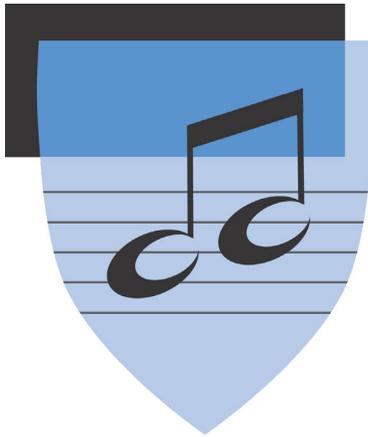


February-2015
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Winter Concert Series



By Ariana Jimenez and
Cionna Roque

It was the happiest season of all, with the holidays coming and going along with our annual Winter Concert Series. The series began with the first concert on on December 11th, 2014, where four of Celia Cruz's ensembles performed, doing an incredible job.

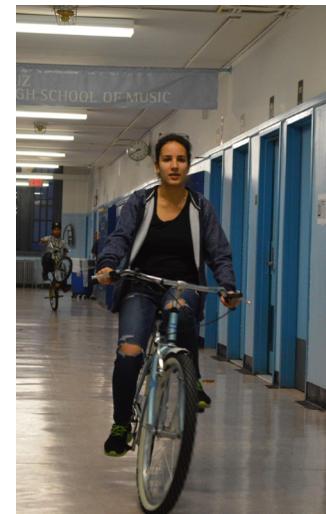
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Recycle a Bicycle

By Zachary Page

The CC Cruisers have begun their journey for a second year. The CC Cruisers are sponsored by Recycle-A-Bicycle, a nonprofit organization dedicated to making the community a better place. They aim to reinforce students' self-assurance and creativity.

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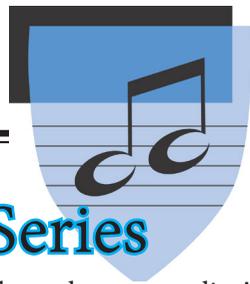
NHS New Members

By Nadejah Green

Celia Cruz would like to congratulate the new members of the National Honor Society. Kevonne, Daquan, Rebecca, Zoey, Crisnely, and Dymond; these students have shown great character, scholarship, leadership, and service. They have qualified academically in all of their classes with an 85 or higher.

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Winter Concert Series

For the opening performance, Wind Ensemble played four beautiful pieces. They started with “Beyond the Summit” by Brian Balmages , “Forever” by Brian Balmages, “Hymn to the Infinite Sky” by Satoshi Yagisawa , & “Foundry” by John Mackey. As far as people who performed in the concert that night, we would like to recognize the following soloists; Amanda Dookie, Jeremy Decena, Stephanie Zuniga, Antonio Bradley, Anahi Morales, & Jonathan Mendez. You guys

really keep the energy alive! The second ensemble to perform was Stage Choir. “Zadok the Priest” by Handel was first on their list, then “Set Me as a Seal” by Rene Clausen, “Tshotsholoza” by Jeffrey L. Ames, & “Habari Gani” by Judith Clareman. Stage choir’s set list was somewhat corsed continents including music from around the globe with their South African pieces! The featured soloists were Ariana Jimenez, Gabriela Brito, Javier Klever Cobena, & Samson Oshode!

Keep up the good work. The Sweet Out-Of-Lines performed next with 6 songs. They sang “Dance on my Heart’ by Allen Koepke, “Ah! si mon moine voulait danser” a French piece by Donald Patriquin, the christmas classic “Carol of the Bells” by M. Leontovich, a Hanukkah piece called “Hannerot Halalu (Light the Candles)” by Beckie Slagle Mayo, & “Christmas (Baby Please Come Home)” by Phil Spector, Ellie Greenwich, & Jeff Barry. They featured some incredible



February

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2 ~Groundhog Day ~Staff Conference day- No Students	3 ~PM School Begins	4	5	6 ~ School Dance 6pm- 11pm	7
8	9	10	11 Black History Month Concert @ Lehman College Period 3-7 Women's choir and Mixed choir	12	13 ~Black History Month Concert 8th and 9th period in the auditorium	14 Valentine's day
15	16 ~ President's Day ~ President's Week- No School	17 ~ President's Week- No School	18 ~ President's Week- No School ~ Ash Wednesday	19 ~ President's Week- No School ~ Chinese New Year	20 ~ President's Week- No School	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
	PM School Schedule Mondays 4-6pm ELA- CC16 Algebra- CC11	PM School Schedule Tuesdays 4-6pm Global- CC5 Living Environment- CC9	PM School Schedule Wednesdays 4-6pm ELA- CC16 Algebra- CC11	PM School Schedule Thursdays 4-6pm Global- CC5 Living Environment- CC9	Saturday School 9am-Noon Geometry- CC11 Earth Science- CC9 ELA- CC13	



Recycle a Bicycle

They give incentive to aspiring students by offering a free recycled bicycle to everyone who completes the program. Each student earns their bicycle through hard work and public advocacy. Throughout the year, the students will receive, clean, and restore their bicycles.

