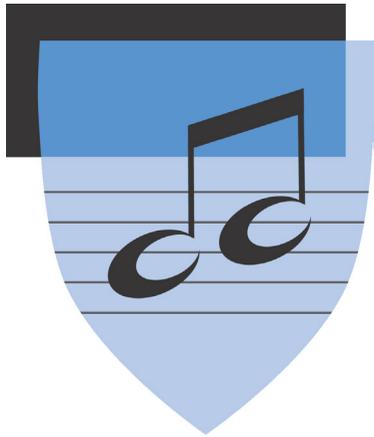


December-2013
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Middle School Concert

By Anaie Loyola

On Monday, October 21st, middle schoolers arrived at Lehman College to hear the musical taste of Celia Cruz. Its purpose was to expose the younger generation to amazing talent from Celia Cruz Bronx High School of Music, and to trigger a deeper interest in music and the arts. Our school was named after the artist Celia Cruz; a famous singer whose name implies for many, how seriously music should be played while maintaining its

beauty. School Principal, Mr. Mabry, introduced all middle schoolers to the event by thanking everyone for coming and explaining why Celia Cruz would be a great choice as a high school for those who are interested in music.

Standing for the pledge of allegiance Ms. Gwasda, and her Stage Choir, performed the beautifully crafted song wowing the crowd with incredible harmonies and solos.

Continued on Page 2



An Experience at the Metropolitan Opera

By Samantha Hawkins

On Tuesday October 15, the Women's Choir performed at the Metropolitan Opera at Lincoln Center. They sang two musical arias from the Italian opera La Boheme, which is a story that takes place in Paris, 1830's on Christmas eve. The opera is the older version of the modern day film *Rent*. It took a lot of hard work and dedication from the women's choir members to deliver a memorable performance.

Continued on page 2



Tyler Mills: Changing The Game

By Anaie Loyola

In the year of 2013, our very own Celia Cruz student, Tyler Mills has been recognized as the one of the best bowlers in the entire borough. Tyler competed as part of the Girls Bowling Team, competing against different schools across the borough; Clinton, Bronx Science, Christopher Columbus, and Lehman High School, to name a few. To their advantage, the team has improved much since last year and felt that they had a good chance of winning more games. The bowling team won nine games out of fourteen and helped Tyler become one of the best bowlers in the Bronx.

Continued on page 3





Middle School Concert

By Anaie Loyola

Explaining all the voice parts she tells of how dedicated her students are and how much they've grown. This represents hope for future students to sing better than before. Gwasda also discussed how Stage Choir sang on Broadway for Motown: The Musical. Beginning the concert, Mr. Wes comes with Chamber Orchestra, instructing wonderful pieces. He then began to speak of the many instruments the future students of CC may be able to play. Other topics he mentioned included information for students who currently have no experience playing. The school's main purpose is to not only increase what you already know in music, but, to hone it, fostering a student's fundamental music skills. Students always see growth in their four years as Celia Cruz students.

Preparing for the Wind Ensemble to play, Ms. Jacono, our Music Director, explains the instruments percussionist Elijah Torres plays, switching

back and forth in different songs. There were also different extracurricular activities such as Latin Jazz Band for the day and afterschool, and an all girls Sax Group; which is only for afterschool. After their performance, she then explains how if requested by the student, they can alternate between multiple instruments; French Horn, Trombone, Bassoon, Tuba, and an E Flat Clarinet. In most cases, to be able to play Bassoon, E Flat Clarinet, or Piccolo, you must be the best in your section to be able to play those instruments. Then continuing to our final part of the concert, Ms. Bergland introduces choir, which only consists of girls. A few of her girls explain each piece and how their dynamic performances are put together. Additionally Ms. Bergland explained the requirements and preparation that begin during freshman year. Ms. Bergland detailed the amount of preparation necessary to maintain a place in her choir. An example of this



is their recent performance at the Metropolitan Opera, where they had little time to learn and perfect their songs, yet pulled it off with grace and precision.

