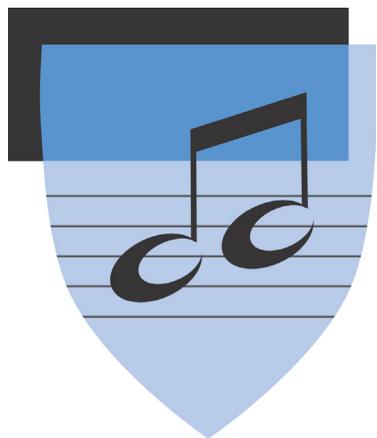


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## Performance Choir at Mayor De Blasio's Inauguration

By Samantha Hawkins



On January first, our schools Mens and Womens Choir came together under the name "The Performance Choir of Celia Cruz Bronx High School of Music" and opened up Mayor De Blasio's mayoral inauguration hosted at City Hall. The performance got much recognition and opened many doors for the school to further in their performance opportunities. It took many hours of after school practice as well as several rehearsals during the winter break to prepare for this big event.

*Continued on page 6*

## Winter Concert Series

By Paul Bonilla

The Eleventh Annual Winter Concert Series began on Wednesday evening, December 4th, 2013. The concert consisted of multiple pieces of varying moods, keeping the audience entertained. From the opening act of the Stage Choir to the closing moments of Celia Cruz's very own Lating/jazz band, Take the "4" Train, every moment was entertaining.

*Continued on Page 2*



## Winter Formal

By Ian Matthews

On Friday, December 13th, 2013, Celia Cruz students were in for a night of elegance and fun at Celia Cruz's first annual winter formal. With the formality of this first C.C event, participants were to dress in their favorite formal attire.

*Continued on Page 6*





# Winter Concert Series

By Paul Bonilla

The conductors of the ensembles all brought something exciting to the table, Lisa Gwasda's Stage Choir and her Sweet out of Lines enchanted the crowd with their lovely demeanor and angelic voices. Ms. Penelope Jacono's Symphonic Band displayed nothing but finesse and elegance in their sound. The Stage Choir displayed a wide range in their selection of music. Ms. Lisa Gwasda took us on a journey that started with the "Pledge of Allegiance" by Laurie Hochman and then shared with us their talents when they performed "Selections

from Ellington's Sacred Music" by Duke Ellington. The performance came to an end when they performed "Can I Close The Door On Love?" featuring solos from Alice Olom and Bernie Joel Martinez. Ms. Penelope Smetters-Jacano's Symphonic Band played a set of three songs, "Winter Dances" by Brian Balmages, "Tricycle" by Andrew Boysen J.R and "Enchanted Spaces" by Samuel Hazo. Mr. Jon Lijoli and Ms. Kayla Wands, student teachers, made their debut as conductors. The Sweet Out-Of-Lines under the Ms. Gwasda enchanted the audience with their Christmas spirits. They began their performance



with "Ave Maria" a piece they executed beautifully. Their performance also included "Palm 150" by Joshua Mintz. Their final piece was an original it was a cover to the famous pop song "Wrecking Ball". It was an amazing performance, leaving the crowd thirsty for more.

# Where Are They Now: Freddy Rondon

By Brianne Carson

Freddy Rondon, Class of 2010 alumni is known in CC as a legend. The former trumpet player is currently in his fourth year of college, majoring in Music Performance at the Manhattan campus of Nyack College. I asked if he can explain how college life is and he stated "It's amazing,

if you know what you're doing. If you don't, then it's beyond your imagination. You get to do things you want to do, being that it's standing right there in front of you". Although currently unemployed, he is searching for jobs music related. But, for the mean while, he is assisting differ-

ent music ensembles. I also asked if there was any advice he'd like to give when going to college, he said "Do something you want to do, not something you feel like you have to do. Otherwise you don't give, nor show enough passion in what you are doing".



