

The  
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Bronx HS of Music  
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## ¿Sabías Qué? Did You Know?

Did you know that in 1992, Celia Cruz, played the role of Evalina Montoya, and starred with Antonio Banderas in the film, "The Mambo Kings"? The movie was nominated for five awards, including an oscar, a Golden Globe, and a Grammy.



Michael Greene  
Celia Cruz Bronx HS of Music  
Technology Coordinator



## Technically Speaking



As the end of the year and graduation draws near, I wish to remind teachers, Juniors and Seniors that it will soon be time to return all laptops. An official written notice by Dr. Rodriguez will soon be announced and distributed in the school. Please be certain when returning the laptops that you include the batteries and ac-adapters. If you purchased a Laptop sleeve, the sleeve is yours to keep, but the laptop and all other equipment must be returned. If you would like to begin returning your laptops, you may return them to room 387 starting Tuesday May 29th, 2007 when we return to school after Memorial Day.

**Acknowledgement:** We apologize for not giving credit and thanking Mr. West for contributing the photos of the Senior trip at Pinegrove that were featured in last month's issue of the Cruz News Newsletter.

## Technology Office Hours Room 387

Period 1	Preparation
Period 2	Closed
Period 3	9:42 to 10:30
Period 4	Mobile Maintenance
Lunch	11:24 to 12:12
Period 6	Preparation
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



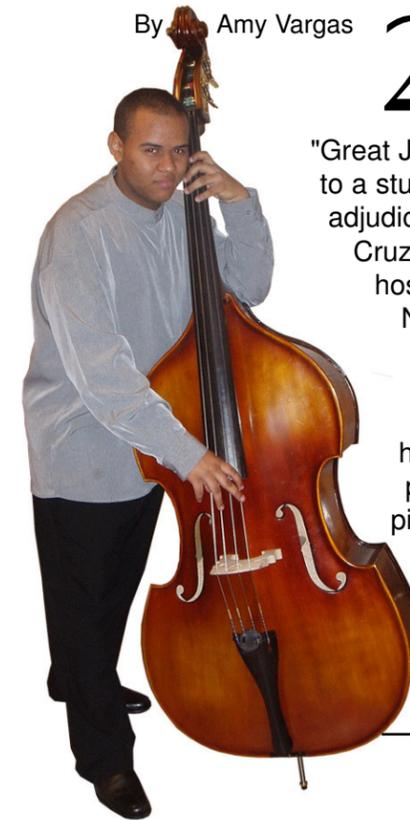
Volume 4, Issue No. 4

Celia Cruz Bronx High School of Music Newsletter

www.ccbxhsm.org

# NYSSMA 2007

By Amy Vargas



"Great Job!" Ms. Gwasda said to a student after they left the adjudication room. The Celia Cruz High School of Music hosted its second annual NYSSMA Festival. Our school was founded with the promise that each student would have the opportunity to prepare and perform a piece in front of a judge for a music rating.

David Vargas practices for his NYSSMA performance

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## Aids Walk Team

By Jerrod Mabry



On May 20, 2007, students, staff, and friends of the Celia Cruz Bronx High School of Music, joined together in the fight against HIV/AIDS. The Celia Cruz AIDS Walk team raised money for the cause before walking the 10km (about 6 miles) in Manhattan. The experience was eye-opening for many students who had never before completed such a walk with over 50,000 other participants. Next year, the team hopes to raise even more money and have more people walk with the group.

## How the West Almost Won!

By Harold Jorge and Victoria M. Cruz

The stage was set and on April 30th 2007 at 4:00 pm, the students and staff of Celia Cruz Bronx High School of Music headed towards Harris Field where the great rivalry between teachers and students would be decided by a game of Football.

When I arrived at Harris Field I could feel the tension between these two teams, both confident that they would win. Then I noticed that the Staff team was represented by only four members and a bunch of students which kind of confused me because I thought certain the staff would use its secret offensive and defensive weapons; Mr. Jackson, Mr. Miller, Mr. Moro, Mr. Greene and Mr. Shragowitz!

