

The
Celia Cruz
Bronx HS of Music
2780 Reservoir Avenue
Bronx, New York 10468
Tel: (718) 733-3781
Fax: (718) 733-3865
www.ccbxhsm.org



What's Your New Year's Resolution?



Katherine Rios

This year my wishes, goal and resolution is to become a better person, pass all my grades, and to be better on my vocals.

I also want to find real love and not have to hide it. I want to have a better life, home, school, love, and friends. That's my New Year's resolution.



Michael Greene
Celia Cruz Bronx HS of Music
Technology
Coordinator



Technically Speaking

Wireless internet access should now be available in all of the classrooms. After several site visits by school construction, Computer Logic completed installing wireless access points in each of the designated class rooms. The secured access point boxes that had previously been installed were either upgraded or replaced.

It seems that a larger number of laptops are experiencing problems with their AC power adapters this year. Batteries have also increased the number of replacements that have been needed since

Dell recalled batteries that were reported to be defective.

To make repair returns easier, the status of laptop repairs will be posted on the technology bulletin board outside of office 387. Teachers will be notified in their mail boxes when repairs have been completed.

Remember that in order to get the fastest response to your repair needs, the service request form must be dated and filled out as completely as possible.

Technology Office Hours Room 387

Period 1	Closed
Period 2	Closed
Period 3	9:42 to 10:30
Period 4	Mobile Maintenance
Lunch	11:24 to 12:12
Period 6	Closed
Period 7	1:06 to 1:54
Period 8	Mobile Maintenance
Period 9	Closed

You may make appointments in person or over the phone at extension 3873



Volume 4, Issue No. 2

Celia Cruz Bronx High School of Music Newsletter

www.ccbxhsm.org

Sinking Family Saved



Sinking car floating down the Saw Mill River.
Photo by Dr. Rodriguez

On Thanksgiving Day, many of us gathered to celebrate another year of life, prosperity, and enjoyment of our stomachs...food! Like many of us on Thanksgiving Day, Dr. Rodriguez, went to church at about 11 o'clock for a breakfast mass. After the mass, Dr. Rodriguez and some guests drove back home. Then there was a commotion causing some cars to stop. Being one of the few to stop, Dr. Rodriguez's curiosity drew him towards a car that had crashed and ended up in the Saw Mill River.

Continued on page 4 ...

IT'S A WRAP!



Holiday cheer was spread early by a group of volunteering Celia Cruz students and faculty this past December. In an event sponsored by Barnes and Nobles, Celia Cruz representatives were given the opportunity to gift wrap holiday presents for the superstore and fundraise for the school.

Continued on page 3



The Best of Two Worlds:
Baseball and Percussions ...
Story on page 7



Soup Kitchen Volunteers
Photos on page 6



Annual Winter Concert
Photos on page 4



Seniors Raise Global Awareness
Story on page 3

Holiday Toy Drive For Toddlers

The Celia Cruz Bronx High school of Music held their 1st annual Holiday Toy Drive. Finding inspiration from the Marine Corp Toy for Tots annual toy drive, they ran the toy drive with the same concept as the Marine Corp. Their concept was being able to help bring jubilation to children less fortunate than ...

Continued on page 6



Ms. Morales holds a cute toy puppy donated for the holiday toy drive for toddlers.

Dr. William Rodriguez
Founder and Principal



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.

- Parent Association
Executive Board:
- Marie Matias, President
Anna Vega, Vice-President
 - Carmen Alvarez
Recording Secretary
 - Madeline Bruno
Correspondence Secretary
 - Soledad Franco
Treasurer

- Cruz News Crew:
- David Alvarez
 - Ana Amalbert
 - DeAnna Cruz
 - Harold Jorge
 - Franklin Moore
 - Peter Ozuna
 - Rafael Rios
 - John Soto
 - Amy Vargas
 - Danielle Vegerano
- Advisors:
- Mr. Michael Greene
 - Mr. Cesar Perez

Coming Soon! Parent CPR Workshop

On March 29th there will be a CPR Training Class given to the parents of Celia Cruz Bronx High School of Music by the FDNY. All participants will receive a **Free CPR Kit worth \$40.00.** Limited seating is available. You must call to reserve a seat. The training will be repeated again on May 19th. Contact Yvette Perez for additional information at (347) 563-4778.

