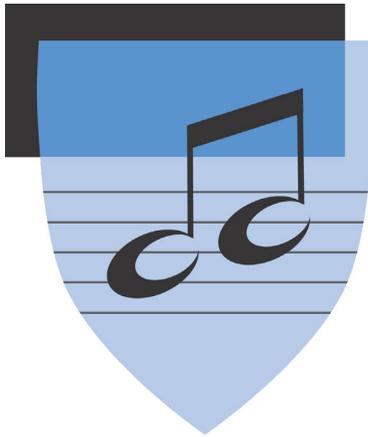


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## Latin Jazz at Lehman College

By Nadejah Green



“Take The 4 Train” and “Celia Cruz’s Sophisticated Ladies All Girls Jazz Band” participated in the Latin Jazz Music Festival at Lehman College on November 20th. This festival was streamed via internet on the Bronx Net website and was a week long event.

*Continued on Page 2*

## Showing School Spirit

By Zoey Arce and  
Cionna Roque

This month Celia Cruz participated in it’s annual Spirit week. As you walked down the hallways you saw the school spirit with their bizarre costumes, adorable pajamas, and laid back jerseys.



*Continued on Page 14*

## Alumni at the Apollo

By Kiana Reyes and  
Nadejah Green

Dominique Garcia is an alumni of Celia Cruz that graduated in 2010. During her years here at Celia Cruz, she performed with Women’s Choir under the teachings of Ms. Bergland.



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# Latin Jazz at Lehman College

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“Take the 4 Train’s” first song was the iconic *Take The A Train*, which included solos from Esdras Lopez on the drums, Juan Pimentel on the trombone, Jeremy Decena on the alto sax and Joseph De Jesus on the baritone sax. Next they played Groovin’ Hard with a solo by Jannie Revilla. They ended their performance with a latin jazz chart, *Cheesecake*, and this included solos by Tiana Chavez and Wilson Lafontaine.

At the end, a special visitor commented on “Take The 4 Train’s” performance. He wanted more edge, and the band re-played the song and gave him exactly that. It was a surprise to the trumpet players that they actually were given the permission to fulfill their stereotype, play loud.

Band member Jannie Revilla said, “With my performances I always feel alive, I can always express myself in ways that I can’t do with words. Although doing the things I have to do

that lead up to my performances is hard, it’s always worth it because I grow as a person and as a musician, and every time I get up on that stage and play it gives me a reason to never stop going forward and doing what I love to do.”

The All Girls Jazz Band includes girls from all grades and many different instruments, such as the french horn. As Ms.Jacono said, females are not highlighted enough in jazz bands, yet they have contributed just as much in the history.



## December

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	3	5	6
7	8	9 ~CC Service Squad Blood Drive	10 ~Winter Concert Series	11 ~Winter Concert Series	12 ~New Student Auditions	13 ~New Student Auditions
14	15	16	17	18 ~Winter Concert Series	19 ~Winter Concert Series	20
21	22	23	24 ~Winter Recess - Schools Closed	25 ~Winter Recess - Schools Closed	26 ~Winter Recess - Schools Closed	27
28	29 ~Winter Recess - Schools Closed	30 ~Winter Recess - Schools Closed	31 ~Winter Recess - Schools Closed	1 ~Winter Recess - Schools Closed	2 ~Winter Recess - Schools Closed	3



## Spirit Week at Celia Cruz

*Continued from Page 1*

Spirit Week began on Monday, November 17th, which was twin day, followed by pajama day on Tuesday, Gender Bender day on Wednesday, and jersey day on Thursday. The week ended with colors day and our pep rally and homecoming dance.

If you attended school during spirit week you most likely saw the dedication students gave, especially on gender bender day. There were guys with wigs, skirts, and makeup and girls with blazers, slacks, and pinned up hair along with some fun facial hair. Other days featured cute footsie pajamas, warm blankets, matching outfits, and a very colorful school.

At the end of the week the students decided that what better way to end off the week than with a school spirited pep rally and homecoming dance. The pep rally was full of dances, music, and an unexpected PROMposal. Definitely a special event to remember.

The homecoming dance was

a very fun event to celebrate school spirit and just take a load off from school work, and dance the night away. It went on from 7pm until 11pm and the entire time, people danced and just came together to socialize and have fun.

For those who participat-



ed in spirit week, you put on a great show and it lead to one of the most spirited months. Can't wait to see what you guys plan for next year, lets be sure to top this one.



## Latin Jazz at Lehman College

This is what makes this band special. The Sophisticated Lady's performed charts and ballads such as Mood Indigo and Chameleon. They entered the stage with their signature polka-dot dresses and the crowd found them to be beautiful, intriguing and talented.