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SixFlags Festival!  
Read what happened  
... on page 2



The Prom Is On!  
Tickets are still available  
... on page 3



Lincoln Center  
See more photos  
... on page 5



Enjoy Poetic Expressions  
and the Art Gallery  
...on page 7

Dr. William Rodriguez  
Founder and Principal



By Amy Vargas

On April 28th, May 5th, and May 12th our school ventured to south Jersey to perform in the Six Flags: Great Adventure theme park. On each one of those dates a different ensemble performed (String, Chorus, and Band). This event has occurred for the last 3 years, which has earned us over 20 trophies

in that time period. This year the performing groups departed from the Walton campus with the hopes of obtaining more trophies than the year before, even though they performed in a harder and higher level of competition this year. Congratulations to everyone who performed.

## A Look Behind The Cruz News

By Rosemarie Escalera



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 Vejerano

**Advisors:**

Mr. Michael Greene  
Mr. Cesar Perez

The school newsletter is a forum for creativity and information. Students can create artwork, write poems and submit articles that are placed in the school newsletter. But not every article makes the cut, so I interviewed Mr. Greene, the technology coordinator and overseer of the CNC, to learn more about what goes on behind the scenes. I also interviewed some of the CNC members to get their opinions on the content and freedom within the school newsletter.

Mr. Greene has been working on the newsletter since October of 2006. I asked him where he came up with the Cruz News design and he replied, "I have always been a fan of Celia Cruz so when I designed the newsletter, I was inspired to introduce more of her image into the design. I thought it was important for her legacy to be represented not only in name, but visually as well".

Mr. Greene also clarified that the school newsletter is not only about Celia Cruz but for the students and the entire school community. I asked, can stu-

dents write about anything that interests them? "Yes for the most part, but ultimately Dr. Rodriguez has the last say on what is included in the newsletter." Isn't that censorship? I asked. Greene responded, "To some extent but its important that the school be represented by putting its best foot forward and getting approval by Dr. Rodriguez assures that."

I continued learning about the CNC by asking student members, David Alvarez and Rafael Rios, the following questions:

**Q- Does the school newsletter have any value to you?**

D.A- Yes, in the sense that it gives most of us writers a chance to express ourselves within reasonable boundaries.

**Q- What do you mean by boundaries?**

D.A- Boundaries in the sense of not publishing gossip only the facts.

**Q- Can you relate to the articles in the newsletter?**

D.A- Yes, because the self expressions and school events lets me know how people feel and keeps me up to date.

**Q- Mr. Greene gave me the impression that there is minimal censorship in the newsletter, do you agree with that?**

D.A- Yes, because articles involving student disagreements aren't always allowed within the newsletter.

**Q- Are you saying that the school newsletter doesn't cover controversial issues?**

R.R- Yes, hell yeah! If you could put hell in the newsletter it's spelled H-E-L-L. When I first joined the school newsletter, I thought that we were publishing it for students and culture, but most of the articles were about the school, so to me it seemed like a form of propaganda for the school image.

The school newsletter represents the Celia Cruz High School community in an upstanding way. The numerous trophies and awards speak for themselves. But would controversial issues, or "Bad News" so to speak, in the school newsletter tarnish our idealistic image? What's more important to you?

## POETIC Expressions

By David Alvarez

### LOVE BITES!



What to do when you bite the hand that feeds  
And is now the hand that bleeds?  
Face filled up with pain and a mouth full of plasma  
Chest getting tight like you're catching a case of asthma  
Chaos drive in the heart, endless infinity doing its part  
Pushing in all kinds of directions  
No one knowing just when you're going to stop  
round and round your body driving me around pound for pound  
Through trials and tribulations and in my mind its fine  
But don't turn on me for what could or couldn't be  
Being lynched in a tree by my own blood vessels  
To see you "walk out of the door and walk out of my life"  
Where did it go wrong?  
How can I atone for the sins that I brought?  
To keep you in my life to be "wife"...no?  
Just as the song goes I guess I got to "breathe"  
And wish for an easy settlement for my feeble mind,  
body, soul  
Seeming limitless pit draining the love and blood  
Due to you being the bane of my existence  
Preachers direct the choirs  
Technicians shoot the flares  
Dancers prance around  
Celebrating the only thing that's left  
A bitter sweet taste of remnants  
Filled with undesirable contents  
Eyes filled red wit dread  
Lacking of the moisture but plenty built up saline water

## ART Gallery



Artwork pictured above and left created by Rosemarie Escalera



Artwork right created by Mr. Greene

By John Soto

Its amazing to discover the artistic talents we have here at Celia Cruz High School. While we consider musical talent as a given, senior student Rosemarie Escalera shows her artistic side creating the artwork pictured above that depicts the manga characters Beryun and Lilith.

