



District Highlights

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21st Century Classrooms at Bayonne High School



Pictured top (left to right) are: James J. Coleman, Jr., Chairman, IMTT; and James O. Coleman, President, IMTT. The official dedication of the "James J. Coleman, Sr., 21st Century Classroom" took place on May 6, 2009.

Pictured below (left to right) are: Richard J. Baccarella, Principal of Bayonne High School; Dr. Patricia L. McGeehan, Superintendent of Schools; and Mark Engdall, Sales Manager, IMTT.

"Bayonne High School unveiled six 21st Century Classrooms this September. One of the classrooms was donated by International Matex Tank Terminals (IMTT). The Coleman Family donated \$25,000 to Bayonne High School in order to create a 21st Century classroom, which contains SmartBoard technology that enables teachers to call up images, videos, and other learning techniques



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for broadcast from the internet. It also has new computers with internet access, new desks, and other classroom improvements," states Richard J. Baccarella, Principal. Dr. Patricia L. McGeehan, Superintendent of Schools, adds, "We are thrilled and excited about these upgrades to our Bayonne High School classrooms. Principal Baccarella and I especially want to thank the Coleman Family of IMTT for their generosity and support. The Coleman Family and Bayonne High School have had a long, special relationship going back many years. We are extremely grateful for their support, generosity, and unique partnership."

Board of Education Welcomes New Trustees

Mayor Mark A. Smith announced that he has named three new trustees to the Bayonne Board of Education. They are attorney Michael Masone, realtor Patrick F. O'Donnell, and banker Cari M. Rentas. The new trustees are replacing Debra Czerwienski, James Flynn, and Brian O'Connor.



Michael Masone is a principal in the law firm of Raff, Masone, Connelly and Hawkes, which is located in Bayonne. A graduate of St. Peter's Prep, Masone earned a B.A. in Economics with High Distinction at Rutgers University, where he also made Phi Beta Kappa. Masone earned a Juris Doctor degree at Seton Hall University School of Law. For fourteen years, he served as attorney for the Bayonne Rent Leveling Board. He has acted as principal partner and director for various building and development partnerships. Masone is a member of the Pamrapo Savings Bank Advisory Board, member of the Bayonne Chapter of UNICO National and has held several leadership positions in UNICO including president of the Bayonne chapter, district governor, trustee of Sam P. Lamparello Youth Trust,

and chairman of the board of the Bayonne chapter of UNICO National Foundation; member of board of directors and secretary of the Bayonne Family YMCA; member of Bayonne Soccer Club; president of the Bayonne Italian American Democratic Club; former member of Bayonne 2000, Bayonne Columbus Committee, Circolo Italiano; and Grand Marshall of 1995 Bayonne Columbus Parade.



Patrick F. O'Donnell is a licensed broker associate with Coldwell Banker Real Estate. Earlier in his business career, O'Donnell worked as an industrial sales manager for AGL Inc, regional sales manager with Primerica, Inc.; owner/operator of The Spa at Stowe, Vermont; transportation specialist with the Military Sealift Command in Bayonne; landbridge terminal manager for Containership Agency at Global Terminal; and transportation coordinator for Amerada-Hess Corporation. O'Donnell is a graduate of Marist High School and he earned a B.S. in Transportation Management at St. John's University, Staten Island.



Cari M. Rentas is manager of the preferred banking office of First Republic Bank in New York. She worked previously for First Republic as a district manager of six offices in New York, Greenwich, and Boston. Earlier in her banking career, Rentas served as vice president for sales and investments at Flushing Savings Bank, Lake Success; assistant vice president at Fleet Financial, Melville; investment officer at Pamrapo Savings Bank, Bayonne; manager of daily operations for J. Rentas Equipment Company and owner of Bridgeview Diner at Military Ocean Terminal, Bayonne. Rentas earned an A.S. in Business Administration at St. John's University.

"On behalf of the entire Bayonne Board of Education, I welcome and thank board trustees Michael Masone, Esq., Patrick F. O'Donnell, and Cari M. Rentas for volunteering their time, commitment, and expertise to the students, staff, parents, and the entire Bayonne community," states Dr. Patricia L. McGeehan, Superintendent of Schools.



Washington Community School National Blue Ribbon Award Recipient

The Blue Ribbon Schools Program honors public and private K-12 schools that are either academically superior in their state or that demonstrate dramatic gains in student achievement. Each year since 1982, the U.S. Department of Education has sought out schools where students attain and maintain high academic goals. Using standards of excellence evidenced by student achievement measures and the characteristics known from research to epitomize school quality, the United States Department of Education celebrates schools that beat the odds.