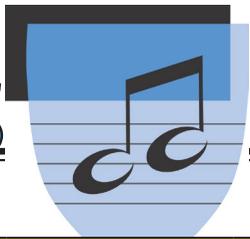
As each ensemble gave their thanks, the middle schoolers returned the gratitude with a loud applause. Each student showed eagerness and curiosity toward our school, leaving with a desire to know what it will be like to pursue a career as a musician/singer. They left with an open mind to the choice of coming to our school and a memorable experience.

An Experience at the Metropolitan Opera

By Samantha Hawkins

From Lunch rehearsals learn the songs, but they amazing experience and I to after school rehearsals also learned how to sing had alot of fun learning the women's choir was able in another language. Their music and working on a chal- to learn and perfect the hard work payed off, as they lenging level of performance! two Italian songs cho- recieved great reviews from This was a great way to start sen and arranged from a the Metropolitan Opera my senior year." This was the songwriter of the Metro- family. They were compli- first performance of the wom- politan Opera. The songs mented and appreciated on en's choir musical year and a O Soave Fanciulla & the their stage presence, learn- beautiful way to start off this song Quando Me'n Vo ing of a foreign language 2013-2014 year. written by Giacomo Puc- and their professional be-

cini, were sung by the choir. havior. As said by a member Not only did the choir of women's choir, "It was an



December

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3 SLT Meeting	4 ~Winter Concert Series 7pm ~Symphonic Band ~Show Choir ~Latin/Jazz ("Take ~The 4 Train") ~Sweet Out-Of-Lines	5	6	7
8	9	10 ~Winter Concert Series 7pm ~Wind Ensemble (World Premeir of "Stella Marris" Conducted and Composed By Samuel Hazo) ~Womens Choir ~Latin/Jazz Band	11 PTA Meeting 6pm	12	13 Winter Formal 7-11pm	14
15	16 ~Winter Concert Series 7pm ~Concert Band ~Overture Orchestra ~Concert Orchestra ~Freshman Treble ~Choir ~Freshman SAB Choir	17 ~Winter Concert Series 7pm ~Featuring Mixed Choir ~Chamber Orchestra ~Full Orchestra	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31	1	2	3	4

Winter Recess



Teaching Through Tablets In the 21st Century

By Josue Nunez

A tool that is becoming more and more common in the classroom these days is the Tablet. Tablets are portable devices that can do a lot of things that a computer can do. Whether you are an Android, Windows, or Apple fan there is a tablet for you, however they are often looked at as toys or devices to be used to cheat during exams. There are actually many helpful and innovative ways in which they are already being used at our school. The students of Celia Cruz use them in a unique way. Many students with tablets use apps such as Google drive,

Microsoft sky drive, and Evernote which are all free apps. These apps make taking notes a breeze. As one student demonstrated he could record audio along with taking notes and pictures of diagrams or other important information during math class. They are also using their tablets to download text books and other books instead of having a backpack full of text books. Even in other classes where tablets seem impossible to use them the students are finding innovative ways of using them. In music classes such as band the students use the tablet to record and keep their music making it more practical than an ordinary folder. Most students in this school

agree that tablets make them organized and help improve their learning experience. Tablets are now being used in many middle schools preparing students to use these tablets. Tablets are now becoming more powerful; they can now run computer based applications and now they are coming with more ram and memory. These tablets are the Microsoft surface 2 and come with up to 500 gigs of hard drive space. Tablets are the new portable device that is going to revolutionize learning.

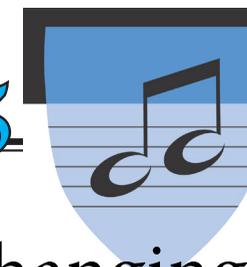


Old School

VS



New Age



Tyler Mills: Changing The Game

By: Brianne Carson

Starting at the age of seven, Tyler would always bowl with her family who encouraged her to have fun with it and have a healthy competitive attitude.