Celia Cruz CD's are
NOW ON SALE
They cost \$5.00 per CD
or
a box set of 5 for \$20.00

- #1: The Solos, The Guitars, The Rock Band
- #2: The Latin Band
- #3: The Strings: Freshman Strings, Major Orchestra, Concert Strings, Full Orchestra, String Quartet
- #4: The Voices: The Chorale, Women's Choir, Concert Choir, Select Choir
- #5: The Winds: Freshman Concert Band, Concert Band, Symphonic Band, Saxophone Quartet, Brass Sextet



Interested Students: Do you enjoy writing stories or poetry? If you would like to contribute your ideas to the Cruz News please contact a member of the Cruz News Crew in room 387.

¿Sabías Qué? Did You Know?



... that the National Medal of Arts, an award and title bestowed on selected honorees by the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA), the highest honor ceremoniously given by the President of the United States to an individual artist by the national government on behalf of the people was presented to Celia Cruz in 1994 by Bill Clinton?

Cruz News Crew



Ana Amalbert
Chief Editor



Amy Vargas
Chief Editor



David Alvarez



Deanna Cruz



Harold Jorge



Franklin Moore



Peter Ozuna



Rafael Rios



John Soto



Danielle Vegerano

Congratulations to the new members of the Cruz News Crew Newsletter Team. Thanks to this dynamic group of students, the Cruz Newsletter can look forward to a fresh new feel and style of content that is sure to appeal to parents, students and staff here at Celia Cruz Bronx High School of Music.

The goal of the Cruz News Crew (CNC) is to provide readers with interesting new perspectives, creative views, and to share important information that matters. The CNC looks forward to publishing future issues of the Cruz Newsletter for you to enjoy.

POETIC Expressions My New Best Friend



By Shatisha Gurley



Today I met a great new friend, who knew me right away. It's funny how she understood everything I had to say. She listened to my problems, she listened to my dreams. We talked about love and life, she'd been there too it seems. I've never once felt judged by her, she knew just how I felt. She just seemed to have accepted me with the problems I've been dealt. She never interrupted me or needed to have her say, she just listened very patiently and didn't go away. I wanted her to understand how much this meant to me, but as I went to hug her something startled me. I put my hand in front of me and went to draw her nearer and realized that my new best friend was nothing but a mirror.

Nightmare!



By
Rosemarie
Escalera

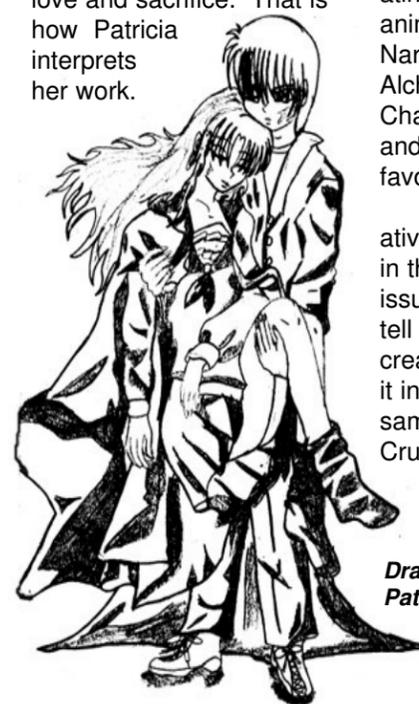


Darkness falls around my bed
Shadows fill my heart with dread
Feeling as if I were dead
Still I try to rest my head
Creaking noises stir my sleep
Causes my calm heart to leap
Sanity I try to keep
As my visions start to creep
Wishing soon that it was day
Hoping this would go away
Slowly my door starts to sway
Then I close my eyes and pray
Soon those footsteps I do hear
I become consumed in fear
Strange but kind words touch my ear
Saying "Are you okay dear"?
Open eyes I regain sight
I see the flash of morning light
Glad to see my room so bright
... or at least until tonight.