“On behalf of the entire Bayonne Board of Education, I would like to congratulate Principal Peter Anastas, Vice Principal Maureen Hurley Brown, staff, students, and parents for Washington Community School being the recipient of the prestigious Blue Ribbon Award,” states Dr. Patricia L. McGeehan, Superintendent of Schools.

In addition to being honored at a ceremony in Washington, D.C., where each school received a plaque and flag signifying their status, Washington Community School will serve as a model for other schools throughout the nation.

Dr. McGeehan adds, “Washington Community School’s Blue Ribbon recognition is an outstanding example of what teachers and students can achieve together! Again, my sincere thanks for creating a *“Spirit of Excellence”* in this exemplary learning environment for all students and congratulations to you on this extraordinary achievement!”

Congratulations!



Pictured in Washington, D.C. receiving their National Blue Ribbon Program Award plaque from (pictured center) Aba Kumi, Director of Blue Ribbon Schools Program, U. S. Department of Education, are: Maureen Brown, Vice Principal, Washington Community School; and Peter Anastas, Principal, Washington Community School.

The Bayonne School District will celebrate Washington Community School’s Blue Ribbon Award on January 15, 2010. Celebration story and photos will appear in our next *District Highlights* edition.

Philip G. Vroom Greets Federal & City Officials



On October 5, U.S. Senators Frank Lautenberg and Robert Menendez joined Congressman Albio Sires, Bayonne Mayor Mark Smith, and Bayonne Fire Chief Gregory Rogers to announce the receipt of a \$3.56 million federal grant for a new state-of-the-art firehouse for the city of Bayonne. Philip G. Vroom 2nd grade students were on hand to greet the federal and city officials.

Pictured (left to right) are: Philip G. Vroom School teacher Jane Roberts; Deputy Chief Joseph Colasurdo, Chief Gregory Rogers, Deputy Chief Joseph Hurley; Superintendent of Schools, Dr. Patricia L. McGeehan; and Maryann Connelly, Principal, Philip G. Vroom School.

REACH at Dr. Walter F. Robinson School



Literacy comes alive during the Dr. Walter F. Robinson School REACH Program in Mary Alessi, Emily Cossolini, Mercedes Deczynski, and Susan Riccio's second grade classes. The classes join together to read, write, make props, and perform plays. Students build fluency, developed science skills, and displayed their creativity with the classic poem, "The Spider and the Fly," by Mary Howitt.



Bayonne High School Video Journalism Recognized by Governor

Six members of Bayonne High School's Video Journalism classes have been recognized by Governor Corzine's office for their entries in the "Proms and Alcohol Don't Mix" script writing competition. The competition required the students to create scripts for a thirty second public service announcement encouraging this year's prom goes to act responsibly.

Jarrett Allen's script was one of the runner-up recipients, while Adam Elgammal received an honorable mention for his script. Beatriz Hernandez, Natalie Montes, Genieve Cespedes, and Jessica Gervais collaborated on a script that also received an honorable mention. The students were honored at an award reception at Drumthwacket, the Governor's residence in Princeton, on June 10. The students are all members of Sal Iannaci's Video Journalism classes. The classes worked as a mini advertising agency with students acting as creative teams, focus groups, and account managers. Since each school was allowed only three entries, the students had to make some hard decisions. In the end, all three of the Bayonne High School scripts received recognition.

Bayonne High School Principal, Richard J. Bacarella, and Director of Technology/Library/Media/Business Education, David Minard, state, "We congratulate BHS teacher Sal Iannaci and



Pictured back row (left to right) are students Adam Elgammal and Jarrett Allen; and Sal Iannaci, District Television Channel Production Studio Manager. Front row (left to right) are students Genieve Cespedes, Jessica Gervais, Natalie Montes, and Beatriz Hernandez.

his Video Journalism students for this exemplary recognition." Dr. Patricia L. McGeehan, Superintendent of Schools, adds, "On behalf of the entire Bayonne Board of Education, I congratulate Sal Iannaci and his students for being recognized for their outstanding work and for their efforts, creativity, and originality."

BHS Student Invited to State Capitol



On November 18, the Commissioner of Education, Lucille E. Davy, and the State Board of Education, invited Bayonne High School senior Dolores Bujnowski, to participate in the New Jersey State Board of Education public meeting. At that meeting, Dolores made a three-minute presentation on an education issue of her choice.