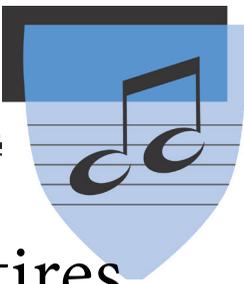
When she had entered the school, she began to join other sport teams; tennis, track, and bowling, all in her second year in high school. She left track however, due to no timing in her schedule and continued on with tennis and bowling. Explaining how both bowling and tennis are in different seasons, she believes that the tennis team will be different than years passed since the best players left last year. Tyler will need to step it up on the lanes, to be better than before, and lead her team to victory. She will balance practice for the tennis matches next year, but for now her main focus will be on her bowling. Her first reaction to this announcement was shock; she couldn't believe what she heard, but in the end felt good about herself.

Her favorite part about bowling is getting strikes, although she would rarely get them; it feels great because once she starts, she tries to get a turkey (three or more

consistent strikes in a row) even though she struggles with consistency. Tyler admits consistency is her biggest flaw, however, she believes she can change it with a bit more practice. Tyler says form and footing are the key to her success, citing the importance of [ractice and positioning when competing. When asked how she balances her time with so many activities on her Tyler explains how important it is to make sure to schedule everything making time keep with school work as well as practice her instrument while still making time for practice when it comes to athletics. Tyler says although can be a challenge, with enough hard work anything is possible including finding a balance between bowl-

ing, academics and being a Cellist in the Chambers Orchestra at CC. "I think with sports it helps to keep me focused on my schoolwork, like a balance, to help me with school and bowling at the same time." As a junior now, she still wishes to get better at her musicianship as a Cellist, finding motivation for music though her hard work in bowling. Tyler thrives on competition seeing bowling as a major tool for self motivation. Sports have become a part of her lifestyle, she hopes to continue being part of a college bowling and tennis team and beyond that. As she continues on, Tyler Mills has left her mark in Celia Cruz school history as second best, with 4,196 points, in the entire Bronx.





Mr. Moro Retires

By Ian Matthews

John Moro, otherwise known as Mr. Moro, has been a part of the Celia Cruz Family for over 7 years. His dynamic teaching skills, unmatched positive attitude, and passion to facilitate the personal growth of his students will sadly no longer be a part of our school since he is going to be retired by the start of December. His presence as an educator has resonated within our school for many years.

Mr. Moro's passion for youth education grew from a very young age. At the age of 16 Moro began working at Day Care's & Day Camp's where he realized how much he enjoyed assisting the youth.

Before his stay with the Celia Cruz family Mr. Moro worked as a Resource Teacher in Taft High School from 1983 to 2006. In September 2006, Moro joined the Celia Cruz faculty as a resource-room teacher. Many Celia Cruz students did not know about Mr. Moro's huge passion for music nor how he, to this day, is a member of a rock band. Mr. Moro has played other dynamic roles besides resource teacher at this school. Besides being the resource teacher, for a period of time he was in charge of the Guitar class where he introduced new players to the instrument and helped experienced players improve on their skills. Moro also took on the role of our school's dean for several years.

I had the opportunity to sit down and talk to Moro about his true passions and initiative for

helping youths grow. My first question for him was about how he felt during his experience in the school, from its beginnings compared to now. He confessed that there has been a drastic change due to new technologies like the computer and the internet. Throughout his career here at C.C these tools have been a valuable resourcing in advancing the learning process. Our conversation then changed to the subject of his retirement, and his experience at the school. Moro's retirement was



his choice, stating that, "you know when it's your time," and this was his. He then began to speak about the joy gets from helping students. He expressed that there are a lot of emotions behind his retirement, "C.C has the best faculty in the city and I've made some great friends throughout my time here." I then asked him what was his most surreal experience here. "My most surreal experience is watching a kid who was struggling in my class coming back to tell me about how good their lives are,

thanking me." He explained that the youth are the future of America and if he had a positive effect on one student, he's more than done his job. "If you enjoy what you do, you'll never work a day in your life." On his experiences in Celia Cruz, he expressed the knowledge he's gained from working with Celia Cruz students. He expressed that this job is about the youth, a major part being to give students a passion, so that by the time they graduate high school, they are emotionally, and educationally prepared to become adults in the real world with positive interests and desires.

