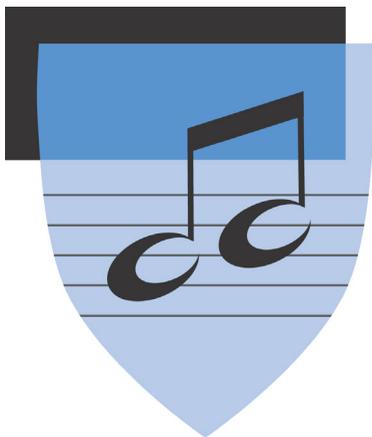


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Cruz News

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Carnegie Hall



By Paul Bonilla

Celia Cruz Bronx High school of Music's Stage Choir alongside with 5 other vocal scholastic programs nearly blew the roof off Carnegie Hall on the afternoon of March 23, 2014. The spectacle was purposed to pay a gracious tribute to one of the jazz greats, Duke Ellington. A man that with his with the ingenuity, elegance, and flare revolutionized the jazz genre as a whole.
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Senior Trip

By Anaia Loyolav

Through the three day trip to the Poconos from March 7th to the 9th, the senior class of 2014 were very excited to head off to Split Rock Resort to enjoy senior trip. Every single senior ready for the trip, packed for all the fun to happen, waited upon the delayed bus that came around the afternoon and leaving all at the resort two hours later.
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Softball Season Has Arrived

By Catherine Vargas

Its that time of year again where Softball becomes one of the most talked sports all across the campus. Walton's Girls Softball Team work day in and day out to perfect their skills and bring us home the win.
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Carnegie Hall

By Paul Bonilla

His notable efforts made him a pivotal figure in the history of the jazz culture, and his works nothing less than praiseworthy. The Tribute, named “Ellington’s Sacred Music”, took the audience through a selected set list of Duke Ellington’s finest works like “Come Sunday”, “Its Freedom”, “Father Forgive”, just to name a few. The Jazz at Lincoln Center Youth Orchestra, composed of 20 talented

winds and string instrumentalist, were the center of it all. Accompanying the Jazz at Lincoln Center Youth Orchestra were Jimmy Heath, Sean Jones, Vincent Gardner, Damien Sneed, and Wynton Marsails; all of them celebrated musicians that gave the young talents a dose of archaic intellect. In addition, Lalah Hathaway, Nicole Cabell, and Rufus Bonds Jr. made their soloist appearances throughout the show. The entire jazz ensemble, from the acoustic string bassist to the sopranos and everything in between



Senior Trip

By Anaie Loyola

Many of the senior class went off exploring to where they could go; some went to pool/sauna/jacuzzi downstairs, while others, went to the Galleria to grab lunch from the hunger they had. Everyone ecstatic to be in their rooms and hanging out

with their friends in their rooms, talking about the seniors from other schools being there too. All went exceptionally well through dinner with added dessert, everyone was getting ready for the first night to dance with the other schools- the entire floor for Celia Cruz was a total rampage of excitement to dance the night away, and an amazing curfew which was late into the night. Everyone was there together dancing and feeling good, being the first night to welcoming all the seniors into the resort and spending their time enjoying the luxuries included. Sign





April

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			



Working the Voice

By Ambar I. Lopez

Recently, Celia Cruz students were thrilled to have two master classes taught by two different Broadway stars, Linda Eder and Christiane Noll. Several students selected pieces to perform and lent their voices to the class, including; Alice Olom, Josiah Spellman, Maybelline, Javier many others; for individual critiques in front of an audience comprised of their classmates. These brave

student take advantage of their vocal potential as comfortably as possible. She got the audience involved in trying different vocal exercises and providing their opinion at the end of each lesson. She also gave several tips on increasing the amount of air a singer can utilize and on improving their own belt. Throughout the entire lesson, she stressed the importance of developing one's own unique sound. The workshop was not only informative but inspiring that was made clear in the faces of the students as they left the Recital Hall at Lehman College, already mulling over the main points of the class.

Christiane Noll visited the fol-

was unafraid of getting up close and personal with her pupils. She took students aside in hopes of giving them personal situations to work and relate to the song they are singing. For example, when Kiana performed, she asked to to imagine singing to someone she loved. She chose Nikki Minaj. When she started singing again, she used comedic gestures that changed the nature of her performance completely. When she was done teaching,

performances, which were picked apart by both singers were revered by the students and made for an informative series of classes.