Richard J. Baccarella, Principal of Bayonne High School, adds, "We are honored that Dolores Bujnowski was selected to represent Bayonne High School at a New Jersey State Board of Education Public Meeting."

Pictured (left to right) are: Lucille E. Davy, N.J. State Commissioner of Education; BHS senior Dolores Bujnowski; Devon McRimmon, N.J. State Board Representative—NJASC; and Josephine E. Hernandez, President, N.J. State Board of Education.

Lincoln Community School Marks Down Syndrome Awareness Month

Lincoln Community School students were recently paid a visit from "Bentley the Bear" for Down Syndrome Awareness Month. Mrs. Martha Harney, a parent advocate for children with Down Syndrome, joined Principal Dr. Dennis C. Degnan in delivering this very popular teddy bear to each classroom, while engaging students in conversations about this genetic condition. Mrs. Harney wanted to bring awareness to students and inform them that Down Syndrome students are just like other children. Students appreciated Mrs. Harney's dedication, and came away with an understanding of the acceptance and inclusion of students with Down Syndrome.

Mrs. Harney began this program in 1996 with then Washington Community School Principal and current Assistant Superintendent Robert C. Craig. It continued at Washington School with Principal Peter Anastas, expanding this year to Lincoln Community School. Mrs. Harney worked with Bayonne Mayor, the Honorable Mark Smith and City Council Members to sell the bears at the Bayonne Municipal Building. Numerous community members and student council as well as special service faculty at Lincoln Community School also do-



Pictured sitting (left to right) are: Dr. Dennis C. Degnan, Principal, Lincoln Community School; students Courtney Machiri, Gabriel Sola, Iyana Townes, Shantal Bolanos-Colotla, Parent Advocates Mrs. Felix and Mrs. Martha Harney. Standing (left to right) are: Lincoln Community School Student Council Executive Board: Michael Augusta, Treasurer; Celine Pascual, Vice President; Neil Pascual, President; and Joline Santana, Sergeant at Arms.

nated bears for distribution to individual classrooms. All proceeds were given to the *National Down Syndrome Society*.

"Bentley the Bear" serves as encouragement for parents as well as Bayonne school community in becoming involved in Down Syndrome Awareness. Dr. Degnan would like to thank Mrs. Harney for her efforts on behalf of students with Down Syndrome and stated that the faculty and students of Lincoln Community School will continue to work with her for the acceptance of all students.

Mary J. Donohoe's Dream Home



Pictured (left to right) are: art teacher JoAnn Plantamura; Sam Ventola, President of First United Mortgage; Donna Kmec, Better Homes Realty Broker; Cathy Hickling, Administrative Assistant; Irene O'Connell and Danielle Killmer, grade two teachers; and Nancy Ruane, Principal, Mary J. Donohoe School. Pictured bottom row (left to right) are: winners Isabella Dominguez, Katie Harrigan, and Alyssa Domingues.

The second grade students of Irene O'Connell and Danielle Killmer at Mary J. Donohoe School recently participated in a contest sponsored by Better Homes Realty located at Broadway in Bayonne. During their art class with teacher JoAnn Plantamura, the students created pictures of what their dream home would look like. The pictures were then hung in the realty office where community residents and visitors to the office voted for the best picture. The students also had the opportunity to visit the office and view their work on display. The winners of the contest were awarded prizes that included school supplies and certificates to local restaurants. The recipients of the prizes were Alyssa Domingues, 1st place; Katie Harrigan, 2nd place; and Isabella Dominguez, 3rd place. Mary J. Donohoe School would like to thank Better Homes Realty for involving the students and the community of Bayonne in a unique and successful project.

Bayonne High School Teacher Selected Marshall of Pulaski Day Parade

Andrew S. Szyposzynski, teacher of Honors History and faculty advisor of the Polish Cultural Society at Bayonne High School, was selected as the 2009 Bayonne Contingent Marshal of the annual Pulaski Day Parade. He was formally installed as Marshal at a sashing luncheon where Dr. Patricia L. McGeehan, Superintendent of Schools, as part of the event program, offered her congratulations and presented a Certificate of Commendation and Praise on behalf of the Bayonne Board of Education and the Central Office Administration. The Bayonne General Pulaski Memorial Parade committee held a commemorative program honoring General Casimir Pulaski on October 3. The second part of the program was hosted by Dr. McGeehan at the Pulaski wing of Bayonne High School.