The first song, *High Maintenance* as composed by Gordon Goodwin, had the audience grooving along. There were solos by Anahi Morales, Jannie Revilla and Tiana Chavez. The night's performance also included some unconventional solos by Porscha Rippey on the Baritone and Nadejah Green on the Clarinet. It was many of the girls first time soloing yet no one seemed to be nervous.

After their performance, these ladies encountered a small photo shoot. Also Amanda Dookie, Nadejah Green and Ms. Jacono were extracted from the group for a small interview hosted by the Bronxnet. Due to this band Amanda has grown to love the alto saxophone and the ladies in the ensemble.

These ensembles continue to show their unprecedented style.

the 4 Train" even has fans from outside of our school community. A woman named Shirley mentioned that she came just for them, she even asked if they would be performing the next day. She was disappointed, but there is no need to be. "Take

the 4 Train" will be back for the Winter Concert Series. Also Celia Cruz will be hosting a Ladies Night on February 2nd; it will include performances by the "Women's Choir," "Sweet Out of Lines," and "The Sophisticated Ladies."





## Welcoming New Staff Members: Christine Mak

By Jonah Graves

Many new teachers have joined the staff of this school recently. One of the new recruits is Christine Mak or better known to the students as Ms. Mak. She was born and raised in LA of Southern California. Only being in New York for 5 years, she's still not used to this cold weather. She went to Princeton University and later went to Fordham for her Masters degree. Becoming a teacher was evident to her because of her strong love for children. She always enjoyed school and working with kids. She would volunteer to be a camp counselor, helping with tutoring, and any other way that she could be involved with kids.

When it comes to music, she stated that her love for it stems from her passion for dance. Music helps with people's rhythm, which is crucial for dance as well. So because of her strong love for children and music, she decided to come work at Celia Cruz Bronx High School of Music. Helping in English, Science and dance, she's become a great asset to this school. She stated, "I



came here because I really liked the kids here. I felt like a stranger at first, but everyone was still polite, which is something I didn't really find in other schools." She played piano from a young age all the way through high school, which added up to 14 years.

Dancing has been apart of her life since the age of 4 years old. She started Ballet at the Pasadena Civic Ballet Company. In high school she really focused on Ballet, Contemporary, and Modern dance. She also explored tap, hip-hop, and character dancing. She became the dance instructor for the afterschool program. She said, "The program is going very well! It's been a lot of fun working with the kids. Having some with experience and some knowing nothing about dance,

it's great to see them have fun and progress. We started off with Thriller by Michael Jackson and now we are starting to try other things by creating our own steps." The dance group meets Tuesdays and Thursdays from 4:45pm to 5:45pm.

Ms. Mak loves anything with a good beat. Music ranging from Taylor Swift to Lady Gaga to Britney Spears and even Celine Dion. She also listens to French and Classical music. Other than dance, Ms. Mak likes to see Musicals, loves reading, watching cooking shows, and likes board games. So give Ms. Mak a warm welcome into our school and let her know we're glad to have her here.



## Walton Bowlers Win Again

By Tyler Mills

Although bowling season is officially over for the teams, it is not over for the top two players from every bowling team. Walton's two best bowlers, Tiany Santana and Tyler Mills, took to the lanes of Whitestone Lanes to compete for a top title, along with Coach Ferguson and Jennifer Nieves who joined the girls as coach and team member.

Two players from every female bowling team in the Bronx and Manhattan joined together to compete for first in both boroughs. The setup was two players per lane. Luckily, the two female representatives from Walton were paired together as many players of the same school were split up. It was an intense three rounds for the girls as they did their best to stay focused and give it their all. Although they did not place first and second

for the Bronx, they were able to make it into the top 10 where Tiany Santana placed ninth and Tyler Mills placed fourth. When asked how she felt after the game, Tiany stated, "I did pretty well for my first time being on the team. Although I wish I could have placed higher it was still a great season." Both girls were a little disappointed being that this is their last year on the team, but none the less, the overall experience was enjoyed by them both.





## Orchestra at Alley Pond

By Asia Cleveland

Looking for a great way to conquer your fear of heights? Need an inexpensive way to bring your friends and families together? Well, search no more because now you've found it! The Alley Pond Adventure Course at Alley Pond Park is a great way to master your fear of heights while building valuable team skills. Recently, the Chamber, Concert and Overture orchestras at Celia Cruz have witnessed the bonding and valuable team building that occurs from taking a trip to Alley Pond Park and participating in Alley Pond's Adventure Course. "It was AWESOME! I was really scared to try some of the stuff, but that was all apart of the struggle of mastering my fear of the unknown," said one sophomore who attended the trip orchestrated by the Director of Orchestras, Mr. David West.