Artist Of The Month

By John Soto

As she puts the pen to paper the only words running through her mind are love and sacrifice. That is how Patricia interprets her work.



Drawing by
Patricia Gonzalez

Inspired by her uncle and influenced by Japanese anime, Patricia enjoys creating art. Some of the anime she likes include Naruto, Full Metal Alchemist, Samurai Champloo, Sailor Moon, and Inuyasha which is her favorite.

We will feature the creativity of our student artists in the Cruz Newsletter each issue. If you would like to tell us a little about your creative hobby and include it in the newsletter, send a sample of your work to the Cruz News Crew, (talent@ccbxhsm.org)

The Best of Two Worlds: Baseball and Percussions

By Peter Ozuna



Frank Almonte takes a swing during a showcase game.

What do baseball and the music program here at Celia Cruz have in common? The answer is Frank Almonte.

Frank Almonte is in his senior year here at Celia Cruz Bronx High School of Music. He is a talented percussionist in the band ensemble and on the baseball field he is an intense athlete. He takes his musical talent and his athletic skills seriously.

Frank is a middle infielder for the Walton Campus Varsity Baseball team. This is his 2nd and final year playing for the Walton Campus Varsity Baseball team. Although there are many colleges that would welcome Frank Almonte to play baseball, his sights may be set for SUNY Purchase University that offers baseball and a music program.

Almonte has attended showcases where Major League teams and college coaches have scouted him. He is recently working in a 9 year baseball camp with a former Major League player named Frank Mannechino.

Frank also plays percussion, currently for a band called "The Element", which plays in different venues around the New York City area and tours the country. Last year they toured the Midwest going to places like Chicago and Detroit. The band is currently working on their 3rd album.

1st Congratulations! For NOVEMBER PERFECT ATTENDANCE

- ACEVEDO, CHARLOTTE
BARROS, ERICK
BELLIARD, SALVADOR
BEST, LAURIE
CABRAL, PERLA
CARPIO, CHRISTIAN
CASTILLO, ARIANA
CASTILLO, NICOLAS
CLARK, GARRY
CLASS, RANDY
INOCENTE, SABRISKY
DE LOS SANTOS, ALEUDY
EL, ADIYLAH
ESTES, NAASIA
FARLOW, ARIALE
FLORENTINO, PAULI
GOMEZ, PAOLA
HEADLEY, SHANIQUA
HERNANDEZ, ELAINE
HERNANDEZ, MARBYN
JAMES, MICHAEL
JIMENEZ, ODALYS
KANG, RICHARD
KING, RONALD
LINO, GARY
LOHMANN, CHLOE
MEDINA, JUAN
MELENDEZ, Osvaldo
MOLINA, MIGUEL
MOORE, FRANK
NUNEZ, MICHAEL
OTERO, STARZIA
OVIEDO, ANTONIA
PEREZ, FRANKIE
REYES, ANDRES
RIOS, KATHERYN
RODRIGUEZ, EMILY
ROJAS, DENISE
RODRIGUEZ, HENRY
ROLLINS, JAZMYNN
ROSA, AIDA
ROSARIO, JUSTIN
SACCO, CHRISTOPHER
SALAS, CALEB
SANTIAGO, DAVID
SANTOS, STEPHANIE
SMALLS, ESNITA
SOBA, DANIELLA
SOTO, JOSE
STEWART, SAMANTHA
TERRY, JALEESA
VARGAS, ELIZABETH
WALLS, DARNASIA
WALTERS, IMANI
WRIGHT, CAESAR
YARBER, LAUREN

Toys For Toddlers

Continued from page 1

themselves throughout the United States during the holiday season. Coming to an agreement with the Marine Corp commissioner in charge of the toy drive for the Bronx area, CCBXHSM became officially associated with the Marine Corp.