Ironically, as Mr. Moro retires, his wife Ms. Shapiro, will be rejoining Celia Cruz as a college advisor, saying, "I feel very positive about it, my wife is a fantastic college advisor." Mr. Moro's plans after his retirement are to spend time with his grandchildren, join a band, and travel; something well deserved after several years of valuable service. Celia Cruz will surely miss the loud crash of Mr. Moro opening the hallway doors and the always hilarious puns and jokes that seemingly caused you to question your intelligence. Most importantly, we will miss him from the bottom of our hearts. The Celia Cruz faculty and students thank you for your time, determination and effort with the. Thank You Mr. Moro, you will surely be missed.



Choosing Our Mascot

By Anthony Luna

Our school has spent a long time represented by our campus mascot, the Wildcat. Now, Celia Cruz students are looking for a mascot to call their own. By having a mascot, Celia Cruz will be able to have separate representation instead of falling under the Walton umbrella. When choosing a mascot that represents the goals as well as the student body of Celia Cruz, one should also look at different characteristics that symbolize and connect to the school. This is something only the students can do and reach a consensus for so we are giving students the option to vote for their mascot on December 18 during lunch in the cafeteria.

The OWL

Owls often represent wisdom which is something we need to make us who we are as musicians. With our experience we can connect with others, while intuition provides us with understanding when it comes to music and our lives in general. Owls also tend to represent independence since they rely mostly on themselves to survive. As a symbol, the owl expresses that we are all one, but we are also individuals with our challenges and outlooks on life. Adaptability is another quality Owls possess and we use regularly to keep up with the changing world and the musical styles that follow it.

The FOX

The fox was nominated as one of our top mascot choices because it symbolizes passion, determination and expression. These characteristics relate to each one of us as a part of the Celia Cruz Bronx High School of Music student body. The passion of the fox is seen in the work of our musicians throughout the school year. Determination is seen in each and every one of us through our dedication to music as well as our work as human beings striving to succeed in life. Expression is shown in the way we are individually and how we express ourselves freely through our music, style of dress, manners of speech and so on.



Bring It On: Cheering for Change

By: Jenna Lellis

Tryouts for the Walton Wildcats Cheerleading team are finally done and we're down to 30 girls and 2 boys to represent Walton. The majority of the cheer team is new, having never even seen real cheerleading before, but their potential is more than enough to keep our great reputation at competitions. If you didn't know, our cheer team competes. We go upstate, sometimes out of

state and locally. Not to brag, but we've beat Clinton, Roosevelt and finally Columbus. Now our goal is to beat Dover, a school upstate. With our new members, it's possible. As of now the team is conditioning and learning new stunts to begin competition season in December. About 70% of the girls love stunting, which is exactly what Walton is known for. We come up with unique stunts. Expect to hear us win first place often!





Where Are They Now? Ms. Kadanoff

By: Catherine Vargas & Brianne Carson

Some of you may know Ms. Kadanoff, some of you may not. Ms. Kadanoff was our former health education teacher. After leaving C. C. just last year you may wonder, where is she now? We got in touch with her to find out.

Kadanoff is currently working on a program called the Health Education Leadership Program. There, she is a health education mentor, which means she helps health teachers have the most up-to-date information for their students, get to know one another and create goals so that their high school health programs are successful. There, she meets different teachers, administrators, and health specialists. She also told us that during the summer she went to Los Angeles, California with a few C. C. students and teaching artists to the CONTRA TIEMPO dance program, which she stated was “amazing.”

We asked if she had any future adventures in mind. She told us she’s thinking of visiting the Dominican Republic or some other warm

place. When asked what she misses most about Celia Cruz she responded, “Walking into the building in the morning and getting big ‘HELLO’s from so many students who were waiting in the halls for me to start, meeting with Student Council to plan events, spending to much time with my buddy Ms. Perez in our little room, and answering great questions in class.” We also asked her if there is any advice she’d like to give to the C. C. family. She gave us three suggestions:

“1. Go see as many concerts as possible: both the ones students put on, as well as any other that are available to you because you are at school. Get as much exposure to music and arts as the

school offers because you will learn a lot about yourself, your fellow students, and the world.

