

The
Celia Cruz
Bronx HS of Music
2780 Reservoir Avenue
Bronx, New York 10468
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Fax: (718) 733-3865
www.ccbxhsm.org



Important Dates

- Spring Concert Series:**
 – **May 4, Featuring** –
 9th Grade band, Technical Orchestra, Chorale, Rock Band, Pianists
- **May 16, Featuring** –
 Concert Band and Choir, String Ensemble, Gospel Choir, Pianists & Jazz Band
- **May 23, Featuring** –
 Symphonic Band, Select Choir, Major Orchestra, Pianists
- **May 6** –
 Music Showcase Festival at Six Flags for Choirs
- **May 11** –
 Performance at Lincoln Center
- **May 13** –
 Music Showcase Festival at Six Flags for Bands and Orchestra
- **June 2** –
 NYSSMA Major Ensemble Adjudication at NYU
- **July 3** –
 Summer School Begins!

2	5	8	9	7	1	4	6	3
3	7	9	5	6	4	2	1	8
4	1	6	2	8	3	9	5	7
1	4	2	7	5	8	6	3	9
8	9	5	3	4	6	7	2	1
6	3	7	1	2	9	8	4	5
7	8	3	6	1	2	5	9	4
9	2	4	8	3	5	1	7	6
5	6	1	4	9	7	3	8	2

Here is the solution to the March Sudoku Quest puzzle challenge.

Sudoku Quest Are you up for the challenge?

Do you have what it takes to be a Sudoku champion? If you can solve the Sudoku puzzle and you submit your answers first to the school newsletter, we will list your name in the Sudoku winners column posted each month in the Cruz News newsletter. Top Sudoku players will have a chance to win gift certificates in the final month of the contest. You can also enjoy playing Sudoku online at www.sudoku.com. Good luck everyone!!

5		8	1	7			4	
		6	5	9			8	
1								
2	1	7			9			5
6		5	7					8
	7	2	9					3
	6	3		2		4		
					6		2	

Our First Sudoku Winner!

Congratulations to Joe Aponte, our first student Sudoku winner for the March issue of Cruz News. Joe correctly solved the Sudoku challenge and is on his way to being the all-time Sudoku champion. Will Joe be the first to solve this issue's puzzle? Or will he meet his match? Best of luck!



Joe Aponte



Volume 3, Issue No. 4

Celia Cruz Bronx High School of Music Newsletter

www.ccbxhsm.org



Did you know Dr. Rodriguez performed on Celia Cruz's grammy album? on page 2



Taking Literacy Seriously. We have had a challenging and productive year... on page 3



Denmark Rocks! Visiting Denmark students jam with the Celia Cruz Rock Band. on page 4

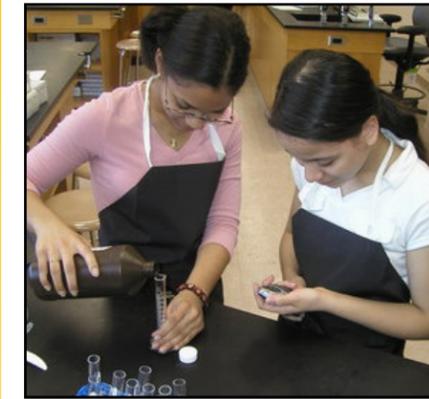


Will a Dangerous Asteroid Hit in 2036? A gigantic hunk of rock the size of... on page 7



Finally the MIH Squad! Congratulations to all "Agents" that were selected to be... on page 7

First Science Expo!



Odalys Jimenez and Elizabeth Vargas work on their Science experiment.

Welcome to the Third Annual Region One Science Exposition!!! Celia Cruz High School of Music is proud to participate in its first ever Science Fair, held at Herbert H. Lehman College. This three day event was a showcase of scientific investigations,

Continued on page 5 ...

