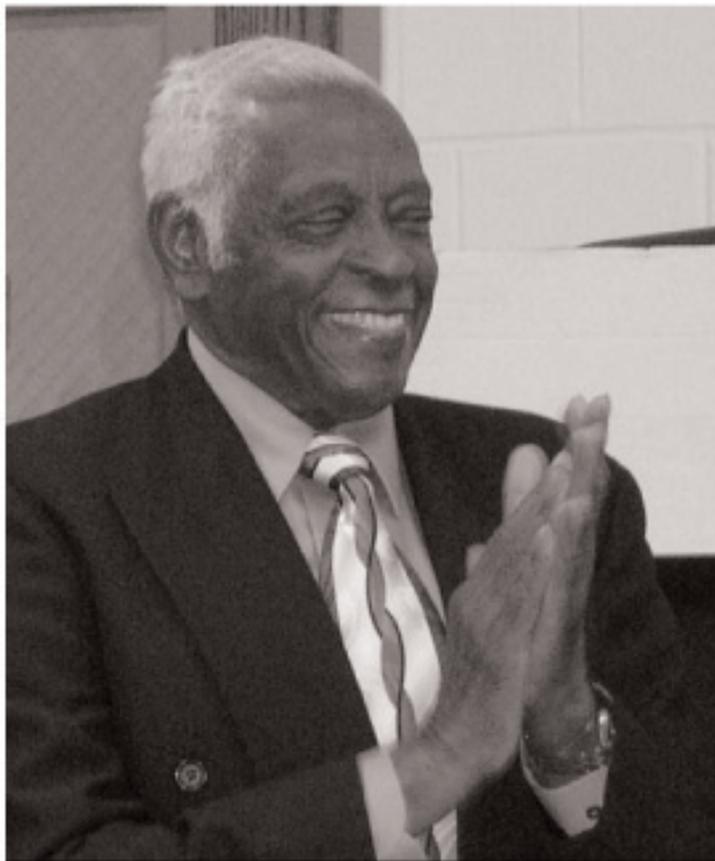


Cruz News

Volume 1, Number 1

November 2003



Pedro Knight enjoys his visit to the Celia Cruz Bronx High School of Music.

PEDRO KNIGHT VISITS CELIA CRUZ BRONX HIGH SCHOOL OF MUSIC

On Friday, October 3rd, musical director and husband of the late Salsa Queen Celia Cruz, Pedro Knight, paid a visit to the Celia Cruz Bronx High School of Music. "It is good to have Mr. Knight involved with our school, not only because of his relationship with Celia Cruz, but also his love for music," says Vern Ram, school secretary.

He arrived at Lehman College where the school's rehearsals are held, but he wasn't alone; channel 41 (Univision), channel 47 (Telemundo), and channel 1 (New York 1) were all there to televise the event. Mr. Knight posed for pictures with Principal Dr. William Rodriguez, Dr. Fernandez, Lehman College President, Dr. Marlene Gottlieb, Dean of Arts and Humanities, as well as staff from Lehman College, and our school.

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WINTER CONCERT ANNOUNCED

Our debut winter concert will take place on December 11, 2003. The concert is going to be a really great performance. The chorus, band, and string ensembles have been working hard preparing for this special event. This event will take place at the Lovinger Theatre on the Lehman college campus.

Ms. Gwasda the chorus director has many expectations for her students, the band, and string ensembles, "the young musicians will present themselves professionally and impress everyone with their music as well as their appearance."

The chorus will be performing "Beautiful Snow," "Cantar," "Every Time I Feel the Spirit," and "Carol of the Bells," among other surprises. The Celia Cruz Bronx High School of Music will do very well if they work hard. Many important guests have been invited to the concert such as The Tucker Foundation, Lehman College staff, local community members, family, friends and more.

PRINCIPAL'S COLUMN



Dr. William Rodriguez is the Principal of the Celia Cruz Bronx High School of Music

Welcome all to the first edition of 'Cruz News'. This is a wonderful new school project by our Student Journalism crew under the guidance of their dedicated English teacher, Mr. Jerrod Mabry. I hope you enjoy the many articles and school news events put together by our students.

The new Bronx High School of Music, renamed The Celia Cruz Bronx High School of Music by Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg on August 20th 2003, is off to a great start as one of the Bronx New Century High School Initiative schools. With a winning proposal, supportive grants and guidance from New Visions for Public Schools, our new school is prepared to accept the exciting challenge of establishing a quality music program and rigorous academic institution for serious high school music students.