2. Work on your writing skills because they really do matter out in the world and the better you get, the more you can communicate your thoughts to people.

3. Life a healthy and safe lifestyle: If and when ever you become intimate with a partner. That includes whether you are being intimate with the same and opposite gender. That includes the first time or the times after. Ask any questions you need in order to do this (clinic, guidance counselors, family members, teachers) and I am open to your emails if you don’t know who else to ask (paula.kadanoff@gmail.com). It really matters that you care for yourself in this way. You are worth it.”



Take a Breather



By: Anaie Loyola

Our beloved math teacher Mr. Mata has started his own yoga program, open to all students, so that they have time to relax and enlighten one’s self to explore a deeper sense of connection to the body, mind, and soul. Mata, with a love for yoga and certification to teach it, aims to gather students so that they may understand the benefits of yoga. Every student has their own conflicts relating to school, whether it be stress, anxieties, or coping with school work. He believes that every student needs the time to relax and be more confident in themselves to get through a regular school day so they don’t get upset or frustrated over their daily problems.

Yoga is often used to help people relax, but it is also very good for allowing people to open up and realize that most problems are just illusions. Even students who may have anger issues are able to get in touch with their inner selves so that they can calm down, relax

and get rid of whatever anger that has built within them.

“The main goal of these yoga classes”. Says Mata, “is to resolve the conflicts the students have and to change their perspective of themselves.” It combines not only calming meditations but, from the help of CC students, the sound of relaxing melodies and rhythms to enhance the atmosphere of the room. Musical therapy is provided by our own CC students. Another benefit of these sessions are removal and prevention of competitive ambiance, bad vibes, unhealthy judgement. The sole purpose is to better understand one’s self and to learn to believe in yourself.

With firsthand experience in this class, I noticed the oneness amongst all students and had an enjoyable time getting to know new classmates, and meeting up with old friends. Mata helps guide us with new movements while asking questions and giving goals to aim for both in and outside of class. If you’re not as flexible as others,

that’s fine, sooner or later you will find yourself in a state of mind where there is no judgement and you will find it continue forth by trying even a bit more with each passing class, so that by the time you’re a regular of the class you aren’t worrying about anyone, but yourself. At the end, everyone seems very pleased and calm when leaving the school and going back into their daily lives.

Mata holds these classes every Thursday after school from 4:00 to 5:30 in the dance room. These classes will continue for two months or so. After the two months are up, Mata will try and get Mr. Mabry’s approval to make this an official after school program, with extra help from his pupils. Until then, anyone can go to these classes. If you plan on going to one of these classes, it is suggested you wear comfortable clothes and, if you are planning on going regularly, bring your own yoga mat.



The Few, The Proud, The Marines: Senior Edition

By: Alice Olom

While some seniors are applying to college and collecting recommendation letters, as well as meeting with their college advisor and trying to get through their senior year as easily as possible, seniors Kenny Mendez and Anthony Luna have different plans for their future. In hopes to one day earn the title "Marine", Mendez and Luna go through a physical training 2-3 times a week to prepare them for the official Marine boot camp at the end of their high school career in June. In their physical training these future marines are required to perform vigorous exercises to get their bodies ready for the challenging courses that await them in just a couple of months. Luna says that during these challenges, him and his fellow cadets are forced to learn to encourage and push each other. According to Luna, "If we're running and the person in front is starting to lag behind, I have to push him, because if he starts to fall back, we start to fall back as a unit and we can't have that. We won't finish our goal in time."

For those who have known these two since freshman year, it's no secret that they struggled academically. Both agree that ever since they decided to join the Marines they learned more discipline

and have become more ambitious. Luna explained, "Being a marine is more of a mental thing than a physical thing. If your mind tells your body that you can't run 3 miles under 18 minutes, then your body is automatically going to react to it and believe that it can't, so basically you have to believe you can do anything." They've applied this same concept to their academics and now hold good averages and are on their way to graduating in June 2014.