## January

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14 SLT Meeting 5 p.m.	15	16	17 Midterms ~English ~Foreign Language ~Music ~Science	18
19	20 Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day ~No School	21 Midterms ~English ~Foreign Language ~Music ~Science	22 Midterms ~Global History ~US History ~Mathematics	23 Midterms ~Global History ~US History ~Mathematics	24 Midterm Make Up Day	25
26	27 9:15 a.m. Living Environments RCT in Global Studies*  1:15 p.m. Comprehensive English Physics Setting/ Physics*	28 9:15 a.m. RE Global History & Geography RCT in Writing  1:15 p.m. Algebra 2. Trigonometry RCT in Mathematics*	29 9:15 a.m. RE in U.S. History & Government  Geometry  RCT Science*  1:15 p.m. Physical Setting/ Earth Science Physical Setting/ Chemistry RCT in Reading	30 9:15 a.m. Integrated Algebra  RCT in U.S. History & Government.*	31	1
<b>Regents week</b>						

## A Year in Transition: Mr. Ram

By Paul Bonilla

479 plus Ram 480 people make up the Celia Cruz Bronx High School of Music (C.C) community. That number includes students, teachers, administrators, and surrounding faculty. But numbers paint no pictures and sing no melodies. 480 people confirm the existence of a community indeed, but 480 as a number tells no stories (nothing of each individual digit). There are compelling stories throughout the C.C community. Some involve tragic losses, others motivational triumphs, but few combine them both and include the frigid elegance of the American dream. This is the case with our former counselor, now Assistant Principal Vern Ram. His story starts in Guyana, South America (not India or Dominican Republic as assumed in common misconceptions). This third-world country was Mr. Ram's birthplace and where he lived up to the age of ten. The early chapters of his life as he recalled it were tough, as his "needs" overshadowed the "wants" by miles. He grew up without many luxuries, according to him these things weren't even thought of. A proper education was hard to come by, but because of the country's economic status, school was the least important on a list of widespread needs that included food, shelter and clothing. Grueling times tend to prompt maturity, and it did with Mr. Ram. All the hardships in the end amplified the appreciation that came upon his arrival to United States. Mr. Ram came from a place

that averages 85 degrees every day to an environment where temperatures hit below zero, was a challenge on its own. He had to adjust to New York's fluctuating When asked about his development and transition into New York City he responded, "It was an experience growing up in the Bronx; you witness numerous things" Despite witnessing robbery, homicide and drug activity he found himself not taking part in any of it. "It was never boring" he added but



Mr. Ram took other people's experiences and learned from them. At a young age his observant nature and ability to analyze situations guided him along his years in the school system. He saw most of his friends fall into grasp of gang activity and drug use, a path that usually led to jail in the long As a Walton High School alumnus, Mr. Ram saw many of the activities going on the streets leak into his high school. Again, he

fought off the negativity by occupying himself with other positive activities and making sure he was surrounded by the right group of people. Even though college wasn't his initial focus after his high school graduation, he inserted all his efforts becoming a working man. Mr. Ram managed to network with the right people and remained in the school system, a step that officially made him a productive member in society. At the age of 16, he began to work at the District Office, then became part of the original C.C faculty, he then moved into counseling for 7 years, returned to college to finish up his 2nd Administration and became our Assistant Principal, a position he enjoys. When asked about what he misses the most about being Guidance counselor, he said he missed the The struggles of his childhood were a motivational fuel; his experiences back home made him see the world differently and his understanding of society kept him on the right path to success. His reasons for striving for the best was so that one day his kids could live comfortably and to ensure that they would be provided with the things that just weren't available to him. He continues to strive for this as he is continues being a college student at the age of 35. He may be a single number in our school's community but his

## A Concert to Remember

By Anaie Loyola

Due to the snow, the Winter Concert was moved to the 11th, but the minor setback did not lessen the meaning behind the emotional performance. Mr. Mabry gave his regards to Marissa Alp's family who all came to watch this part of the winter series from our school. The Wind Ensemble started off the concert with a beautiful performance in which every solo played beautifully to draw in the audience. Every single piece played had a story behind it, from international backgrounds to a marines' march to a tragic love story. The whole ensemble put their hearts into it and made it astounding. Every dramatic climax or lingering peaceful ending to some pieces left spines tin-

gling.