Lehman College and Celia Cruz High School: A Winning Partnership

The innovative collaboration between the Celia Cruz Bronx High School of Music and Lehman College has met and exceeded all our expectations. Not only are we fortunate in working with a principal who is a distinguished musician and strong advocate for high standards of excellence, but we also have a motivated and committed faculty and student body. Celia Cruz musicians perform at many of our college events. They perform in our Lehman Jazz ensemble and in our Chorus. Lehman faculty and administrators, including President Ricardo R. Fernández, have attended and applauded the wonderful Celia Cruz concerts in Lehman's Lovinger Theatre. We are especially impressed with the invitation extended to Celia Cruz students to participate in the Disneyworld workshops, and we are extremely proud of the very positive reports we have received not only of their fine performances but of their mature and responsible behavior. This brings honor to Celia Cruz Bronx High School of Music and to Lehman

Continued on page 5

NYSSMA SOLO AND ENSEMBLE FESTIVAL SOLO BRAVOS!

On April 4th and 5th, we held our very first NYSSMA Solo and Ensemble Festival. State trained Adjudicators (judges) came to the Walton Campus to evaluate the solo performances of all of our students.



Paul Soto & Jazmin Sheppard practice their NYSSMA solos.

Continued on page 3

Principal's Message



Dr. William Rodriguez
Founder and Principal

Welcome to the May/June CruzNews. Music teachers are putting the final touches on the Spring Concert Series. I hope you are making plans to attend. Flyers announcing the series are available in the office hub and also on the website in PDF format, www.ccbxhsm.org. On May 4th, the Jazz Band will perform the St. Peter's Plaza Jazz series on 54th St. and Lexington Ave. from 12-1:30 PM with Dave Valentin as guest. On May 6th, the Concert Choir and Chorale will compete in the "Six Flags High School Music Competition". On May 11th, The Symphonic Band, Select Choir, Major Orchestra and selected piano students will perform the yearly "School Music on the Plaza" series at Lincoln Center, 65th St. and Broadway from 11:30- 1:30.

Students, teachers and staff are also very busy preparing for the last marking period. Students are taking the SAT, visiting college fairs, staying after school and Saturdays for tutoring. Juniors also received an up-to-date transcript status letter.

Congratulations to our Science teachers, Ms. Williams, Ms. Christian and Mr. Sowinski, and their students for a successful and impressive representation at the Regional One Science Exposition.

In March, CCBXHSM hosted the first NYSSMA Festival Adjudication in the Bronx. The State judges and the Zone Representative, Mr. David LaMorte were extremely pleased and impressed with our school. They requested us to be the site for a yearly Bronx festival. Next year, music students throughout the Bronx and surrounding areas will be able to receive a State music evaluation and ranking without traveling to Queens or Manhattan. Congratulations to Ms. Penelope Smetters who served as Festival Chair, Ms. Lisa Gwasda, Mr. David West, the entire staff and several student workers, who made this important goal for our school, a reality. Good luck to all our students, as they prepare to take finals and State Regents exams. Study, study, study and like all good musicians, practice, practice, practice. Congratulations to Parent Coordinator Yvette Perez and the students who successfully participated in the March of Dimes Walk America marathon. We are very proud of you.

We will have freshmen orientation, July 5th, 6th and 7th, and band camp for all instrumentalists July 10th through August 4th. This will all take place at Lehman College since the Walton Campus building will be closed for construction. I hope to see you all at one of our upcoming musical events. Have a wonderful summer!

Happy Secretary's Day

A very special thank you to **Ms. Frances Alari** for all that she does for us at the Celia Cruz Bronx High School of Music. From the Administration, Staff, Students, and Parents, on Secretary's Day!



Ms. Frances Alari
School Secretary

¿Sabías Qué?

Did You Know?



Did you know that our very own Principal, Dr. William Rodriguez, is one of the pianists on Celia Cruz's grammy award winning CD, "La Negra Tiene Tumbao"

on Sony Records 2002? The first time he performed with Celia Cruz was New Years Eve in 1976 during a west coast tour in San Francisco. He maintained a longterm musical relationship with her until her passing in August of 2003.



Cesar Perez

WELCOME ABOARD!

Let's welcome Cesar Perez to our Celia Cruz staff. Cesar, a former student of Ms. Smetters, will be assuming responsibilities that include xeroxing, inventory, supplies and distribution, as well as performing duties as a security aide.

We hope you enjoy this newly formatted CRUZNEWS NEWSLETTER. Visit us at www.ccbxhsm.org to read and learn more about us.