Linda Eder, best known for her distinct voice and heavy belting, visited Celia Cruz to conduct a master class on voice development and strategies. Eder was very professional in her lessons and focused on letting each

lowing week along with her pianists. Her approach was different from Linda's because she focused on getting the most out of a song's emotional content, essentially bringing it to life. Noll

she performed pieces (the audition sequence) from her show. By the end of the master class, students were thrilled by the display and the music department is already working on getting her to come back for another class.



Carnegie Hall

were under the conduction of David Berger. The sheer size of the ensemble matched the massiveness of the event. As every seat at the Carnegie became occupied, all 170 talented vocalist from our tri-state area absorbed the radiant attention. The army of voices sat behind the Instrumentalist, idle yet colossal-like, similar to a sleeping giant ready to awake at the click of the swinging baton. And by no means was Mr. Berger fazed by the ensemble's strength in numbers or their apparent potential energy; no, he was ready, he was ready to guide them all including the audience through an unforgettable musical journey.

The show opened up with the choir and Baritone soloist Rufus Bonds Jr.'s performance of "In The Beginning". The

strength in numbers was immediately felt, the air itself dense with musical notes, and the floor rattled with the vibrating waves. The audience must've felt it all, because at the end of this lengthy piece, the crowded erupted into a thundering applause. This

was then followed by the performances of "Ain't But The One", "Will You Be There", and "Ninety-Nine Percent" that Rufus Bonds Jr. and the choir sung gracefully. The Jazz at The Lincoln Center Youth Orchestra enhanced the ambience with their

sectional performance of "Praise God", a piece that had a memorable trumpet solo from Vincent Gardner that playfully teased the audience with his instrument's highest notes. Lalah Hathaway took the stage after and performed "Tell Me It's The Truth" and "Twenty-Third Pslams", two songs that evenly explored the vocal range of Ms. Hathaway. Nicole Cabell and her "Come Sunday" rendition was a polite revisit to one of Duke Ellington's recognize pieces. Arguably one of the highlights of the entire show was the choir's collaboration with one of the Lincoln Center's tap dancer who earned the loudest applause of the afternoon. Ni-





cole Cabell and the choir then sang “Almighty God Has Those Angels” that ended in the shows intermission.

The band opened up the second half of the show with their performance of “The Shepherd” that had some wonderfully played solos from Jimmy Heath on the Clarinet and Vincent Gardner again on the trumpet. “It’s Freedom” was the next song on the

set list and it had Rufus Bonds Jr. narrating and at the same time dazzling the crowd with vocal riffs that did nothing but emphasize the song’s meaning. There was solo from Mr. Bonds, in which he sang “Don’t Get Down On Your Knees To Pray”. The narrator and the choir returned to perform “Father Forgive”, a touching piece that

mellowed the ambience of the entire auditorium. Nicole Cabell’s “Praise God and Dance” performance with the choir paved the emotional road to the grand finale. It was full of life and every single vocal note was felt. At the end of the “Dance Finale”, Ms. Lisa Gwasda and the other musical instructors of each school took a bow and in re-

turn a deserving applause. The guide had done his job; Mr. David Berger conducted and kept the energy up throughout the show. A show that marked its place in history in one of the most prestigious venues of our nation, the Carnegie Hall.





Y.A.B.C Graduation Program

By Ian Matthews

On February 28th 2014, forty-four students graduated from the Walton Campus Y.A.B.C Program at the Walton Campus Auditorium. This event involved many people from our school including the Women's Choir, which performed the National Anthem for the event. Not only so but several teachers from our school, including: Mr. Abikzer, Mr. Hall, Mr. Fink and Mr. Tavarez, were also heavily involved, taking extra

hours so that these students could reach their current level of success.