Their fifth and final piece was dedicated to Ms. Alp. Ms. Jacono and Ms. Perez spoke of how they knew her closely and her big love for music. They both made it clear that this piece would be a testament to her and how they will

remember her. This performance was the most emotional of the night, the somberness and tranquil meaning to her remembrance was truly incredible. Ms. Jacono then gave Ms. Alp's family a bouquet of flowers, with tears in her eyes. As the Wing Ensem-

ble ended their song, the audience stood up and applauded the magnificent performance.

Before the Womens' Choir began their performance, a small piano recital, consisting of Me. Gagstetter's students, took place. Alexy Perez and Ashley Leighton both played one song each and did so with very well executed performances which wowed the crowd like no other. The women's choir began singing two arias that they had sung at The Metropolitan Opera, which had beautiful harmonies. The next piece had been acted out as it was written to be the story of a love affair, two solos both high sopranos were sung beautifully and giv-





ing the audience a show to not forget. They then sang the famous song from The West Side Story, "I Feel Pretty". Their next piece, "The Greatest Love of All" was dedicated to Ms. Alp. The soloist wowed the crowd making Marissa Alp's family feel cherished and appreciative towards her. On a merrier tune, they commenced their set of holiday pieces which seemed to fill the audience with cheer. There was another intermission for Emery Muntz and Bryan Bernabel's solo piano performances. Both had their own elements and musical talent embedded in each piece. To close the concert, the jazz band played old classic jazz songs. The concert turned out to be a success. Arnold Perla, who also played in the concert, told me what it was like to play "Stellamaris". At first, students weren't very fond of the piece not until the composer, Samuel Hazel, came to rehearse with the kids. With him, they had not only practiced the song but found ways to truly come to terms with what the song had meant to them. He helped show the students how to put themselves in the piece, where everyone had a story and an opportunity to tell it. The ensemble had hesitated in sharing their stories but eventually found ways to pour their feelings into the song, turning it into one of their biggest successes.



## All Play

Elijah Torres

Playing at concerts is a regular here at Celia Cruz, but last year the music department started a new tradition. On December 20th all the groups who share the same periods played for each other to show off their talent after a semesters worth of practice. For the freshmen ensembles it took place during the first two periods, for the intermediate along with show choir it happened during fourth and fifth, and for the advance ensembles and women's choir

along with sweet out -of- lines during sixth and seventh. The mini- show allowed students to gain confidence through the support of each other. As each group performed the rest listened and quietly waited for their turn. The silence is then replaced with a vibrant sound that illustrates the effort and dedication these young musicians and directors have applied throughout their time. At the conclusion of each group the room is again silent, but quickly filled with the applause of everybody. As artists we all un-

derstand the feeling of putting in time to create a masterpiece. We have all had that feeling in our stomach wondering whether or not our sound appeals to our audience. During this session students had the ability to play or sing comfortably and were able to express their emotions through their songs. Mr. West said "It is amazing to get to hear each other play because during concerts everybody is concerned about playing well."

## The Mr. Holland's Opus and Shrek The Musical 20th Century Fox grants

Elijah Torres

Congratulations to the music department for winning the Mr. Holland's Opus and Shrek The Musical grants. The Mr. Holland's Opus Grant started in 1996 by Mr. Michael Kamen, the composer of the film Mr. Holland's Opus, awards music programs in need

with new and refurbished instruments. This allows more students to engage themselves in a music education. Some of the instruments awarded to our school are trumpets, clarinets, violins, cellos, and bassoons. Mr. West, Ms. Jacano, Mr. Ram, and Mr. Mabry all played an important role in applying for this grant. As for the

Shrek The Musical Grant, Ms. Jacano won the award through her NYSSMA membership. The grant is worth \$10,000 and it is still being decided where it should be applied. Celia Cruz is one out of five schools across the country to win; including schools in Los Angeles, Kansas City, and Virginia. In response to winning the

award Ms. Jacano said, "I am excited. We are always in need of repair and extra instruments. I feel lucky." Winning these grants shows our school's initiative to seek additional funding and support to ensure a quality music education for our students. It is an outstanding achievement that we should all be proud of.