The Celia Cruz toy drive took place from December 6 throughout December 20, 2006. On the 20th of December a small group of Marines came to collect the toys from our school. A group of committed students assem-

bled to see that the toy drive ran smoothly. The committee consisted of Christina Feliciano, Hannah Hansen, Elaine Hernandez, Ruthmil Hernandez, Frankie Perez and Stephanie Santos.

Dozens of charitable students, staff and their families brought in numerous unwrapped toys and dropped them off in boxes located in the Principal's and General Office.



Students deliver toddler toys to the Marines



Campus Food Drive



Members of the Campus Student Council (CSC)

By Joseph Aponte

This holiday season, the Walton Educational Campus was asked to open their hearts and their kitchen cabinets. This is because the Campus Student Council (CSC), working in collaboration with the Food Bank for New York City, organized its first annual holiday food drive.

Boxes were placed at each student entrance of

the building. The giving students of the campus donated canned goods, which were to be delivered to the Part of the Solution (POTS) organization.

The food was prepared on the premises and served to needy families. The CSC would like to thank all students that contributed to this worthy cause.

SOUP KITCHEN



Monica Santiago and Joseph Aponte take a moment.



Jesanthy Feliz lends a hand with the dishes.



Daniella Soba and Dorothy Pena



Jamie Flores serving food.

Participate Now!: How to be an activist where you are

By Terna Tilley-Gyado



When most of us hear the word "activism" we think of demonstrations, protesters holding signs with catchy slogans. We may think of the Civil Rights movement, an iconic symbol of activism. Perhaps we think of a number of images of people, but more often than not, none of those people is us; we don't see ourselves in activism. This is a mistake, because activism concerns all of us, individually and together. Meanings for the word "active" include "characterized by participation." Activism is about participating and interacting with the world around you in positive ways. Such ways can be as

simple as being informed about what's going on in your neighborhood.

If you want to extend yourself further, find out about what's happening in your city, your state, your nation, your planet. Many of us think that decisions made in places that seem far away do not affect us, City Hall, or the White House, for example, but they do. Those decisions affect your lives, every day, from where you live, when you can work, and even what you learn in the very classrooms of Celia Cruz and so much more!

READ newspapers, or online sources. The New York Post, Daily News, even the New York Times are not the only sources of news. You may find one or all of them boring. There are news sources specifically designed to give teenagers a chance to read news online in a way that may be more interesting for you.

http://dmoz.org/Kids_and_Teens/News/ gives teenagers an opportunity to read news from all over the world, you can also become a reporter for your neighborhood and share with other teens what's going on in your neighborhood, city, state, etc. Be informed!

When/if you decide you want to do more than simply be informed, take your activism a step further by volunteering. There are so many organizations around the Bronx, and New York City-organizations for the homeless, for women and

children, for the elderly, for teenagers like yourselves, etc., that need volunteers to spend an hour a week or a couple of hours a month, whatever time you can give, to help make someone else's life brighter. Volunteering can mean tutoring younger kids, or simply hanging out with a group of people or playing a game. Often, it can mean anything you want it to that involves helping someone else. Check out: http://www.nycares.org/ for opportunities.

Seniors Raise Global Warming Awareness

By Rafael Rios

The first graduating Seniors of our school all take US Government and Economics, but have been separated between two different teachers: Ms. Touray and Mr. Hall. Each teacher has their own unique way of teaching the subject, but Mr. Hall's class has taken the project beyond that of our community. After watching "An Inconvenient Truth", a documentary by Al Gore, each student individually and in a group had to make a powerpoint presentation on Global Warming.



The students learned about the dangers of Global Warming and many want to do their parts to help. Projects like this take students and their minds beyond the classroom, beyond their communities, and throughout the world. Each presentation was unique and each one had valuable information that intrigued the minds of the students. Even Mr. Hall, a strong opposer of Global Warming, was surprised at how well his students did with their presentations. This project took research, teamwork, and awareness to a whole new level. For more information about Global Warming and how to prevent it, speak to Mr. Hall or go to his website at www.facetheflag.com.