The Adventure Course at Alley Pond is an obstacle course made up of "High Element" and "Low Element" Ropes courses. The "Low Elements" generally consist of obstacles that challenge the group you are with to trust,

communicate and contemplate with one another about the easiest and/or most effective way to work together and accomplish the goal of the obstacle. The "High Elements" are personal and can only be completed physically by one person at a time with the emotional and mental support of the members of your group. These obstacles require the participant to climb to heights up to 50 feet to complete various challenges such as, leaping off of a 3-foot ledge to hit a volleyball suspended in mid air. "I just went for it. The longer you stay up there looking at the ball, the longer you give your mind to psych you out so I just jumped as soon as I got up there. It's not as



bad as you think." Says, a senior after taking part in the high element named "Leap of Faith."

All in all, the trip was a huge success. The orchestra members who attended the trip to Alley Pond Park said they felt closer to their ensemble than they have ever been. "I realized that we're just one big family, you know? I had no idea how much fun I could have bonding with the people I play my instrument with almost everyday; People I never really talked to outside of orchestra until Alley Pond." Says a member of the Overture orchestra. Alley Pond is located on Winchester Boulevard in Queens, New York.



## Teacher of the Month: Mr. Tavarez

By Victoria Mousot  
and Emily Mutze

The students of Celia Cruz have voted Mr. Tavarez as Teacher of the Month for December. Mr. Tavarez began working at Celia Cruz in 2007. He teaches government and social studies. Mr. Tavarez has a particular teaching philosophy which is 'commitment to community.' He said, "When you give back to the community, the students will appreciate what you have done for them. A positive outcome will occur because the students will also make positive changes to their community." For example, Mr. Tavarez has invited several guest speakers including, a Holocaust Survivor, a Secret Service agent, a member of the Justice Department, and an Assistant of the Correctional Office in NYC, in order to educate his students about future career options and different systems inside the government. Mr. Tavarez was not immediately aware that he wanted to go into a teaching career. His career in teaching began after he left his baseball career. Mr. Tavaréz's scout said, "Make

sure when you make it to the big league you give something back to your community." After that, Mr. Tavarez attended Lehman College during his off season in order to earn his Master's Degree as a History Teacher. He said, "Teach-

ing is something that keeps you alive." A good feeling comes about when he sees students who are being positively effective whether it is through academics or having open communication with the students.





## Alumni at the Apollo

*Continued from Page 1*

Dominique also acts, and has been on the stage of the Apollo Theatre for drama in her previous years. She is currently in the Harlem Gospel Choir and performs in different countries such as Japan and Germany. But, despite all her experiences with her performance background, her talent is not limited to those activities. On Wednesday November 12, Dominique Garcia performed at the Apollo Theatre for Amateur Night; while there she sang "If I Ain't Got You" by Alicia Keys. She walked onto the stage with such grace and from there, the crowd knew that this was going to be a good one. They roared as she belted the chorus out of her lungs. The crowd continued to show their appreciation after her performance led her to winning Second place in the Top Dog Competition. Be on the look out for big things in the near future from our extremely talented Alumni. Congratulations, Dominique!



## D.Y.C.D. at Celia Cruz

By John Chandler

**T**he Department of Youth and Community Development (DYCD) program is a program that helps freshman get an early start to High School. One highlight of the program is that it pays. The program starts with summer bridge so that freshman have an opportunity at a better transition into high school. They also provide after school and a Saturday school program until the end of December.

In after school hours, they offer english, math, dance, female mentoring, and male mentoring. It helps to insure that freshmen progress through their first academic year of high school. However the only unfortunate part is there are limitations on the amount of people that can join this program.

It's basically first come first serve. Freshmen who have participated in the summer bridge program have an automatic spot if they wish to continue in the DYCD program. The program does offer a number of

additional seats for any other freshman who is interested in gaining extra help. Applications are readily available from any DYCD representative. Space is limited, as they can only accept up to 85 students per campus.

Students who participate in this program and meet the hour requirements receive a check at the end of the year which ranges between \$25-\$200. The more hours they get, including Saturday school and after school, the

larger their check will be at the end of the year.

The best part is they help keep your grades where they need to be. DYCD is a great program for freshmen in high school and every school should be able to have this opportunity we're just one of the lucky ones that do. So if you know any upcoming freshmen coming to Celia Cruz next year, spread the word about DYCD.





## Music Buzz: Enigma Entertainment

By John Chandler

Outside of our music ensembles, Celia Cruz is full of creativity and talent waiting to burst onto the scene. This month's group being profiled goes by the name Enigma Entertainment. According to founding member, Dwayne Graham, Enigma was formed while spending time with his close group of friends as he quickly realised how talented each of them was. According to Graham "the catch is, Enigma is more than just a music group, You've probably heard this about every music group as of late but Enigma is an Entertainment group, the main reason for the Ent. after it."