## Khan Academy

**K**han Academy is a non-profit educational website created in 2006 by educator Salman Khan, a graduate of MIT and Harvard Business School. The stated mission is to provide 'a free world-class education for anyone anywhere. Recently this web-site has been gaining popularity among our school; many people say this website really helps them in their education. The website covers many topics from algebra to chemistry, and many teachers have been

having student's use this web site for Regents preparation. One such teacher is Ms. Brewster; she said she loves using it. Her goal is for students to have a way of reviewing materials they didn't understand in class. All of her students are currently participating in using the web-site for assistance. This web-site is a very great aid to any class, if you do not understand a topic you will get it on this web-site. Overall, it is a simple user friendly website that any person can use. My favorite

feature about this website is that a person can sign in with their facebook or Google account, eliminating remembering extra usernames and passwords. From the time I used it I really enjoyed the features it has, such as a progress tracker and recommendations for future lessons. This also has a problem database; people should use it to help study for the regents that are coming up in January. Overall the website is a 10/10 and every student should use it.



## Winter Concert Series Comes to a Close

By Ambar Lopez

**T**he third installment of the Celia Cruz Winter Concert Series was exciting not only for the audience, but for a new set of students as well.

The freshman concert band performed first, conducted by Ms. Jacano. Although this was the first time performing in front of an audience, many of the performers played confidently. In the final piece, Ignite the Night by James Swearingen, the percussion section made their presence known.

After the Concert Band finished, Maya Merced played Voice of the Heart by Henri Van Gael on piano. The performance itself was beautiful as the song was peaceful and soothing, a great departure from the energetic start of the show.

The Overture Orchestra played wonderfully, conducted by David west. The students played songs

by Meyer and Cuellar with confidence and sound quality.

The audience was then treated with an upbeat, percussion-filled performance of Life is a Carnival by Celia Cruz. Current student, Kiana Reyes and former student, Denzel Santos danced to the piece, surprising and energizing the crowd.

Jose Mateo followed this performance with his piano solo. He played Prelude in E Minor by Chopin. This work was very moving and his focus remained constant throughout the entire piece.

The final installment of the Celia Cruz Winter Concert Series was a wonderful way to finish off the first set of Celia Cruz's bi-yearly concerts. It started off with a rousing performance from our concert orchestra, conducted by David West. They performed the Game of Thrones theme song and four movements of "Christmas Concerto" by Corelli. The most favored piece among both

the students and the audience was Idylls of Pegasus, which told a story of the mythical winged horse known as a pegasus.

After the orchestra performed, a few piano students performed individual piano solos. Angela Diaz performed Kiss the Rain, a complex work by Yiruma. Raisa Bonner, on the other hand performed the well known pop hit, Benny and the Jets by Elton John which was both well done and extremely entertaining.

Mixed choir came up next, dressed in matching holiday apparel, to sing beautiful classical works by Handel, Schmid and Vivaldi. Their performance was full and diverse with solid harmonies and skilled focus.

The audience were surprised with a couple of extra performances, that were not part of the regular music curriculum. The first performance was from School Boyz, our school's capella all-boys group. They sang some popular hits from yester-

year in perfect harmonies and enough personality that each member was able to stand out. The other was Four Women, an all female dance and song with four soloists. The song was about four individual women trying to find their identities as a result of the hardship they face as african american women. Each soloist gave strong and individual performances while the dancers emulated their singers story and energy perfectly.

Full orchestra, once again conducted by David West, closed the show with two beautiful pieces; a perfect end to an entertaining evening.

It's hard not to be proud of the successes of our students and that was made clear as friends and families congratulated the performers on their successes after each show. It's exciting to see everyone's progress as both artists and members of an ensemble, and I am excited for our next series of concerts in the spring.





