne Board of Education substitute teacher and also managed recreational activities for the Henry E. Harris Summer Program.



Brian O'Connor is a member of the Bayonne Mount Carmel Lyceum, Hudson County Fire & Police Pipe & Drums, Ireland's 32 Club of Bayonne, Chairman of the 2007 Sr. Joan O'Donnell Golf Outing for Holy Family Academy fundraiser event, and a coach in the Cal Ripken Instructional League.

Superintendent McGeehan adds, "Again, I congratulate them for serving as new school board trustees. I, along with central office administrators and board trustees, look forward to working with them during their term."

“Reading Is Priceless” at Horace Mann School



Seeing is believing and once anyone takes a walk around the corridors of Horace Mann School, it is obvious to everyone that reading is a shared passion among the students.

The latest reading initiative at Horace Mann School is called “Reading Is Priceless”. The students love to read and they know that reading is even more pleasurable when reading is shared with someone special. Recognizing the significance of reading with someone special, the Literacy Committee decided to display the students’ affection for reading for all to observe.

Interested students were asked to bring in a photo reading with someone such as a parent, sibling, friend, or neighbor. The photos were displayed on bulletin boards throughout the school. The response and the interest to the request were so high that the pictures now decorate the corridors as well as the bulletin boards of the school. Parents eagerly sent in pictures of their child reading with them or a brother or sister.

The overwhelming response was no surprise since students respond jubilantly when asked why they like to read. Hannah McMullan, a 6th grade student, says, “Reading keeps your mind challenged and it opens doors to learning.” Gabe Luzzi, also a 6th grade student, likes the fact that you can take a book anywhere with you.

This newest reading prompt is just one of many reading motivators that the students have enjoyed. In accordance with the district’s reading initiative to have students read more, the students have participated in many activities that promote reading. Available to the students is the Book Buddy Program, the Word Wise Program which enhances the students’ vocabulary, thus enriching their creative writing, the S.T.A.R.S. Program (Students That Are Reading to Succeed) in its third year and has continued to provide a multitude of reading activities to stimulate reading successes.

Some of the activities that are a stimulus to reading are Book Tag Day, Treat Yourself to a Good Book Day, Word Bingo, and Student Book Reviews that allow students to share with their peers some of their favorite stories.

Reading is clearly an important part of each student’s day at Horace Mann School. Jonathan Castaldo sums it up when he says, “Reading makes you smarter and you are having fun doing it.”

A great vacation may cost \$4,000, a delicious meal for a family of four may cost \$100, but an avid reader who achieves success is priceless and reading with someone special is a real treasure!



Dr. Walter F. Robinson Bilingual Classes Perform “The Real Story of the Three Little Pigs” in English

The 6th, 7th, and 8th grade Bilingual students at Dr. Walter F. Robinson School have worked extremely hard throughout the school year to put on a fabulous show for the entire school. They presented “*The Real Story of the Three Little Pigs*”, by July Wolfman and David Reiser. Every student in the bilingual classes had a vital role in the production. The cast consisted of a publicity crew who created programs for guests, parents, and teachers. They also made up invitations that were sent to guests. The stage crew used their artistic talents to put together all of the props, including 3-D trees, a great mural, and much more. They also had to make the costumes for the actors, which once again challenged their creativity. Lastly, the actors gave a stupendous performance...not only did they have to memorize all of their lines with their limited English proficiency, but also excelled in their acting and singing skills. This production taught the students many valuable lessons, one of which is Together We Succeed!

Lincoln Community School 5th Grade Goes Back In Time

For several days this past winter, Room 205 at Lincoln Community School was transformed back in time. Fifth grade students in Mrs. Collins' social studies class took a 'walking tour' of Williamsburg to learn about daily life in the colonial Virginia capital. The students learned about colonial government, religion, education, social life, trades, and slave life. This was accomplished through an experiential learning activity from the curriculum of *History Alive! America's Past*.

Stations were set up around the classroom to replicate the Dame School, the College of William and Mary, the Shoemaker's Shop, the Raleigh Tavern, the Governor's Palace, the Slave Quarters at Carter's Grove Plantation, and the Bruton Parish Church. At each site, students examined written and visual information about life in Williamsburg, recorded notes, and completed a hands-on task.

Students were extremely enthused by the assignment and collaborated with Mrs. Collins to create a video of the lesson. The students wrote and typed the script, painted posters for each site, created costumes, and gathered props. All of the students took part in the performance. Fifth grader Rachel Williams commented, "The stations were realistic and interesting. The activities were so much fun and made learning about Williamsburg a whole lot easier."

Mrs. Lee, the computer teacher at Lincoln Community School, videotaped the production and it will be aired on BEN-TV.

"Super" Philip G. Vroom School

Mrs. Calabrese's and Mrs. Bouton's 3rd grade classes at Philip G. Vroom School have been learning about our federal government and the electoral process during this historic 2008 Presidential election.

The students, along with their teacher Judy Bouton, are shown on Super Tuesday, proudly displaying their campaign buttons. Their message, on the front of their buttons, reminded registered voters to "Be a SUPER Citizen: VOTE!" On the reverse side of the button, the students listed the candidates and their political parties.



BHS Hudson County Science Fair Winners

Congratulations to Bayonne High School's Hudson County Science Fair Winners:

Gold Medalists:

Eric Delgado – Biochemistry Category; Grand Prize Winner: trip to the Intel International Science and Engineering Fair in Atlanta.

Nicholas Ruggirello – Engineering Electrical & Mechanical Category; Special Award: Yale Science and Engineering Association Award.

Bronze Medalist:

Gerardo A. Santacruz – Math Category; Special Award: MU Alpha Theta Award.