The Young Adults Borough Centers (Y.A.B.C.) program was created in hopes of allowing people going through hard times to complete their high school education in hopes that they will continue their education and reach even higher levels of success. This was made clear during several heart-wrenching speeches including the keynote address, spoken by the Chan-

cellor, Carmen Farina. Her speech told the story of her own child, who had a hard time trying to complete college but eventually ended up finding success working in criminal justice. She left her audience with the following advice, "Make your kids work hard for what they need to do" and "Never take your education for granted because it means more money for your future." After Chen-cello Farina's thought-provoking speak, Celia Cruz's Women's Choir Performed a rendition of Whitney Houston's

"The Greatest Love", which brought several of the graduates to tears. Next, Thomas Lopez, Assistant Principal of YABC gave a few words about his success, and posed a challenge to the graduates. He challenged them to achieve more than he has and concluded with these words. "You are living testimonials to success, make something of it." he event then concluded with the ceremonial turning of the tassles and throwing the caps into the air.



David Abreu

Mr. Abreu lived a large portion of his life in Washington Heights, New York. Music has always been of little interest to him. In elementary school, he was very shy and uninterested in many of the extracurricular activities. He played the flute for a short time before dropping it and never regaining any passion for music despite his mother's suggestion to play the piano. Since arriving at C.C., his interest has since risen after witnessing many talented musicians.

Towards the conclusion of Spring 2013, David was "ready for a change." At this time, he has worked 17 years in Harlem and 6 years at a Junior High School. Becoming a counselor had transformed into a dream of his which could be accomplished with a license, Master's Degree, and the Open Market (all of which was available to him). In addition to applying for the position of counselor in various locations, Mr. Abreu also applied as a Para. In June, he was invited to an interview for a job as a Para. He was confident after his interview

and felt that his experience and knowledge gave him something to contribute. After several weeks went by, he received no notification pertaining to the job, he felt awful. He remained optimistic after recalling his mother telling him "David, things always happen for a reason." Later, while in the Caribbean, David received the message he had been hoping for.

Since then, David has been very happy with the staff, students, and administration of C.C. He says, "The staff is very hard-working, dedicated, friendly and family orientated. The administration is one of the

best I have worked with in all my years with the D.O.E." He believes Mr. Mabry made the school great and exciting. When I interviewed him he stated, "The good of the school is beneficial to all of us!"

Although it was challenging changing districts, he does not regret it. He said, "Sometimes in life we must do things that we are not happy with, but for me, being happy at my workplace is a priority because that is when I will give not 100% of myself, but rather 1000%. C.C. has brought back that missing component to my life and I am extremely grateful to the students, staff, and administration."





Senior Trip

up was right outside at the lobby and everyone ran up to check what was happening and what can be scheduled to do, so everyone had their own main events on this trip. The next day everyone had wanted to go to the waterpark, which was located at the Galleria, alongside with a arcade room, bowling area, billiards/ping-pong table, and a sports area for any who reserves a time being. Waterproof wristlets to show who is allowed to go into the waterpark for the time they can stay and enjoy all the water slides. Chaperones passed around all types of passes for every single thing to do, except for the arcade, the passes allowed both free access to billiards and ping pong to the sports area. Once all came back for dinner, the second night of dancing had come along, however, our senior class had other ideas in mind. Manhunt had begun and everyone scattered to not be caught and play in this entire hotel, it was like a giant doll house with many rooms named such as Melody/Harmony Room; everyone was eager to play. Although being caught by other schools, the senior class had to stopped playing but everyone enjoyed the time being and then went into each others' rooms to play games-even start a small party on the floor! Such a party even made other schools come upstairs and see what was going on. Being our last night, chaperones allowed for us to stay up a bit later to enjoy the last moments as a whole class however security had told everyone to get in bed for it was ruling in the hotel to sleep exactly at this time, so mostly of the students had stayed up in their own rooms making their luggages for tomorrow. The final day, either everyone went paintballing or shopping at the mall nearby the resort, sledding was another option, or just hanging out at the Galleria. As time came for everyone to come back, a quick lunch for all- everyone had brought down their luggages and room keys to just finally wait for all to get on their bus back home. Departure went smoothly and quietly, as all the seniors were all asleep and just rested from the great time of senior trip. Being back in school, seniors made new friends, memories, and all around good times to end their senior year right.