New York City
Department of Education
Region One Learning
Support Center

Mr. Joel Klein
Chancellor

Ms. Yvonne Torres
Regional Superintendent

Dr. Askia Davis
Deputy Superintendent

Ms. Elena Papaliberios
Local Instructional
Superintendent

CruzNews Newsletter
Serving the staff, students
and parents of the Celia Cruz
Bronx HS of Music community.

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Rafael Rios
Stephanie Santos
Rosemarie Escalera
Ms. Christina Bermudez

If you would like to be a part
of the CruzNews School Newsletter
staff see Mr. Greene in room 350.

Will an Approaching Asteroid Hit In the Year 2036?



Mr. Sowinski - Physics Teacher

A gigantic hunk of rock the size of about three and a half football fields has recently come to the attention of the scientific community. Named 2004 MN4, this rock is flying through space and will be visiting very close to our home planet on April 13, 2029. We need not worry, however; 2004 MN4 will pass by at an altitude of about 19000 miles above the surface of the Earth: lower than geosynchronous satellites, but well above our atmosphere.

Now the bad news; if the asteroid passes through a region known to astronomers as the 7:6 resonance keyhole, a region only slightly larger than twice the diameter of 2004 MN4, then the orbit of the flying mountain will be perturbed enough to put it on a direct trajectory with the Earth.

In this case the giant rock will impact the Earth on Friday, April 13th, 2036 most likely somewhere in the middle of the Pacific Ocean, creating an enormous tsunami

that will devastate the western United States as well as Japan. This event will cause an estimated \$400 billion dollars of damage in the US alone, not to mention severely changing global weather patterns.

Since measurements of the asteroids orbit are not perfect, there is a smaller chance that the asteroid will impact the Earth somewhere in Russia or Mexico. In this worst case scenario, the collision will create a plume of dust and ash that will cover the atmosphere with thick black clouds destroying most plant life on the surface of the planet. The death of the plants will be followed by massive death rates among animals and will spell an end to our modernized society.

Since we may only have three decades left to enjoy all the wonders of our pristine little planet, how are you going to spend the rest of your years? Myself, I'm going to Disneyland!



Michael Greene
Technology
Coordinator



Technically Speaking

Once again I would like to remind everyone that it is very important that we collect information from the surveys that are being distributed among teachers and students. The information gathered from these surveys will be used to assist in the process of understanding what technology is needed in the classroom, as well as learning the needs of students with laptops and providing them with the appropriate equipment and tech

nical support. We recently acquired two Smartboards, and two projectors. Now each department will also have the use of a teacher laptop for instructional purposes. Remember over the summer vacation to look for opportunities to integrate classroom instruction with our school website as we continue to develop new ways to apply the online environment. As we approach the summer, laptops will be collected for maintenance, so students should begin to think about backing up their work files.



MIH Squad



MIH Squad Members From Left to Right:
David Alvarez, Steven Barker, Omar Calixto, Rosemarie Escalera, Rafael Rios, Stephanie Santos, Jye Thornhill, and Rashad Vereen

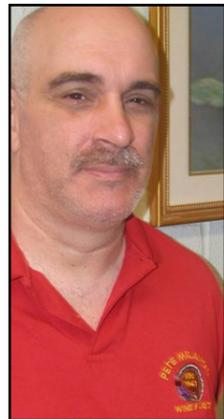
Congratulations to the "Agents" that were selected to be members of the MOUSE Squad here at Celia Cruz Bronx High School of Music. This newly formed student organization marks another first for our school and is already making a difference.

The (DAA), Department of Assessment and Accountability at the NYCDOE have requested that an evaluation be conducted of the MOUSE squad at Celia Cruz High School.

The DAA received permission from our Superintendent, Ms. Elena Papaliberios and our Principal Dr. William Rodriguez.

Mr. Bongiovani, the Director of Programs at MOUSE, and Ms. Gillian Eddings from Fordham University's National Center for Schools and Communities were thoroughly impressed in their visit to our school on April 20th, 2006.

