

**The
Celia Cruz
Bronx HS of Music**

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Best Wishes From the CNC

It is with great pleasure on behalf of the Cruz News Crew to say good bye to all graduating seniors. It has been a wonderful and productive four years. We have successfully achieved many unforgettable goals and are now leaving with amazing memories. We have all grown to be mature young adults and that wouldn't have been possible without the hard working teachers and staff of Celia Cruz Bronx High School of Music. Some of the achievements obtained by our school have been excellent NYSSMA scores, high ratings from SIX FLAGS great adventure, and the opportunity to perform at Disney World. These last few years have been magical to all of us and these are memories that will linger in our hearts forever. On behalf of the CNC we wish all graduating seniors success and happiness where ever they may go.

..... *You will be missed!*

Credit Recovery Program

Celia Cruz will be hosting the Credit Recovery program for Summer school 2007. The Summer school program will begin on Thursday, July 5, 2007 and end on Friday, August 17, 2007. The program runs from Monday through Friday. In addition, students will have an opportunity to take necessary Regents examinations on Thursday, August 16, 2007 and Friday, August 17, 2007.

Freshman Orientation June 28th and 29th, 2007

During orientation, students will meet the teachers and staff of Celia Cruz Bronx High School of Music and members of Lehman College. Mini-lessons in all subjects will be demonstrated. Important information and documents will be distributed. The Summer Packet of work will be handed out. ID pictures will also be taken. Students must attend everyday. Parents are welcomed to attend on both days.



Volume 4, Issue No. 5

Celia Cruz Bronx High School of Music Newsletter

www.ccbxhsm.org

Graduating Class of 2007 July



Celia Cruz High School has finally reached the pinnacle of its four year history by graduating its very first senior class. Students and parents can deservedly be proud of the commitments they have made to make the school a success. No one could be more proud than our founder and Principal Dr. William Rodriguez

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Parent Association Honors Principal For Vision and Leadership ...

More pictures on page 3



New York Post photographer takes pictures of Saroya Williams and Shavonne Bell for the first Rock and Roll Hall of Fame Scholarship.

CELIA CRUZ STUDENTS

ROCK AND ROLL!

Seniors Saroya Williams and Shavonne Bell continue to shine for Celia Cruz Bronx High School of Music as they are both awarded the first Rock and Roll Hall of Fame scholarship grants.

According to the New York Post, five New York City public high-school students will be receiving money to continue their studies of the music business in the college of their choice.

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Parent Association
Senior Awards Celebration
See photos of the event
... on page 3



Student Staff Softball Game
Read about the results
... on page 4



Seniors Perform
Final Spring Concert
See Senior concert photos
...on page 7



Meet the Prom
King and Queen
See more Prom photos
... on page 7

Dr. William Rodriguez
Founder and Principal



To the first graduating class of the Celia Cruz Bronx High School of Music:

Dear graduates of 2007,

It is too easy to simply refer to you as the first graduating class of CCBXHSM. It is just one of a list of firsts for you. You succeeded in grounding the first high school of music in the Bronx. You have set a trail for all future Bronx music students to have a place where they can not only learn but be enriched with the highest of State and National standards for high school music. You have performed in music venues and cultural arts institutions representing the Bronx throughout New York City, the tri-state region and Florida. You have surprised the New York State School Music Association judges and National Music Education adjudicators with your superior music ratings as soloists and with your ensembles.

This was accomplished when at times all the odds were against your success. You began in 2003 during a reorganization of the Department of Education. You and your parents decided to join a movement of small schools, which is reforming how high schools in large cities serve their communities. You took risks and stuck with them. After your first year, you were moved to another school building location. Despite the anxiety and turmoil we faced, you along with other schoolmates made the transition work and a successful new small school is now fully developed.