Recycle-A-Bicycle also sends a representative who is a real bicycle mechanic every Thursday to give instruction to the students. He not only teaches the basics to bicycle mechanics and repairs but in addition promotes environmental stewardship, and exposes the students to the recycled arts. Every student in the program is ecstatic to gain hands on experience working on a bicycle they can call their own. Amanda Rivera says, "I will treat this bike like my baby and care for it." She and all of the other members of bike club agree that they will appreciate the reward more knowing that they worked hard to earn it. When the weather begins to change, the CC Cruisers will put down their tools and pick up their helmets.



They'll go from mechanics to riders. All levels of biking are accepted in this program, even if you've never ridden a bicycle before.

This program teaches everything from the basics of balance to intermediate biking. Because this program is so intense, internships and jobs are offered to the students upon completion. Josue Nunez, a former member of the bike club that is also an alumnus of Celia Cruz now works in a bicycle shop. He claims that he

would not have had a job right out of high school if it wasn't for this program.

There are many opportunities that are opened from being a part of bike club. With the launch of STOKED in Celia Cruz, there is a friendly rivalry between the two after-school programs creating bike clubs motto, "Twice the speed, and half the wheels." To learn more about the CC Cruisers, follow them on Instagram at CC_Cruisers or like them on Facebook.



Winter Concert Series

soloists, performing the song ter concert series with 3 pieces. "Christmas (Baby Please Come Home)."

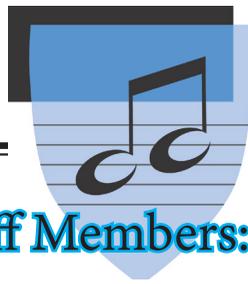
These soloists were by Saint-Saens, Yoshi Negron, Stephanie 'Stel-Greensleeves' by Vaughn Williams, & "New World Symphony" by Dvorak. Let's recognize You guys were phenomenal that night & had the crowd on their feet!

Full Orchestra closed the win- August Hunter, Paul DeJesus, &

Anahi Morales! It was a great way to end the show!

Keep up the good work you guys! Now all we have to worry about is our NYSSMA solos, & our spring concerts! But until then, keep being the great musicians that you are!





Welcoming New Staff Members: Jennifer Golden

By Jonah Graves

As the school year moves forward, we continue to get to know the new teachers that have arrived. One of them being Jennifer Golden. Ms. Golden is one of the Global history teachers working here at Celia Cruz. She was born and raised in the suburbs St. Louis Missouri. Though she lived what she described as a quiet life, she said she had a really good, happy, family oriented childhood.

Although has taken some adjustment, she's come to really like New York. Before moving to New York, she attended the University of Virginia and majored in history and political philosophy. She stated, "I've always loved to learn. Having a really great history teacher in high school, it really made me want to know more. So I really wanted to be able to pass on a love for history and make others excited to learn as well." After being interviewed, she said she really saw a great environment with a very helpful and welcoming staff and passionate students who she thought she would re-



ally be able to work with. "I love to play the piano. In her spare time, she enjoys spending time with friends, trying new restaurants, listening to Top 40, reading and going to the movies. We thank Ms. Golden for all the hard work and effort she puts into teaching and motivating her students. Let's continue welcoming her and the other new staff members into our school."



Alumni Where Are They Now: Cassandra Gaviria

By Tyler Mills

A recent alumni, Cassandra Gaviria, visited Celia Cruz on Monday, December 8th, 2014. Cassandra graduated this past June as part of the senior class of 2014. Currently, she attends Bronx Community College and is balancing college and a part time job. She said that although

balancing school and work prevents her from having much of a social life, it is pretty easy to do and is well worth it. In college, Cassandra is taking liberal arts classes such as math and english as well as art and science. Compared to the work load she had in high school, the work load in college is much lighter. One thing she misses about this school is the staff. Despite not continuing

with music, Cassandra's time in Celia Cruz Bronx High School of Music was well worth it and helped her to become the person she is today. In fact, a word of advice from Cassandra Gaviria to all of the students is "Always cherish the memories you make and stop to enjoy them as you make them. The lessons I've learned have helped mold me into who I am now. It gets better."





Opening Act Performance

By Nadejah Green

On December 10th, 2014, the Walton Campus Opening Act club performed their very own skits in room B9. With a total of 10 skits, the actors had their audience in tears from both heartfelt pain and joy. Many Celia Cruz students performed in this acting ensemble. Recognition must be made to Desani, Porscha, Jarrett, Nadejah, Miguel, as well as their incomparable acting coaches Ms. Katie, Mrs. Julia, and Mr. Stuart.

Desani, a freshman at Celia Cruz, created a scene in which she played the long lost sister of a boy name Aaron. He found her crying in an abandoned building, and it wasn't until she mentioned that she infact did not die that he realized they were siblings. The audience became filled with emotion when the two were reunited.