It's A Wrap! Continued from page 1

By Matt Daley

The Celia Cruz community has formed a relationship with Barnes and Nobles on 86th Street in Manhattan. The store allows Celia Cruz to set up a gift wrapping station inside the store's main entrance. Barnes and Nobles provided all necessary supplies (wrapping paper, tape, scissors, cards); customers brought their purchases to the station and students professionally wrapped each gift. Most customers gave tips to the volunteers, accumulating in close to \$200.00 for the school.

The four-night event was coordinated by Ms. Alp, Mr. Daley, Mr. Hall, and Ms. Perez. On the concluding night, the volunteering students added a Celia Cruz touch to the event: students sang Christmas Carols, attracting an audience.

Gift wrapping at Barnes and Nobles is now an annual event that showcases the Celia Cruz student body's hard work and charms.

Upcoming Free Musical

WELCOME BACK TO SCHOOL!!!
MONDAY
JANUARY 30, 2007
6:00 P.M. - 7:00 P.M.
LEHMAN COLLEGE
MUSIC BUILDING - 306
THE NEW YORK BASED PHOENIX ENSEMBLE PERFORMS WORK BY CONTEMPORARY COMPOSER MILTON BABBITT AND MOZART.
MOZART COMPOSED THE FIRST WORK FOR CLARINET AND STRING QUARTET IN 1789. THE PHOENIX ENSEMBLE WILL PERFORM HIS ORIGINAL WORK OF MOZART ALONGSIDE A MODERN CLARINET QUINTET COMPOSED IN 1996 BY MILTON BABBITT TO DEMONSTRATE THE GREAT CHANGES MADE IN MUSIC IN THESE TWO CENTURIES, AND THE DIVERSE LANGUAGES OF CLASSICAL MUSIC.

"Heart & Soul"
February 13, 2007
12:30 p.m. - 1:30 p.m.
Lehman College Music Building 306
Acclaimed Bronx-based vocalist and recording artist Mary Pearson & her jazz quintet perform love songs by composers of African descent and invite the community to come together in a dual celebration of Valentine's Day and Black History Month.
The repertoire will include tunes by Duke Ellington, Jats Waller, Louis Jordan and more!

The Lehman College MECC Project is made possible through a grant from the Rockefeller Philanthropic Foundation. For more information contact Project Coordinator, Brenda Tally (718) 960-8532.

Review: The Pursuit of Happiness



Photo courtesy of Movies.com

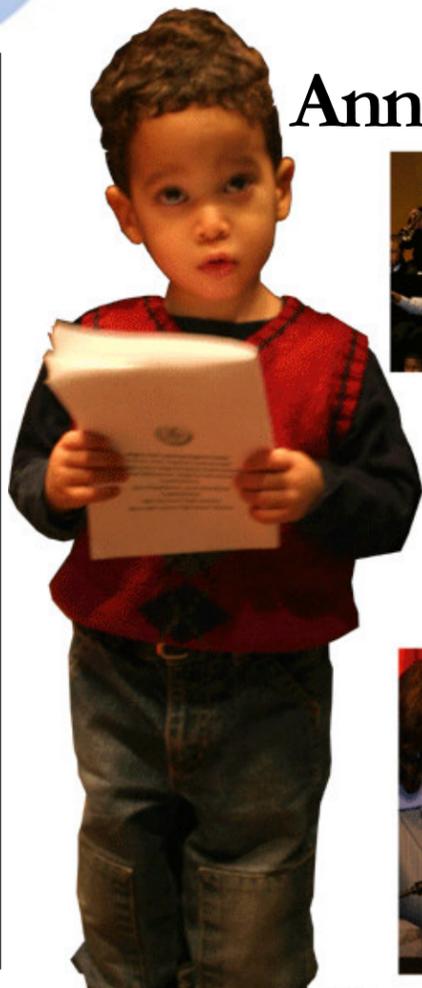
By David Alvarez

This movie is a real tear jerker, ladies and gentlemen. This is easily one of the most touching and life reflecting movies of the year. On many levels people can relate to this amazing hit. You root for Will Smith and his son throughout the entire movie. Will Smith delivers nothing short of his ability to make a story come to life and make you think.