Swept by Inspiration



Michael Firenza
Campus Custodial Staff

You might be inspired by something you saw on TV. Or maybe a song you heard on the radio swept you back to an inspired moment in your past. No matter how you find inspiration one thing is for certain, "Inspiration can be found in the least likely places." For many Celia Cruz students Michael Firenza, a Walton campus custodial staff member, is that spark of inspiration. Mr. Firenza

isn't just a simple janitor. Who would have guessed that the man behind the broom is also the man behind the poetic words that have moved so many students? Chatting with Mr. Firenza opens a world of experiences and advice that we have come to respect and appreciate. We are fortunate to have found a treasure in the man that keeps our halls clean.

POETIC Expressions

Express It, Don't Depress It

You have a good thought in your head
write it down before it goes dead
Hurry up before it flickers away
It could be the last
good thought you have today.

Express It, Don't Depress It.

I feel a song in my mouth
Don't be shy, let it out
Sing with zest and out loud
Sing to yourself or sing to a crowd

Express It, Don't Depress It.

I love that girl but I'm so afraid
If she says "no" put me in a grave
You never know unless you try
Take a shot you won't die

Express It, Don't Depress It.

I really want to join that team
But the players look so fast and lean
Maybe I'm too slow and fat
You'll never know unless you act

Express It, Don't Depress It.

I have to get a real good job
Can't hang around and be a slob
Impress the boss with what you can do
He might even want to hire you

Express It, Don't Depress It.

To be outgoing can be fun
To some of us it can't be done
Be a top dog, not just a pup
Try your best, don't give up

Express It, Don't Depress It.

~ by Michael Firenza ~

EVERYTHING



Cecily Gaither
Student Poet

So
What do you do
When your everything
Doesn't amount to anything?

When
Your blood, sweat, and tears
Go to petty meddlings

What do you do
When your everything
Gives back to you
A hand full of nothing?

And you realize that
had you just sat back
And let things flow

If you had done nothing
You would have had
Everything

~ by Cecily Gaither ~

Question of the Month

Can relationships interfere with your goals at school?



Ms. Gwasda
Teacher

Absolutely... Sometimes we let love take control of our lives. What we need to remember is that relationships are about sharing. Make sure you are making the right decisions for yourself and your future, and encourage your partner to do the same. It is then that you can hold onto a healthy relationship and fun-time together.

In my case, I think a relationship helps me achieve my goals at school because we help each other with homework or the things that we have trouble with together.



Ben Aponte
Student

Sometimes a relationship can be the motivation you need to try your best in school. Having a relationship hasn't interfered with what I do at school, it helps me focus on my goals instead.

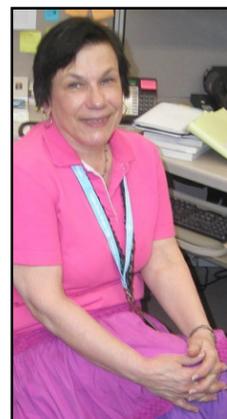


LoryAnn Jimenez
Student

Yes relationships do interfere with your goals at school because it causes the couple to lose focus on class. For example, if they are going through something they probably will be focused more on what they are going through than actually staying focused on their school work.

If you have an interesting idea or question to ask, we would love to publish it here in the Cruz News Newsletter! Students of all grade levels are welcomed to ask or answer the "Question of the Month." Bring your ideas to room 350

Taking Literacy Seriously



Jill Macomber
Literacy Coach

We have had a challenging and productive year at Celia Cruz working on literacy. In December, we administered the Gates-MacGinitie Reading Test to freshmen. Based on the results of this test, we were able to place students into English classes where the materials being read and assignments being given are more closely aligned with students' reading abilities. A freshman honors class was created since we have many students who tested at a post-high-school reading level.

In addition, I also used the Bader Reading and Language Inventory with several students in order to gain additional information about their reading comprehension.

This spring, we plan to re-administer the GMRT in order to see how our students have

progressed. Also, this summer, we plan to administer the test to incoming freshmen who attend orientation so that we will have information about their reading levels before programming is done in the fall.

The Preliminary Scholastic Aptitude Test was also given to sophomore and junior students, and teachers were provided with information about which questions were frequently missed and what critical skills were associated with the questions so that teachers could work on these skills in their classes.