## Performance Choir at Mayor De Blasio's Inauguration

By Samantha Hawkins

On the day of the Inauguration, the choir along with chaperones Mr. Mabry, Mr. Hall, Mr. Gaggsterter, and the choir's conductor Ms. Bergland had to be at city hall at eight in the morning to go through security and

have a stage rehearsal. Performance choir was told to wear many layers under their clothing because they could not sing in their coats. The performance was beautiful and the choir had a wonderful time. After the Inauguration the choir was able to meet our New Mayor De

Blasio and take a picture of the new mayor." The students stated that "The rehearsals and waking up early and taking time out of their break was worth it because it was a great experience to perform at City Hall for the Mayor and everyone else there to celebrate the incoming

choir was congratulated on the performance by many people.



## Armoury Ice Skating

By Darly Lara

On November 21st the Celia Cruz Bronx High School of Music's Women's Choir had the honor to perform at St. Nicolas of Tolentine for the blessings ceremony of the up and coming Kingsbridge National ice-skating rink. The choir sang The Star Spangled Banner and a song requested by the church leader to fit the occasion, The Greatest Love by Whitney Hous-

ton. Former ice hockey player and New York Ranger's centre, Mark Messier attended the event along with many representatives of the New York City Council who are in favor of the Kingsbridge National Ice-skating Rink. Not only is the City Council donating \$320M, they are also creating a partnership with schools such as Walton Campus. This partnership with Walton Campus will allow students to take ice-skating

courses for gym credits. In the future, city representatives plan to give the youth of the Bronx the opportunity to create hockey teams and even practice for figure skating competitions. According to Celia Cruz Bronx High School of Music's physical educator, Mr. Boggan, "the ice rink would help kids develop new skills and can impact their life positively".





## Alumni Dinner

By Elijah Torres

On November 27, 2013 Celia Cruz alumni from various classes met once again in the band room at Lehman College. This event was organized by Ms. Jacano to raise funds for the upcoming Disney trip. The price of admission was \$20 per ticket. It was planned for weeks and involved many of our students current students who provided the food for the dinner. To ensure that it had a strong turnout, Ms. Jacano reached out to over 30 alumni who have stayed in contact over the years through social media. The attendees varied from students who graduated with Celia Cruz's first class back in 2007 to as recently as the class of 2013. Many of our current seniors recognized the faces of alumni who had impacted their high school career when they themselves attended. Over dinner they talked, and after, some even stayed for an interview. One of the alumni who attended the dinner was Omar Calixto, the first to ever win a seat at All-State from Celia Cruz for clarinet. When asked



what his favorite memory was he responded "Walking to and from the college and playing in the band room." Our salutatorians and valedictorians from the past two years were also re-united and sat at a table with one another discussing past A.P. classes they all took while in High School. Many of our past students still continue to study music in college such as Christine Dookie, salutatorian for the class of 2012, who attends Ithaca College studying Music Education. Another is Johnny Molina, Percussion Section Leader for Alumni to visit for years to come.

teaches a marching band called the Crimson Kings and plays gigs at Latin/Jazz Music Festivals. In the end he said, "It was great to see some familiar faces who had impacted my music career, if it wasn't for them I would have not had the confidence to learn to read music and play in front of an audience." Not all of the people in attendance were past band students Joy Estevez, who sang in the women's choir as the alto 2 section leader, also came to talk with her friends from C.C. Overall, the night was a huge success opening the doors for Alumni to visit for years to come.



## Celia Cruz Pep Rally & Homecoming Dance

By Darly Lara

The pep rally intertwined with colors day. The purpose of the pep rally was to see which grade had the most school spirit. The Pep rally involved cheerleading, cheering, dancing, basketball shot contests, and all around hype. Each grade was asked to make the most noise in order to see

which grade had the most school spirit. After everybody was asked to go to the dance floor and dance. All the students ran to the middle and got down. After they were dismissed and were sent back to their classes. That did not mean that the day of fun was over.

Homecoming was pre-

sented with a bang! Students were hyped up from the pep rally and everyone got excited. Students danced from 7:00 PM to 11:00 PM. All genres of Music were played there from Bachata to Hip-Hop. All of the food sold out. Students were exposed to tasteful dancing with members of the faculty

monitoring the dance floor. The floor was packed and everyone was having the time of their lives. Students were relieved that it was on a Friday so they could get home after dancing. The success of Homecoming led to the creation of Winter Formal.