I would like to thank Ms. Irma Zardoya, Region One Superintendent, for her support in

pursuing our successful status as a new school. I also want to thank Ms. Geraldine Ambrosio, Principal of Dewitt Clinton High School, where we are housed, for her encouragement and guidance. This new music high school would not be possible without the collaboration of Lehman College's music department Chairman, Dr. Bernard Shocket and Dr. Marlene Gottlieb, Dean of Arts & Humanities. It is with their guidance and support and in their Music Building where our students receive music instruction. The Celia Cruz Bronx High School of Music has a dedicated faculty and staff with wonderful parents and students that I am very proud to lead.

We look forward to seeing you at our first Concert on December 11, 2003 at 7 PM in the Lovinger Theater of Lehman College.

~Dr. William Rodriguez~

CONGRATULATIONS to the following students who were accepted to the All-City Band!

Billy Saffold
Stephen Barker

CONGRATULATIONS to the following students who were accepted to the All-City Chorus!

Ianna Higgins
Gretchen Gomez
Bianca Irizarri
Jaleesa Davis
Anna Almabert
Janell Wadsworth
Aida Rosa
Rosemarie Escalera
Damasia Walls
Christopher Walters
Jaret Hewett

CELIA CRUZ HIGH SCHOOL OF MUSIC CHEERS FOR CLINTON

Congratulations to students Antonia Davis and Erika Vanrabenswaay for making the Dewitt Clinton Cheerleading Squad, The Gover Girls!

First he went to the band room. "I was speechless," said the band director Penelope Smetters. They played a piece called "Majestia" for Mr. Knight. "You sound like real musicians," he told them in Spanish. "I think Pedro Knight visiting the Celia Cruz Bronx High School of Music is a great opportunity for us. I really enjoyed his company in the band ensemble at Lehman College," said Shavonne Bell, one of the school's students and a member of the band.

Next, he visited the orchestra who played a piece called "Farandole" for Mr. Knight. "Keep on going to school," he said in Spanish and, "Congratulations." "I think that Pedro Knight coming to the school was a good idea because he told us things that were very inspiring, he told us to study and never quit," said student Andres Reyes, who is an orchestral member.

After his visit to the orchestra, he went to the chorus to listen to the singers, who sang "Cantar," "Beautiful Snow," and "Bridge Over Troubled Water." "I'm proud he was able to see the work that we've done so far, I hope that he will return to see our concerts," said choral director, Lisa Gwasda.

"I felt extremely happy for our school; his visit was a historical event. It gave a seal of approval by the Celia Cruz Foundation of how strongly they felt about this new institution," said Dr. Rodriguez.

"The school felt privileged to have such an honor bestowed upon them. Although the students were nervous, the three ensembles performed wonderfully," said Parent Coordinator, Yvette Perez. "It was fantastic especially with all of the news cameras," said Global teacher Brad Hunt. "I think it's great for the students to finally see how special their school is, and I hope they got Pedro Knight's message, 'Estudien, mucho' (study a lot) and we hope he returns!"

"I'm proud he was able to see the work that we've done so far, I hope that he will return to see our concerts,"

~ Lisa Gwasda ~

Interested in becoming part of the Cruz News Team or do you want to work on the school yearbook?

Please contact Mr. Mabry in room 142 for more information on how you can join!

CONGRATULATIONS to the following students with Perfect Attendance!

September

Ana Almabert
Joseph Aponte
Rosemarie Escalera
Bianca Irizarry
Brittini Nwogu
Jonathan Padilla
Frankie Perez
Billy Saffold
Rubinsky Seijas
Miguel Vargas

October

Danny Albino
Stephanie Bauza
Antonia Davis
Rosemarie Escalera
Gretchen Gomez
Elaine Hernandez
Frankie Perez
Rubinsky Seijas
Rashaad Vereen

CRUZ NEWS IS PUBLISHED BY THE CELIA CRUZ BRONX HIGH SCHOOL OF MUSIC AND IS WRITTEN ENTIRELY BY THE STUDENTS.

Can and Coat Drive Benefits Those Less Fortunate

The Celia Cruz Bronx High School of Music Associated Student Body (ASB) is hosting their very first canned goods and coats drive to benefit the needy during the Thanksgiving Holiday. We will be donating all goods to the Hunts Point Food Shelter. First period classes will compete to see which class can collect the most. The winning class will receive a donut breakfast!



Student Journalism Crew

This issue of Cruz News is brought to you by the students of Mr. Mabry's journalism class.



Congratulations to the Student Journalism Crew for the first issue of Cruz News!

Interested in becoming part of the Cruz News Team or do you want to work on the school year-book?

Please contact Mr. Mabry in room 142 for more information join!



UPCOMING EVENTS!

- November 26**
Classes run on a Friday schedule
- December 10**
Second report card distributed
- December 11**
Winter Concert
- December 24**
Winter Break begins