It has been exciting and interesting for me to work with the faculty and students this year at Celia Cruz Bronx HS of Music, and I am expecting even more exciting things next year.

"I'm expecting even more exciting things next year."

NYSSMA SOLO AND ENSEMBLE FESTIVAL

SOLO BRAVOS!

Continued from page 1

After much practice and preparation, all students fell nothing short of the top three ratings of Outstanding, Excellent, or Good. The festival ran very smoothly and we received many compliments from the Adjudicators and other representatives from NYSSMA. NYSSMA is so pleased with our performance that they have already set a date for us to host a festival next year for the entire Bronx borough!



Joshua Rodriguez and Omar Calixto assist at the front desk while Jacob Nivar sits in the background waiting to perform his NYSSMA solo.



Pictured on the right: Mr. David LaMorte NYSSMA Zone Representative and Dr. William Rodriguez Founder and Principal



Ms. Penelope Smetters-Jacano Music Chairperson & Band Director



STUDENT ACHIEVEMENTS



March Perfect Attendance

- Jessica Jackson
- Odalys Jimenez
- Edward Odio
- Frankie Perez
- Denise Rojas
- Joel Silvagnoli Cain

April Perfect Attendance

- Ricardo Andino
- Shaquana Ballentine
- Gary Clark
- Deanna Cruz
- Paul Florentino
- Victor Hernandez
- Odalys Jimenez
- Harold Jorge
- Richard Kang
- Henry Nunez
- Edward Odio
- Frankie Perez
- Rafael Rios
- Paul Rodriguez
- Denise Rojas
- Jazmynn Rollins
- Caleb Salas
- Joel Silvagonoli Cain
- Esnita Smalls
- Alrick Taylor
- Cordelia Waite
- Imani Walters
- Jenae Williams

OOPS! Corrections from the last issue. Principal's List

- 9th Grade
- Odalys Jimenez 90.58
- Elizabeth Vargas 90.29

May 2006

Latin Band Gets to its Jazz Roots



Roberto Correa

"The Latin Band allows me to see music in an entire new way and it exposes me to new ideas."

The Latin Band is made up of a group of students at Celia Cruz High School that are interested in learning about the roots of music and the influences that Jazz music has had on Latin culture.

The Latin Band meets on Tuesdays between 3:00pm and 5:00pm on the 4th floor at Lehman College.

Students of any grade are welcomed to inquire and speak with Mr. Martinez about joining the Latin Band.

The Latin Band is an opportunity for students to open their views about other types of music and to expand their musical talents.

Photo Credits:

Special thanks to all that have contributed photos for this issue of the Cruz News.

Alan Spatz, Stephanie Santos, and Michael Greene

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 Campus-wide PD	2 Spanish AP Exam	3 Class Trip (Fitzgerald / Mabry)	4 English AP Exam Jazz Band Performance Spring Concert Series (I)	5 10th Grade Exam GMRT (Part I)	6 SAT Exam Regents Academy 9-12 Six Flags Chorus
7	8 10th Grade Exam GMRT (Part II)	9 National Appreciation Day Recording Freshmen	10	11 Lincoln Center School Music on the Plaza	12	13 Regents Academy 9-12 Six Flags Band / String
14 Mother's Day!	15	16 Recording Concert Ensembles Spring Concert Series II	17	18	19	20 Regents Academy 9-12
21	22 SLT Meeting 5:00 pm	23 Recording Symphonic / Select Major Spring Concert Series III	24	25	26	27
28	29 Memorial Day Observed	30	31 Class Trip (Fitzgerald / Mabry)			

Denmark Rocks!



On March 30, 2006, six students and two teachers from the Camp 10 Korsloekke Youth School of Music from Denmark visited the Celia Cruz Bronx High School of Music. The student musicians of Denmark and the rock band students of Celia Cruz both had the opportunity to display their musical talents. The two groups first performed separately and then together in a jam session finale that had everyone enjoying himself.

Students of the Denmark school got to visit music classes at Lehman College where they later performed together with students of the Celia Cruz High School rock band.

Each year the Camp 10 Korsloekke Youth School of Music from Denmark travel to different coun-

tries to share their music collaborations for a month as part of their school curricula. The Denmark school chose to visit Celia Cruz Bronx High School of Music by recommendation of the Department of Education.