Your youthful leadership and resolve has allowed this to happen. You have accepted the purpose and mission of this school and were patient and helpful in a period of much experimentation and great change. Your faith in your school, its leadership and vision has been appreciated. We have many people and community partners to thank for their work and shared vision for this new music high school. The teachers, staff and remarkable support of Lehman College as our lead partner is truly the reason we were able to sustain our school and its future. It is important for all to remember this history and remember you its first graduating class.

We have shared much with you during these four years. I hope it has been enough to help you through the next phase of your life. Now you are the first alumni and I expect great things from you. Stay in touch and accept my best wishes for a healthy, bright and carefree life full of joy, happiness, success and music.

Sincerely, *Dr. William Rodriguez*

Mr. Treschan Retires



Mr. Treschan congratulates Andres Reyes the first recipient of the Treschan Guidance Award

After four years with the Celia Cruz Bronx High School of Music, I will be retiring at the end of this year. I feel honored to have been the first Guidance Counselor at Celia Cruz.

During these four years I witnessed the growth of a school which encompassed only four classrooms and one grade level until the present where we now occupy an entire wing at the Walton Campus. A high percentage of our graduating seniors received a fantastic amount of

Congratulations Grad Teachers of 2007

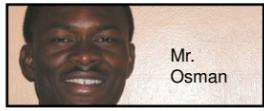
We want to congratulate the following teachers who have earned their Masters Degrees and completed the final process in their professional careers towards permanent State certification. It is wonderful news. We are all very happy for you and wish you continued success.



Ms. Christian
Graduate of Lehman College



Mr. Jackson
Graduate of Lehman College



Mr. Osman
Graduate of Lehman College



Mr. Sato
Graduate of University of California



Ms. Touray
Graduate of New York University

scholarships and awards. Among Junior High School Guidance Counselors, Celia Cruz is rated as one of the best places to send students. I wish the first graduating class a bright future in life, as well to the rest of the students a successful completion of High School and great achievements afterwards. I am establishing the Treschan Guidance Award to be given every year to a senior who supported the work of the Guidance Office at the Celia Cruz High School. I am happy to announce that the first recipient of the award is Andres Reyes.



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

Spring Concert

Graduating Seniors give their final performance at the Spring Concert.



Ms. Smetters-Jacano presents each senior with a rose and a commemorative music pin at their final concert performances.



Senior Prom 2007



Ms. Gwasda announces Aja Rodriguez and Jaret Hewitt as Prom Queen and King.



Celia Cruz students dressed to impress as they embarked on their Prom cruise with the Spirit of the Hudson on June 9th. The event was reminiscent of the red carpet as seniors pulled up in Limos and boarded the cruiser dressed in elegant gowns and fitted suits. Everyone enjoyed the event.



Senior Quotes



~ Jamie Flores ~
"People like to think life is a full circle. The unfortunate truth is it's a straight line we can only hope will cross our paths again."



~ Stephanie Santos ~
"Life lessons are ahead of you, so take the challenge and see what happens."



~ Felix Gomez ~
"Bye to all my people in C.C. and remember without war there is no peace."



~ Ana Amalbert ~
"Congratulations to the Class of 2007. Forever #1. Hope for the best in the future."



~ Steven Capers ~
"Good bye to all. I will miss each and everyone. Peace out!!"

Senior Quotes



~ Shavonne Bell ~ "All of your dreams lie beyond a door called fear, all you must do to reach them is simply open the door."



~ Eugene Tolbert ~ "Peace out all of my CC homies. Money, power, respect. Work hard for what you need in life."



~ Niesha Streete ~ "Put your heart into everything you do because then you will be a hero to many; especially yourself."



~ Anthony Lugo ~ "I'm not usually good at making speeches and I don't get sentimental so... [Leaves the room]."



~ Hannah Hansen ~ "The times we had, and the times to come will always be remembered and loved."

SENIOR AWARDS CEREMONY

Seniors proudly display their awards.



Adios-Farewell-Goodbye ...