Probably the most surprising discovery of all was of the sketch of Gretchen Gomez pictured to the right that was created by Mr. Greene. Mr. Greene, the Technology Coordinator, is our resident expert in computers and technology. He



also happens to be very artistic and one of the most multi-talented men I have ever met. I asked Mr. Greene, with artistic skills like you have, what made you get into computers? Mr. Greene replied, "The great thing about having a skill is that you don't have to choose one over the other."

# In The Shadow Of Columbine

In the last few weeks, the United States was swept with one of the more mournful stories in recent years. Virginia Tech was devastated by an attack that overshadows the Columbine event that took place on April 20, 1999. According to the police reports the attacker was named Cho Seung-Hui, a 23 year old senior who was in the college as an English major. Most of the killings took place in Norris Hall which totaled up to 33 dead, including him, and 20 injured.

This Event has concerned many senior high school students nation wide, because they are wondering if they themselves are

in danger. A very personal connection to the situation is that one of our students, Garry Clark, was going to play at Virginia Tech for a basketball tournament. The killings have also caused parents to be more hesitant about sending their children off to distant colleges, where they are too far to be assisted by relatives if anything were to happen. The truth of the matter is that colleges will have to revise their rules and security regulations; making schools safer for the next few years, until things quiet down again.

By Jamie Flores



Celia Cruz Bronx High School of Music is one of the specialized schools in the city that provides a music program and has always supported its students in their musical accomplishments. Most students have performed in numerous places as representatives of the Bronx and more importantly... our school. Most students at Celia Cruz high school just practice music, and some go home to listen to it. One new achievement to be added to the list is Jamie Flores' game composition. He has taken several known theme songs from the Final Fantasy console game series and melded them into a single seamless medley of music. Together, with a few of his peers, Jamie will rehearse with them on the piece, so that in our upcoming spring concert, he can perform his newly arranged piece as a solo.

We wish to extend special thanks to the members of the Cruz News Crew for their dedication and hard work towards making the Cruz News Newsletter a success this year.

With the extraordinary leadership of Amy Vargas, our Chief Editor, we were able to successfully produce a more informative and creative newsletter that has something for everyone.

We would also like to acknowledge other students who contributed their time and energy to the Cruz News Newsletter:

- Jamie Flores**
- Rosemarie Escalera**
- Victoria M. Cruz**
- Jye Thornhill**

## Cruz News CREW



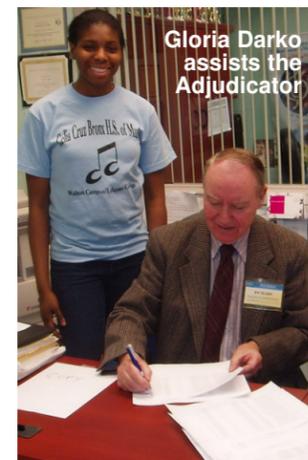
- Amy Vargas
- Ana Amalbert
- Danielle Vegerano
- Deanna Cruz
- Harold Jorge
- David Alvarez
- John Soto
- Peter Ozuna
- Franklin Moore
- Rafael Rios

- Cesar Perez
- Michael Greene

# Between Us Juniors And Seniors

By Rafael Rios

The Junior and Senior class of 2007 have had a very special bond ever since our school entered the Walton High School Campus. For three years, we have interacted with each other, not just in the classrooms, but in music ensembles. The bond that the seniors and juniors have shared for three years is unbreakable. When the first graduating seniors say their final good-byes, the juniors will definitely have some final farewell words to say. Angel Sanchez, a junior chorus member, says, "It was fun in school knowing that we had someone to look up to." Monica Santiago, also a junior and Select chorus member, says, "My greatest experience with the seniors was Disneyworld, because we had so much fun. It was definitely the best experience I've had with the senior class." As you can tell, the school will miss the first graduating senior class of 2007.