Also on hand to offer their support (pictured left to right) were: Larry Sangi, teacher of Social Studies; Jessica Dawidowski, teacher of mathematics and co-advisor of the Polish Cultural Society; Deborah Yautz, teacher of English Honors Literature; Andrew S. Szyposzynski, teacher of Honors History and faculty advisor of the BHS Polish Cultural Society; Evelyn Taraszkiwicz, Director of Social Studies/Service Learning and English/Language Arts; and Dr. Patricia L. McGeehan, Superintendent of Schools.



Bayonne High School Performing Arts Academy

“As an initiative for the 2009-2010 school year, Bayonne High School is offering a Performing Arts Academy for 9th through 12th graders. Admission to the program is based on multiple criteria and limited to a select group, as the program is for students with a passion for the arts and a strong inclination to pursue the arts as a possible career choice,” according to Joan Rosen, Director of Music and Art.

Dr. Ellen M. O’Connor, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum & Instruction, adds, “In a safe and highly specialized learning environment, art students will be challenged within their chosen arts field while engaging in a rigorous academic program, preparing them for a life-long learning connection in and through the arts.”



Pictured (left to right) are: Joan Rosen, Director of Music & Art; Dr. Ellen M. O’Connor, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum & Instruction; students Jen Collins, Dolores Bujnowski, Agnes Kalinowski, and William Gardner; teacher Lydia Megale; and Dr. Patricia L. McGeehan, Superintendent of Schools.

John M. Bailey School Says “Thank You for Your Service!”

As a part of the district’s REACH program, eighth grade students from John M. Bailey School visited the Joyce-Herbert VFW Post #226, located at 16 West 9th Street.

The students presented the post members with thank you letters for sharing their oral history with them and for answering questions in the Veterans’ Museum. In addition to the thank you letters, the John M. Bailey Class of 2010 presented a \$50.00 donation to the VFW Post. A basket of message cards was also presented during the ceremony.

The eighth grade class decided to show their appreciation to the soldiers serving in Iraq and Afghanistan by creating message cards that read, “Thank you for your service to our country,” and by purchasing camouflage wristbands that stated, “JMB Class of 2010 Supports Our Troops”.



Pictured are some John M. Bailey School students on tour of the Veterans’ Museum, along with their guide, V.F.W. Post #226 member.

As part of the activities, Superintendent of Schools, Dr. Patricia L. McGeehan, presented John M. Bailey School with a Proclamation from the Bayonne Board of Education citing the school for their community awareness and their spirit of gratitude expressed towards the veterans for their service to our country.

“Mrs. Nancy Kopacz, the eighth grade literacy teacher, is credited with developing and implementing this wonderful program,” stated the Superintendent.

The REACH project was a collaborative effort including math, social studies, language arts, technology and art. Teachers Christine Cutrona, Patricia Harz, Roseann Pona, and Enid Doyle were all part of the instructional team.



Pictured above (left to right) are: Commander Glen J. Flora, V.F.W. Post 226; eighth grade teachers Nancy Kopacz, Christine Cutrona, and Trish Harz; Dr. Patricia L. McGeehan, Superintendent of Schools; and James McCabe, Principal, John M. Bailey School

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B.E.E. Night at Bayonne High School



On November 19, over one hundred students, twenty teachers, and Vice Principals, Timothy Mercier and Kathleen Bingham, turned out to compete in Bayonne High School's 2nd Annual Bayonne Extreme Events Night, affectionately called B.E.E. Night. This olympics of five exhilarating events featured fierce com-

petition in events such as Tubes for Two, Pyramid Cups, and the grand relay. The Bayonne High School Student Council brought this event to the high school last year. "The Student Council students put a great deal of work into B.E.E. Night. From



designing the shirts to creating the events, they are involved in every step of the process," says Student Council Advisor Jeanine Jensen. "We have athletes, honors students, and people of all abilities (and ages) playing together on teams. One of the great things about B.E.E. Night is the variety of people that come out to

play, help, and just have fun," continued Advisor Jensen. BHS Principal Richard J. Baccarella adds, "This event would not be possible without the support of so many of the students, faculty, and staff. It was a great night!" The night was full of music, some healthy competition, and a lot of laughs. In the end, the Crimson Chins took home the championship this year,

and the Student Council raised money for charity. It is clear that B.E.E. Night has already become a BHS tradition.