# Winter Formal

By Ian Matthews

Entering gym 2 and 3 with their favorite suits and dresses, Celia Cruz students and friends were delighted to a transformed gym. The C.C. student council redecorated the room to try to capture the feel of an elegant dining experience. The room was full of soft lighting that warmed

students and brought the mood to a graceful night. In the dining room, ongoers were allowed to sit and socialize with their friends and eat wonderful food provided by the student council. As the night went on, students moved from the dining room to the dance floor. With a live DJ, students danced the night away to their favorite music with their fel-

low classmates. Overall, Celia Cruz's winter formal was a night of fun; everyone enjoyed themselves that night. Alice Olom Senior Representative, commented "I enjoyed and am happy with the turnout of our first annual winter formal, and only hope for more students and elegance for years to come."



# Spirit Week

By Darly Lara

Spirit week was a very eventful week. Students from C.C. showed their school spirit with their creative clothing and their positive attitude, it was a fun week for Students and teachers as well.

The week began with Twin day on Tuesday. People were dressing alike and "twinning" it up with their Friends. We also had a couple of "real" twins.

On Wednesday we had blast from the past, day, where students dressed as if they lived in the 60's, 70's, and 80's. Students looked amazing and even played as characters within the time period.

Thursday was the fan favorite, Pajama Day. Most of the students came to school in pajamas. People had on overalls, Bath robes, slippers, among other things. They really did wake up and go to school.

The week was wrapped up with colors day on Friday. Each grade had their own color for the Pep Rally, which involved dancing, cheering, contests, and all around fun. This event was cheerfull and brought the whole school together on Spirit Week.





## Teacher of The Month: Mr. Mata

By Brianne Carson

In order to determine who the teacher of the month should be, students from ninth through twelfth grade were asked to name their top three favorite teachers. We counted their votes and the Teacher of the Month would be determined by the teacher who had the most votes. This month's Teacher of the Month is Mr. Mata.

Working with us for seven years, Mr. Mata is one of our four mathematics teachers, as well as the school's yoga instructor for our after school yoga class on Thurs-

days. Before working in CC, Mata worked in an elementary school. When he left that school and interviewed for a job at Celia Cruz, he never thought he would be hired on the spot. For his interview, instead of just answering some questions, he was put in as a substitute teacher for the whole day to determine whether he would officially get the job or not. He did such a good job that he was hired immediately. From his first day up until today he always been willing to help everyone out, students and staff alike. Even on his free periods, he allows students to come into

his classroom in CC-11 and talk to him, whether it's about something that may be bothering them or just to have a very intellectual and inspirational conversation with him; his door is always open. We asked Mata about how he feels about being Teacher of the Month. He said he feels very appreciated and recognized. A few days ago he went to his own library and looked through his old school yearbook. Looking at the Teacher of the Year award and Teacher of the Month awards given to his past teachers; wishing one day he'd get one of his own. Finally getting his wish we award Mr. Mata, Teacher of The Month. Congratulations!

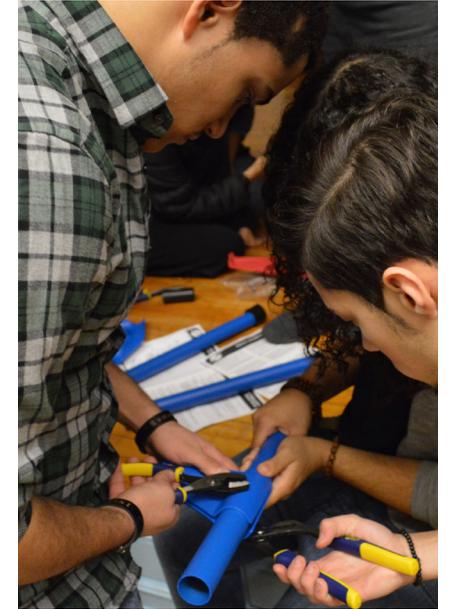


## Recycle-A-Bicycle

By Arnold Perla

Recycle-A-Bicycle is a community - based bike shop and non profit organization that Facilitates job training and environmental education. RAB offers an earn a bike program in which Students involved in one of their school based programs has the opportunity to basic bicycle Mechanics and are able to earn their own bicycle in exchange for volunteer hours. Together with Celia