Featured (left to right) are: Dr. Patricia L. McGeehan, Superintendent of Schools; BHS Hudson County Science Fair winners: junior Gerardo Santacruz, senior Eric Delgado, and junior Nicholas Ruggirello; and science teacher Marie Aloia.

Elementary Schools Hudson County Science Fair Winners



Congratulations to the elementary schools Hudson County Science Fair
Winners:



Gold Medalists:

Christopher Kuczynski, Grade 5, Horace Mann School
Casey Gelchion, Grade 7, School 14
Abdel Morsy, Grade 8, Dr. Walter F. Robinson School

Silver Medalists:

Casey Harrigan, Grade 5, Mary J. Donohoe School

Bronze Medalist:

Hannah McMullan, Grade 6, Horace Mann School
Michael Agusta, Grade 6, Lincoln Community School

Honorable Mentions:

Jesse Wolleon, Grade 5, Midtown Community School
Joyce Elias, Grade 6, School 14
David Elias, Grade 8, School 14
Joseph Walter, Grade 8, Horace Mann School

Congratulations!

Pi Day Celebrated at Bayonne High School



Pi is the ratio of a circle's circumference to its diameter. Most people approximate pi as 3.14; therefore, March 14 is the national celebration of Pi Day. Throughout the day, math students in Jeanine Jensen's and Lisa Cerbone's math classes celebrated pi and math in a series of activities. The celebration began with a series of short films dedicated to pi and its place in math as an irrational mathematical constant. One group of students made visual artistic representations of pi through the creation of color-coded pi chains that were displayed throughout the school. This was a vivid representation that pi, as a decimal, is non-repeating and non-terminating. Another group of students worked on a visual representation of the first twenty digits of pi which hung in sequential order outside the main office. Other activities included a reinforcement of math

vocabulary through math charades and math pictionary; MindPoint quiz show and the Order of Operations card game showed off their mathematical knowledge and skills. During the celebration, the students feasted on round foods and water.

Students in Dawn McGinnis' sophomore class calculate pi with balloons. The activity reinforced the fact that pi equals the ratio of the circumference to the diameter of a circle. The students blew up balloons and measured the circumference and diameter. Students had to come up with creative ways to measure the diameter of the balloon without puncturing the balloon. Student teacher, Ms. deNeuf, worked with Ms. McGinnis.





Theo Conti's students measure the circumference and diameter of different size pizza pans. Students divided the circumference by the diameter to obtain the value of pi. Mrs. Conti listed all the formulas involving pi, which is an irrational number, a non-terminating, non-repeating decimal. Students had to write one statement on pi. Math students joined with Joe Barbero's culinary class to make pizza. The concluding activity was eating the pizza "pi" they made.



Pasta Night Extraordinaire at Dr. Walter F. Robinson

On March 14, Dr. Walter F. Robinson School held its 6th Annual Pasta Night. The night was a combined dinner and tricky tray. The anticipated evening was attended by parents, children, faculty, administrators, guests and friends.

There was something for everyone among the nearly 300 prizes - family outings, educational prizes, toys, gift certificates, video games, books, movies, and more. In addition to the tricky tray prizes, all in attendance received a free raffle ticket with their admission. The door prizes were a bike donated by Pamrapo Bank and a gift certificate donated by Chris's Corner. Another highlight of the evening was the Super 50/50 raffle.

Pasta Night Extraordinaire is a perfect example of the type of school, home, and community collaboration that is the key to helping a school district thrive. The event was coordinated by the P.T.C. and a committee of faculty members. The dinner was prepared and served by the BHS culinary class under the direction of their teacher Joe Barbero. Many of the prizes were donated by local merchants, and the entire event was sponsored by Pamrapo Bank, a continued supporter of Dr. Walter F. Robinson School. Students from the Student Council and 8th grade Peer Leadership worked the door, distributed refreshments, and ran prizes. The 500 people in attendance made the event the most successful yet. Everyone enjoyed the evening and all funds raised support the school and its students.

BHS National Hispanic Scholars



Mr. Richard J. Baccarella, Bayonne High School Principal, announced that Eric Delgado and Agustin Paniagua have been recognized as National Hispanic Scholars in the National Hispanic Recognition Program.

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 the 175,000 students nationwide who identify themselves as Hispanic, only 4,700 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 L. McGeehan, Superintendent of Schools. “Eric and Agustin were recently honored at a meeting of the Board of Education,” she continued.

Agustin plans to continue his studies at Yale, Stanford, or Columbia University. Eric will be attending Princeton or Yale.

2008 CARING & SHARING VOLUNTEER AWARD RECIPIENTS



Donna Gissi, Henry E. Harris School
Linda Taylor, Philip G. Vroom School
Loretta Cerullo, Dr. Walter F. Robinson School
Dorothy Munro-Burnham, Mary J. Donohoe School
Margaret Epperson, Lincoln Community School
Caryn Petrakian, Horace Mann School
John Smith, Midtown Community School
John White, Washington Community School
Marguerite Saad, Woodrow Wilson School
Marge McLaughlin, John M. Bailey School
Joanne Ferrier, School 14
Richard Sucato, Bayonne High School

Graduation Dates

June 17, 2008 at 6:00 P.M.
Adult School
Mary J. Donohoe School

June 18, 2008 at 6:00 P.M.
School 14

June 19, 2008 at 6:00 P.M.
Henry E. Harris School
Philip G. Vroom School
Lincoln Community School
Midtown Community School
Woodrow Wilson School

June 20, 2008 at 6:00 P.M.
Dr. Walter F. Robinson School
Horace Mann School
Washington Community School
John M. Bailey School

June 23, 2008 at 6:00 P.M.
Bayonne High School