Outside of music, they contribute to Zach TV, a youtube chanel created by cofounder Zachary Page. Page explained the shared motivation comes from within, explaining "Imagination is the key to everything, hone your crafts to be successful in the future, Everything we look for in life, can be found within ourselves, with each individual comes a



great talent, even through adversity you can get through anything, for every bad theres a good, and if you can't say that you need help you're not going to get anywhere." This is the message that Enigma is trying to send to the community and everyone who supports them.

Outside of their own group they spend a lot of time collaborating with various other underground music groups at Celia Cruz. Graham explained, "Enigma to me is a group of talented individuals that are striving to be successful in life., one day if three of us get famous we can look back like when I was younger these are the people that helped me

get where im at.. I can't forget about them." Along with teamwork there is also commitment.

These individuals have all made Enigma a commitment and a part of them, but most importantly they have become a family. Page explained "With Enigma it's like we're all friends, we dont know how much longer we'll stay friends, we might be friends for the rest of our lives or until we finish high school, if we go into our own paths at least we have something to look back on like, Hey I did this with you guys,this feels as if we're a family." So to my fellow students, lookout for these guys cause they're definetly something to watch.



## Alumni Dinner

By Nadejah Green

Many of Celia Cruz's former students come to the Annual Alumni Dinner. On November 26th many of these students came to enjoy the food and company of others. These alumni were grateful for the homemade food and dessert. There were pastelitos, brownies, arroz con gandules, arroz con leche, lasagna and much more.

The students also had some great insight on college life and shared their experiences with us. Many of them noted that they learned from college how important sleep is. They enjoy their campuses, and are still able to maintain good grades. J-Louis Castillo and Ian Mathews both agreed that hard work and plenty of time studying lead to success in college and are the key to good grades.

The students continued to share stories about their college life. Those in the class of 2015 listened intently and asked many questions. One current Celia Cruz student, Mory asked; "How do you deal with the people you dorm with?"

The alumni said that there will always be that one person that you do not get along with, but you make it work, and create a system to make things work. Plus, most of the time you're not in your dorm.

The alumni dinner also brought back a very special former educator, Ms. Paula Kadanoff, Celia Cruz's former health teacher. She was very vibrant and glad to be back with the students of Celia Cruz. She is now working for the DOE's Office of School

Wellness Program. In this program she is able to work with middle school and high school health teachers all over the city. We asked her what she would like to say to the class of 2015. Ms. Kadanoff emphasized the importance of healthy living and how important it is to take care of one's physical health as well as their minds. Overall, this year's alumni dinner was a huge success and will surely be followed by many years of alumni dinners for years to come.





## Sweeping Into the Sunset: Mike Fiorneza

By Cionna Roque, Ariana Jimenez and Zoey Arce

For those who don't know, Mike Firenza will be retiring this year. Mike has been the schools janitor since September of 2004 when Celiz Cruz joined Walton. Although he didn't enjoy working as a janitor, he very much enjoyed the talent that surrounded him. "I'll miss the teachers and students; kids growing, intellectual conversations, and their talent. I wish I was as talented, like a dancer, musician, or singer. I just push a mop and broom."

When asked what direction he has planned to take after retirement he seemed to have his mind already set. Mike is a poet and wishes to get his poetry out into the world. Mikes poems have also been featured in past yearbooks of Celia Cruz. He would also like to become a wine salesman and spend some quality time with his long time girlfriend, Yolanda. He also pointed out that he would visit Celia Cruz all of the time. Being that Mr. Hall, Mr.

Fink, Dr. Abikzer and Mr. Ram are great friends of his we'll be sure to see him around campus

even after his retirement. We'll miss you 'MF'!



## School Leadership Team

By Victoria Mousot and Emily Mutze

Celia Cruz's School Leadership Team (SLT), led by Mr. Fink, held its second meeting on Tuesday, November 18th. During this meeting, members reviewed the CEP Parent Compact, School Quality Guide, and Hot Topics.

When reviewing the

School-Parent Compact, the goal was to revise rules that would wards the parent/guardian to support and promote their child's learning. When reviewing these guidelines two rules were added including: "Help students develop healthy habits of cell phone and computer usage" and "Help

organize students be- longings."

One of the hot topics on the table was The School Quality Guide reviewed areas such as curricular material, teaching assignments' aligned with the common core curriculum, and environment that promotes high expectations of school rules concerning learning, and engaging leadership that focuses on improving student or cameras).