By Michael Firenza

It is almost finished, the long school year As I brush away my old man tears. College beckons, the future calls It was a pleasure to know you all. Soon, you seniors will be gone. But the school stays here. Life goes on. It's been great. It's been fun. But there's work ahead. Tasks to be done. Until my time comes to an end, It was an honor to call you friends. Now I must say it with a sigh. Adios-Farewell-Goodbye ...



Willie's Steakhouse and Friends of Willie's Inc., in the Bronx, have been supporters of the Celia Cruz Bronx HS of Music since before the school's doors opened. They have given financial support to the school every year in the form of scholarships for music study and music supplies. The first graduating seniors wish to especially thank Kenneth Giordano, Daniel Ortiz and Luis Escalera for their encouragement and ongoing support of education in their community and to CCBXHSM.

Ms. Shapiro: A Hit For Seniors

By Frank Moore



Mrs. Illeana Shapiro College Advisor

Congratulations to the first graduating senior class of Celia Cruz Bronx High School of Music. We have successfully taken the steps necessary to advance to the next stage of our lives. We have all gotten accepted to a college or university that we will hopefully attend in the fall. I believe that some if not all gratitude should go to Ms. Illeana Shapiro for the excellent job she has done as our College Advisor.

Ms. Shapiro has helped a lot of seniors with their Tap and F.A.F.S.A forms. She also handed out scholarship applications. As of May 13, 2007, our school raised \$1,222,472 in scholarships and grants. Ms. Shapiro has told me that she had fun working with the seniors and she is looking forward to helping the juniors. She has been doing her job for years and still enjoys working with the students. I would like to thank Ms. Shapiro for helping my peers and I through the college process and I wish her the best of luck in the future.

Mosaic Memories

By Rafael Rios

Lehman College has given students the opportunity to leave a piece of the senior class as a tribute to the rest of the school. Seniors are being given the chance to create their own mosaic representing the school. For several weeks now, seniors have been working together to create a mosaic carefully made from glass pieces. Students Elaine Hernandez, Rosemarie Escalera, Jye Thornhill, and Rafael Rios have been under the watchful eye of English/Playwright teacher Mr. Miller who says, "if all goes well, it is going to be an extraordinarily beautiful piece." Pretty soon, the school will hang on its walls the finished mosaic as a gift to the school from the graduating seniors of 2007.



Pictured Left to Right: Mr. Miller, Ms. Patricia Cazorla, Rafael Rios, Elaine Hernandez, Rosemarie Escalera, and Jye Thornhill.

Parent Association Senior Awards

On June 15th, 2007 the Parent Association joined with students, staff, parents and friends to celebrate the first graduating senior class in the history of Celia Cruz Bronx High School of Music. The Parent Association presented awards to acknowledge and express appreciation to everyone from faculty to support staff.



Pictured Left to Right: Soledad Franco, PA Treasurer and Marie Matias, PA President are hard at work presenting awards.

Everyone was thrilled as the most surprising award of the night, a commemorative dedication plaque on behalf of the Parent Association to all of the graduating seniors, was presented to Dr. Rodriguez.



Ram Means Business With Guidance



Mr. Vern Ram

Since the announcement of Mr. Treschan's retirement, its become official that Mr. Ram will be moving from his current position as the school's Business Manager to his new Guidance Counselor position.

Mr. Ram commented, "I am enthusiastic about my new position as the school counselor for the Celia Cruz Bronx High School of Music. I look forward to providing services to students, parents, school staff and the community to ensure that all students succeed at their highest potential."

Students Win!



It was a pitching dual between JB and Angel Sanchez.

Students and staff played a thrilling game at Harris field. Mr. West lead in the 1st inning with a double. A throwing error put Ms. Touray on first base followed by a JB double that scored the first RBI of the game. Mr. Hall then cleaned up with a three run blast that put the staff on top 4 to 0. But the students took a 9 to 7 lead in later innings. The staff threatened a comeback in their final inning with a lead off single and a throwing error that put Cesar in scoring position. West drove Cesar in with a single that put the game at 8-9. Andy contributed with a solid single, but Sato hit a hard grounder to third for the final forced out to end the game with the score 8 to 9.