The visit was arranged by our school counselor, Mr. Treschan, who after contacting the school in Denmark followed up with arrangements for the visit with Ms. Smetters, the Director of the music program at Celia Cruz High School of Music. Musical arrangements were coordinated by Mr. West, Advisor for the school rock band, and the String band and Music Theory teacher.



Mr. Treschan
Guidance Counselor



Student Lead singer of the Denmark group is accompanied by her lead guitarist.



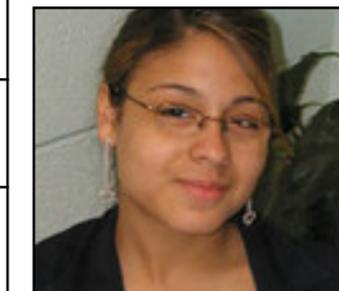
June 2006

Backstage with West Side Story

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3 Regents Academy
4	5	6	7 Finals	8 Citywide PD No Classes	9 Finals	10 Regents Academy
11	12 Finals	13 Regular Day Make up Finals I	14 1/2 Day Global History Regents 1:15 pm	15 English Regents (I) 9:15 am Math A Regents Math B Regents	16 English Regents 9:15 am (II) Spanish Regents 1:15 pm	17 Regents Academy
18 Father's Day	19 No Classes	20 US History Regents RCT Math 1:15 pm	21 CPR Class Living Environment Regents - 9:15 am Chemistry Regents RCT Global - 1:15 pm	22 No Classes	23 Rating Day No Classes	24
25	26 No Classes	27 No Classes	28 Last Day of School!	29	30 Freshman Orientation July 5, 6, and 7th	Band Camp Begins July 10th

In the March issue of the Cruz News newsletter we congratulated Celia Cruz students selected to participate in the T&P High School Campus-wide production of West Side Story.

We were remiss in failing to name all of the students at Celia Cruz that were chosen to participate. In this issue we would like to acknowledge Stephanie Santos and Danielle Vegerano, pictured below, who's names were accidentally excluded from the article.



Danielle Vegerano plays the part of a troubled young girl that wants to be treated like one of the guys.

SCIENCE EXPO A FIRST for Celia Cruz High School

Continued from page 1

Ms. Williams goes over Science Fair preparations with Paul Soto



Lehman College Partnership

Continued from page 1

College as its lead partner. Celia Cruz students are taking college credit courses through Lehman's College Now Program. Among other things, they are studying Italian, the language of music. For juniors, this is an especially important year as they begin the process of college admissions. This is an exciting time. There are many options, many settings, and many opportunities. Lehman is just one of those possibilities. We are proud to be working with such talented students and we look forward to celebrating the first graduating class of Celia Cruz Bronx High School of Music.

handcrafted science models and extensive field studies. Students undertook projects from the three sciences taught at Celia Cruz Bronx High School of Music which includes Physics, Chemistry and Living Environment/Biology.

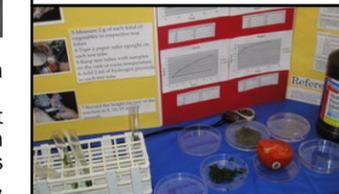
The exposition was open to grades K-12 exhibiting a wide range of educational levels and is proof that science can be learned and applied at any age. It is never too late to find something scientifically of interest. This might be our first Science Fair but it will not be our last. Students who wish to participate in the 2007 Region One Science Exposition should speak to

their science teacher to get a head start on the exposition.

The science department would like to thank 9th graders Paul Soto, Odalys Jimenez, Elizabeth Vargas, Denise Rojas, 10th graders Jeffery Asiedu, Monica Santiago, Joshua Rodriguez, Carla Ortega, Mercedes Norton, and 11th graders Jamie Flores, Frankie Perez, Gary Clark, and Shavonne Bell, for their dedicated hard work, and outstanding presentations. The fascinating results of the student projects will remain on display in the Science Department for anyone who wishes to view the outcomes.



Garry Clark is a presenter for his group's science project of measuring gravity changes.



Jeffery Asiedu measures a water sample for testing.