## NYSSMA 2007

Continued from page 1

It was after our second year traveling, that our school took the initiative to host the NYSSMA festival for the entire Bronx. This year the NYSSMA festival ran smoother than ever and had wonderful results. The outcome of the festival indicates that Celia Cruz will have a very bright future as the host of the Bronx regional NYSSMA Festival for years to come.

Left: Patricia Gonzalez



Below: Odalys Jimenez, Rogelio Melon, and Ms. Smetters-Jacano

# GO PROM!

By Amy Vargas



Thanks to the contributing efforts of Ms. Lisa Gwasda, Mr. Vern Ram, Ms. Yvette Perez and Dr. Rodriguez, the prom is on.

The prom will take place June 9th on the Spirit of the Hudson. From 8pm - 11:30pm 140 Seniors, Juniors, Staff and guests will be kicking it up on the floor of an amazing cruise. Keep your eyes and ears open for more details. Pay for the prom as soon as possible, because tickets will soon be gone!



## ITS A DOUBLETAKE!

Naasia Estes and Samantha Thomas get into the spirit of Twin Day.





# How The West Almost Won!

Continued from page 1

Photos taken by Harold Jorge



Mr. West plays hard at the Harris Field Student Vs Staff Football Game.

Instead it was like watching a bad remake of the movie "300" with the staff's team being composed of Vern Ram, Cesar Perez, Omar Johnson, and David West against all the students.

Despite the odds, the staff team did surprisingly well. The offense and defense by the staff actually proved to be a challenge to the students. Omar led his team's defense sacking the student quarterback on the first play of the game and scoring the first staff touchdown, while Mr. West led the offense with two touchdowns making him the star of the game.

With the game score tied at 6 to 6, a missed pass by Mr. West caused the turning point in the game. That was all it would take for Shamik Smith to score the final touchdown and win the game for the students 7 to 6 leaving the staff one West touchdown short.



Mr. Ram looks on as Omar Johnson leads the staff defense and Mr. West below leads the offense.



# Lincoln Center



2007

*"The more you are motivated by love, the more fearless and free your actions will be."*

-Katherine Mansfield-

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 Regular Schedule	2 Regular Schedule	3 Regular Schedule Lincoln Center Performance	4 End of 2nd Marking Period	5 SAT Exam Day
6	7	8 Grade scans due Component Retesting AP Spanish Exam	9 Component Retesting Check for Missing Grades	10 Component Retesting AP English Exam	11 Component Retesting AP US History Exam	12
13	14 Distribute 2nd report cards	15	16	17	18 Pre-registration Line Grades School Concert 7:pm Louvinger Theater	19
20	21 Department Conferences	22	23 School Concert II 7:pm Louvinger Theater	24 Spring '07 Tallies Principal & APs	25	26
27	28 Memorial Day School closed	29	30 Distribute Exam notices	31 NYSSMA Ensembles School concert III 7:pm Louvinger Theater		

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2 SAT Exam Day
3	4	5 Senior Award Dinner	6	7 No Classes Chancellor's Conference Day	8	9 ACT Exam Day Senior Prom!
10	11	12	13 Regents Exam Day	14 Regents Exam Day	15 Regents Exam Day Parent Association Award Ceremony	16
17	18 Regents Exam Day	19 Regents Exam Day	20 Regents Exam Day	21 Regents Exam Day	22 Regents Rating Day Graduation Rehearsal 3:30-7:00pm	23
24	25 Post Regents Rating Day No HS Classes in Schools giving regents	26 Post Regents Rating Day Graduation Ceremony	27 Last Day for all students Last Day for Teachers & Paraprofessionals	28 Supervisors & Some Support Personnel Report	29 Supervisors & Some Support Personnel Report	30



2007

*Those that know, do. Those that understand, teach.*

-Aristotle-