When asked why they chose the Marines out of all the other military branches, Mendez boldly stated that he wanted to defend Democracy. "I have pride in my country and I appreciate what this country stands for, and I would be honored to be part of the team that defends our freedom." Luna says that at first he wanted to be part of the army, but he wasn't sure, and after talking to his grandfather who had a big influence on him, he followed Kenny's advice to join the Marines. "Being in the Marines kept my mind off things, especially since my grandfather died two weeks before I started training." Both agree that they needed a challenge and after exploring other options they agreed that the Marines were the best fit for them.

When asked what kind of advice they would offer to the stu-

dents who are thinking of joining the Marines, Mendez urgently said, "Stay focused in school and pass your classes. Try your best and don't quit, because if you quit now, you'll quit in life, and this advice goes to the girls as well because even though they're females, it doesn't mean they won't go through the same thing the males go through."

Mendez has always expressed that he wanted to be a part of the Marines, but many had their doubts about him because of his care-free attitude. And Luna, with his short fuse and wild temper, knew he wanted to be part of a military branch. Over the course of their high school career and the beginning of their physical training, their attitudes in life began to noticeably change, which became evident in their studies, in their social life, and in their personal goals. "In the Marines, we have a saying; 'Semper Fidelis,' which means 'Always faithful.' It means that we are always faithful to the Marines and what they stand for and the brotherhood that we've created."

Currently, Luna and Mendez are called "Poolees", but they have every intention of one day earning the title "Marine."



New Season, New Faces

By: Asia Sanchez

As they prepare for their season, the Walton Wildcats softball team works extensively to improve their chances of winning the playoffs. What are they doing in preparation for such a big event? One might say physical conditioning and a healthy diet are key to a successful game but as an everchanging high school team, tryouts play an enormous role. Before fall selections, the team from the previous year was still tightly knit, having gone through a whole season together. They're a family that has achieved a sort of untouchable bond. As the new year rolls around, however, seniors graduate and the new faces of last year become the old faces of the fall term. Amanda Rivera, an experienced member of the softball team and a high school junior, tells of the team's new hardships. "We all have our own weaknesses and strengths," she explains.

"They just have to find their struggles and build on them. Soon enough, they'll be helping some other new kid. I struggle with ground ball, but others worked with me and helped to make me better. It's like a system." What Rivera was referring to was the buddy system. It helps to ensure that the newer members have someone to help guide them on the unfamiliar fields and bases. To her, the system is the most important part of the season. Mr. Hall, the team's coach, isn't so worried about the new members. He knows that the rookies are comfortable enough, now that the year is rolling on steady. What worries him most is how cold they'll be when the winter months start to work their way in. "The newer kids are the least of my worries, you know? The cold weather kills us all and really adds to the stress." Despite the chill growing in the air, the team will continue to work hard with the new additions and the obstacles that spring up on the road to playoffs.



Teacher of The Month

By: Brianne Carson

In order to determine who the teacher of the month should be, students from grades nine through twelve were asked to name their top three favorite teachers. All votes were carefully tallied to determine our first teacher of the month recipient. This month's teacher of the month is Dr. Abikzer. For those that don't know, Dr. Abikzer teaches ELA and has been a member of the Celia Cruz faculty for five years, with this being his sixth year as a teacher. When asked who their top three favorite teachers are, the students were not hes-

itant in saying Abikzer was either number one, or in their top three. Students were also asked why those teachers are their top teachers. For Abikzer, most of the students shared the same reasoning in selecting him. One reason being, his sense of humor. It is guaranteed that every class he teaches, there is a number of students who adore his humor. One student stated "I like Abikzer because, he's strict but also really cares about his students. He comes in and he gives off this vibe in which you know he doesn't work just for the money, but because he likes doing what he does." Congratulations, Dr. Abikzer!