This story is as real as it comes. It's based on a true story of a man and his son struggling to make ends meet in this crazy world. The sheer love and passion he had for his child drove him to accomplish that which all dream of, a better life.

The amazing moral value and powerful family message make this movie great for all ages to enjoy and cherish.

Annual Winter Concerts 2006

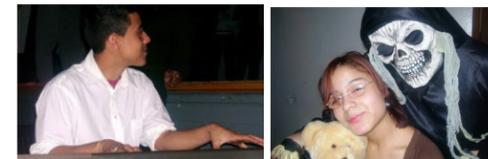


A Christmas Carol

By Rafael Rios

Charles Dicken's Christmas Carol has been re-enacted by many in the past, but for the first time it has been performed in a Bronx style. Mr. Lopez, director of last year's "West Side Story", has once again brought theatre to Walton Campus and directed the "Bronx Christmas Carol". Four of the cast and crew members were from our school: Rosemarie Escalera (Ghost of Christmas Future), Danielle Vegarrano (Tiny Tina), Issac (Pianist), and Rafael Rios (Cameraman). Rosemarie, Danielle, and Rafael were all apart of last year's production of "West Side Story".

The Walton auditorium roared with excitement throughout the play. Rosemarie states, "I was able to play a part that has more expression than words. It was a fulfilling experience." She also adds that the play has changed her in that she "understands that even the small parts have a large impact on the audience." It is amazing how much talent our students have beyond just singing and playing instruments.



Pictured left: Issac (The Pianist) Pictured right: Danielle Vegarrano as *Tiny Tina* and Rosemarie Escalera as the *Ghost of Christmas Future*.

Need Some Advice?

Are you going through some rough times in your life, at home, or you just can't handle the stress of school anymore? Would you like to see things from a different perspective, or could you just use some advice?

The CNC Advice Column is here to help. You can get answers by leaving your questions or concerns on a short note or letter and placing them in our "Question Mark Box" which will be located in the attendance office on the "hub table". We will post a response to your question in the next Cruz Newsletter.

BUT if you prefer to keep things more confidential ... You can email your questions to ADVICE@CCBXHSM.ORG

Sinking Family Saved: Principal Takes A Risk

By Harold Jorge & Danielle Vegerano



The man in the car cried out "Please save my daughters, I can't swim." In the back seat were two young children. The car gradually began to sink as Dr. Rodriguez and a few around him found themselves jumping in to help. They created a human chain from the grass area down to where the car was steadily sinking. Others jumped into the water while another group held onto the side of the car in hopes of helping the family. The father took the two children from the back seat and passed them through the window into the arms of the people who had formed a human chain to carry them to safety. We asked, after hearing the story, if everyone ended up ok? Everybody was fine, responded Dr. Rodriguez, "we had to react right away because we were the first ones there."

Had no one stopped to rescue this family in crisis, this story could have had a very different and tragic ending. But thanks to the compassion and concern of people like Dr. Rodriguez, this family had another reason to give thanks. It's not everyday that someone shows a willingness to stick their necks out for someone else. We asked Dr. Rodriguez if he realized the danger that he risked himself when he jumped into the river and he replied, "It was a funny thing because not everybody jumped in, so I learned a little bit about myself." After reflecting on his response we also believed that this incident taught us something about Dr. Rodriguez. It taught us that we are very fortunate to have a hero for a Principal.

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 Spring Term Begins First Day of Classes Special Schedule	2 Senior Trip	3
4	5 Faculty Conference	6	7	8	9	10
11	12 Department Conference SLT Meeting	13	14	15	16 Fire Drill Pd. 9 Rapid Dismissal	17
18	19 MidWinter Recess School Closed	20 MidWinter Recess School Closed	21 MidWinter Recess School Closed	22 MidWinter Recess School Closed	23 MidWinter Recess School Closed	24
25	26	27	28			

February 2007

Happy Valentine's Day!