Seated Left: Staff players JB, Ms. Touray and Cesar Perez take a break between innings.



Franklin Moore: MVP of the game



Mr. Hall playing the field



Franklin Almonte Coaching Third



Anthony Lugo holds Mr. Daley at first base



Andy looking to go deep



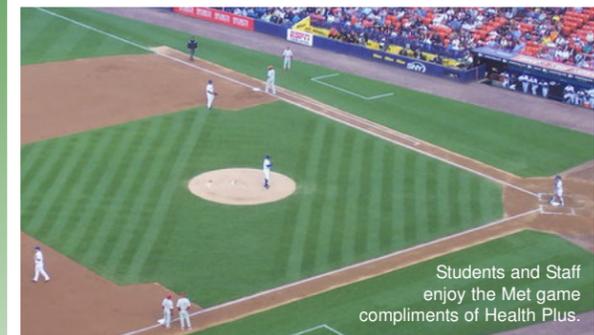
Mr. Sato and Peter Ozuna coming off the field after the inning



West drives in a run

Thanks Health Plus!

Rolondo Garcia and Health Plus have supported Celia Cruz Bronx High School of Music since we opened our doors. Recently, Health Plus gave a generous donation to help sponsor our senior awards dinner on June 5, 2007 and all of our graduating seniors received tickets to a Met game. Ten students were also selected to meet Met players and received autographed baseballs. Thanks for your continued support Health Plus.



Students and Staff enjoy the Met game compliments of Health Plus.



A night view of Shea Stadium

ROSTER

STUDENT SQUAD

- LF - Ben Aponte
- SS - Frank Almonte
- 1B - Anthony Lugo
- CF - Matthew Correa
- 2b - Angel Sanchez
- 3B - Cesar Rosado
- RF - Franklin Moore
- P - Manny Cruz
- *C - Andy Peña *RF

STAFF SQUAD

- LF - David West
- RF - Tutti Touray
- 3B - Timothy Sato
- P - James Burres
- CF - Matthew Daley
- 1B - Tom Hall
- SS - Peter Ozuna
- 2B - Cesar Perez

GAME RESULTS

- Winning Pitchers
- SP- Manny Cruz
- RP- Angel Sanchez
- Game MVP
- Franklin Moore

STUDENTS - 9
STAFF - 8

- * Catcher for both teams
- * Subbed for Touray RF

Celia Cruz Students Rock!



Saroya Williams and Shavonne Bell receive first ever Rock and Roll Hall of Fame Scholarships

Continued from page 1

Each of the five students will receive a one-time prize grant of \$5,000. Shavonne Bell, our school valedictorian was quoted to have said, "Having a scholarship and having it involve music is the best of both worlds."

Receiving the awards is no small feat. Of the five public high-school students that received scholarships, two of them were awarded to Celia Cruz students. We rock!



2007

I think of a hero as someone who understands the degree of responsibility that comes with his freedom.

~ Bob Dylan ~

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2 No Classes	3 No Classes	4 Independence Day No Classes	5 1st Day of Summer School Walton Campus	6	7
8	9 1st Day of Summer Bridge - new 9th grade Band & Choir Freshmen Music Camp	10	11	12 Last day for freshman Music Camp	13	14
15	16 Strings Music Camp Begins	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26 Last day for freshman String Music Camp	27	28
29	30	31				

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2 Last Day for Band Camp	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16 Regents/ RCT Exams	17 Regents/ RCT Exams	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	1st day of the fall Tuesday, September 4th, 2007 Full Instructional Day



2007

The easiest thing in the world to be is you. The most difficult thing to be is what other people want you to be.

~ Leo Buscaglia ~