The Blood Drive

By Anaia Loyola

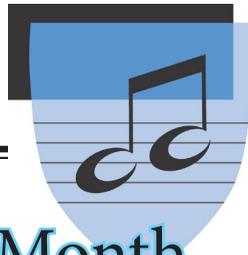
Our third Blood Drive had been bigger than the last two drives during the school year, with Jannie Revilla and Zachary Paige as co-leaders through- out the events of all blood drives. Both had fun and wished to do it again; finding their volunteer groups and organizing to announce

the event had made the fun. Being minors, they weren't able to donate whatsoever and participate, but when time comes for them, they will happily donate. Through the third Blood Drive, it went so smoothly with no dramatic outbreaks happening either. As per usual, blood donors came and went, including some fainters, mak-

ing everyone enjoy the event even more. From this event, students learned how to become more of a leader than ever before, by giving them an assertive, direct, and purpose in the Blood Drive. The only hard part of being such leaders was to direct newcomers to donate and explaining the process of blood donation, but even with that,

known donors came in within groups and overfilled the quantity for donation. Happily fulfilling their duties, Ms. Lopez and the CC Service Squad, doing all the community services to help the Blood Drive much more smoother. Hope to get more donors to come in by the next and final blood drive of this year, on April 28th!





Teacher of The Month

By Ambar I. Lopez

This month's "Teacher of the Month" was a close tie. Mr. Hall beat Mr. Tavarez by a nose. Mr. Hall is a compassionate teacher who balances teaching the history courses here at C.C with coaching the Walton Campus softball team. When asked about his recent win, he responded "I had no idea that I was even selected so that's great, it's an honor, and I'm very honored by it." Reaching this point in his career was a process, he started out as a middle school teacher but joined our school 2007. He said, "(I wanted) to deal with an older group of kids, which I thought would be better for me and it

definitely is. The maturity level is much higher with high school students and also working with a group of talented kids, like you guys, has taught me a lot about music, it's taught me a lot about culture." I asked him about how he manages to balance all the things he has on his plate as a softball coach and a history teacher. He responded, "There never seems to be enough time in the day to do everything that needs to be done but you make sacrifices in your personal time to make sure that you can do both because both jobs are important." With such motivated students and a hardworking team, it's easy to see that his sacrifices are definitely paying off. Not only that, but he made it clear that his relationship to the school

benefits him as well; "I think seeing students every day, associating with them, talking to them helps keep me young. It keeps me in touch with the younger generation and I thank them for their hard work and dedication to their sport and classroom work."

David Abreu

By Elijah Torres

Although he has just recently become a member of the Cruz family, David Abreu has worked for the D.O.E. for 18 years, or, just as old as most of the upperclassmen. His first job in the system was as a School Aide for an elementary school

located at district 6 in Harlem. Mr. Abreu remained there for quite some time before eventually taking on the position of Teacher's Assistant (Para). As for his educational background, David attended Mercy College majoring in Psychology and later received a Master's Degree in School Counseling at the College of New Rochelle.



Softball Season Has Arrived

By Catherine Vargas

With their coach, Tom Hall, supporting them every step of the way these girls take the time out of their busy schedule to go to the field and play ball. These girls will play in any type of weather condition possible and still will be craving for more. The league has just begun and already Walton's Softball girls are excited

to give it their 100%. As of right now in the league the team is standing in 8th place but is only going to go up. Coach Hall has great hopes for this upcoming season. Last season Coach Hall talked to PSAL officials about how he feels about his upcoming season. Coach Hall states, "5 returning players. Excited to be back in the A Division after a 3 year absence." One no-

table team accomplishment as told by officials at PSAL was making the playoffs for 6 straight seasons. With new members and fresh new faces the team is ready to go to the playoffs once again. 2 games down in the season, plenty more to go. Lets go Walton Softball Team!!!





iPads

By Josue Nunez

Recently there has been rumors about Celia Cruz High School purchasing iPads. Well, it's true. The iPads are in the building but there must be a certain number of procedures that must go on before the

school can let them for student use. First, the school must take inventory and log them in with the N.Y.C.D.O.E. (New York City Department Of Education). After that they need to connect all of them to the school server system.

That is the easy part but the most important part is finding a way to protect the devices from damage. Because getting parts to repair the item would be time consuming, costly, and other internals wiring could go bad while

replacing the part. The system itself it will be running Apple's IOS system. This is a good step forward inside the school's technology since tablets are portable and power savers. The next goal is for 3D printers in the school!