Cruz Recycle a Bicycle has started their 22nd year a bike program. The program will be run by Dr. Abikzer and Gatica This program was only open to 15 Students. Recycle a bicycle provides all the tools and bicycles necessary for learning basic bicycle Mechanics. Students will also be able to participate in RAB's various community events and have The opportunity to receive an internship as a bike mechanic through this program.



## Opening Act

By Brianne Carson

Opening act is an after school program, held in the teacher's cafeteria every wednesday, where students from all the schools in the campus come together to express how they feel freely, and without judgment, through improvisation. In the beginning they start with little skits, later are developed into pre-characters for stories soon to be performed; learning more to improve their acting skills. On 11, 2013, they had their first performance of the year in which the students show what they learned from the program. The show brought both laughs and tears to the audience. Our CC students; Nadejah Green, Daniel Fair, Bryan O'Neil, Stephine Nelson, Angela Diaz, Chelsea Marfeel tinez, and alumni Francisco Gonzalez participate in this program. All sharing the same topic: spiritual in which later are developed into pre-characters for stories soon to be performed; learning more to improve their acting skills. On December 11, 2013, they had their first perfor-





## Guitar Master Class

By Edward Lorenzo  
&  
Paul Bonilla

It is impressive how universal music is as a language. SUNY Distinguished Professor James Piorkowski established a similar idea, and he did so wonderfully through the means of his Classical Guitar. Professor Piorkowski aside from providing an outstanding narrative driven performance. He also held a master class where some students received a lesson teaching not only the individuals with their guitars but as well as the audience who watched attentively. Classical Guitar combines the diversity of culture with the elegance of art, the end result was a portrait human expression.

The rare style that is Classical Guitar, intrigues many, Professor Piorkowski though took it one step fur-

ther by spreading this antique all over the world. He has been heard in Jamaica, Puerto Rico, Venezuela, Spain, France, Germany, the Czech Republic, Hungary, Slovakia and throughout both the United States and Canada. The love he has for music is remarkable, the visit serves as an example. Impressed with the enthusiasm the class showed last year, he not only visited again but brought with him the hope of extending the Classical Guitar Program to after school. Mr. Montes, a former student teacher here

in Celia Cruz and also former student of Professor Piorkowski at Fredonia, started the program last year and its attendance led Professor Piorkowski to apply for an additional grant for the extension of this year's program. Mr. Montes refers to him as his "mentor" and rightfully so, his love for music is quite an inspiration. The featuring master class included performances by Jurel Castillo, Alfred Rosario and Ricardo Lopez; students ranging in skill level. The event was a success, as all of the students present were interested.



## Lets Go Celia Cruz Titans!

Catherine Vargas

This year was a year to remember as Walton Campus had their very first season of Flag Football. The Flag Football League is between all 5 schools on our campus and the Celia Cruz team is known as The Titans. During games our team rocked out in their red

jerseys and went for the win. So far our team has been one of the top in the League and does not seem to ever back down. Despite cold winter weather and other after school activities, the Titans find time to practice and participate in every game. As an individual who has gone to a few of their games, I can honestly say that

the Titans are a tough team to beat. One unique thing about the Titans is that they are mixed with T&P's very own Knights. Since the coaches of both teams get along and are good friends they have decided to have the two teams mixed with both T&P and Celia Cruz students. Regardless of the mixture, the Titans belong to Celia Cruz and are going for the 1st place spot in the league. Anyone is welcome to come down and see the team as well as join if they feel they have what it takes to play Flag Football. For more information on the team and on upcoming games please go see Mr. Ferguson as he will be happy to answer any and all questions. Way to go Titans!