Porscha & Nadejah created characters portraying an elderly couple. This couple had very different views on life. Joshua Mizan, as played by Nadejah, viewed life to as a time to be filled with adventure no matter what age. Paula, as played by Porscha, viewed life as dangerous and scary. In the

skit, she believed that the outside world was no place for an eighty-two year old. In the scene they bickered about a camping trip that Joshua wanted to go on. At the end they agreed to compromise on a backyard BBQ. The crowd laughed and related with the back and forth bickering of the elderly couple.

Miguel and his partner Elsie, a student at ISLA, created an edgy scene. In this scene Elsie came from the Mafia from the underworld sent to end Miguel's life. The task proved to be a tricky one as they engaged in a battle of good and evil. Miguel was prepared for her visit, carrying a weapon with him, but resisted using it. Instead they sat down to get a drink together and as Elsie sat, Miguel

started choking her. He believed that he had beaten her only to realize that she too was immortal.

At the end of the show the actors did a short Q&A. The first question asked was; "How do you keep from getting nervous?" Egor, a student of Discovery, answered and said "You don't." Other actors expanded on his answer and concluded that you can only learn to control how nervous you become. Several actors went on to explain what Opening Act has done for them. Many actors note that it has helped them to break their shell. Most of the students come in to the program shy and unsure if they will like the environment. All of the students leave with boosted confidence and creativity.



Teacher of the Month: Mr. Fink

By Victoria Mousso
and Emily Mutze

January's Teacher of the Month is Mr. Fink. Mr. Fink has been teaching for eight years, and this coming February will mark his ninth year of teaching. Currently, Mr. Fink is teaching three freshman classes and two eleventh grade classes. This includes one Global Honors Class, two Integrated Collaborative Teaching classes with Ms. Brewster, and two US History classes. Mr. Fink makes it a priority for his students to succeed. While teaching he analyzes students abilities to organize, write, read, annotate, and speak. Students are then provided with assignment to support their learning. The goal is to have students leave the class room with the following skills: organization, writing, reading, annotation, and speaking. To accomplish this goal students are challenged in course work in order to overcome obstacles. Mr. Fink states that "students should not be afraid to fail." Instead students should overcome this fear and learn to collaborate with others. For example, in-class-discussions gives students the practice to use examples

and evidence in order to support their opinion. Mr. Fink did not always know he wanted to become a teacher. However, he knew he enjoyed helping young people accomplish goals and learn to think critically. He was first introduced

to teaching when he worked after school as a teacher assistant. At The University of Maryland, Mr. Fink received his Master degree in special education and proceeded to become a History Teacher.





NHS New Member Initiation

They show model behavior and will continue to do so.

On Wednesday December 17, 2014 these students were inducted. Their teachers and parents were very proud to see them enter a grand chapter. Valerie opened the induction with an explanation of what this now means for them and 4 other members of the NHS followed. Miguel Vasquez, Raisa, Marissa, and Nadejah each explained what the five chapters of the society means and what they have to do based on these chapters. After each chapter was explained the members of the NHS lit a candle. The inductees then lit their candles and swore themselves. They promised to reach their academic goals, to respect themselves and others. They promised to be charitable and to never intentionally bring reproach upon the school. They promised to be role models for other students both in and outside of the school building.

At the end of the ceremony, these students enjoyed a nice banquet to celebrate their success.



High School Journalism Conference

By John Chandler

Baruch College, the college of journalism, held the 11th annual Journalism Conference. It was a great opportunity for the journalism students to really engage and expand their knowledge of journalism. Keynote speaker Tanzina Vega, of the New York Times, gave some very inspirational words on citing the importance of never giving up. “There is a difference between seeing the great wall of china on your iPad and actually standing on it.” In other words, you don't really know a goal unless you chase it. Outside of the keynote speaker there were some great workshops that helped both students and teachers become better journalists. One of these workshops was titled “Freedom of the Press, Do students have it?” In this workshop journalists learned their legal limits on what they can and cannot include in an article. “The Music of Writing” taught that without writing there are always other ways to communicate. The Lecturer explained

“Think of a sentence as a melody and a paragraph as a song” helping attendees develop and strengthen their use of rhythm in their writing and reporting. Another workshop titled “Smart Phone Reporting” was especially interesting because it taught that even without a cam-

era, a recorder, a pen, or paper you can still get a great story and great pictures by simply using your phone. Overall this workshop was a great experience for the journalists that attended and hopefully next year future journalists feel the same.





Jewish Heritage Museum Trip

By Zoey Arce

On December 4th, Dr. Abikzer's 10th grade honors class took a trip to the Jewish Heritage Museum. This was inspired by the class reading of the book "Maus" and facilitated to help students gain a more in depth understanding of the atrocities committed during the Holocaust.

The museum, located in Battery Park on the south tip of Manhattan, showcased a myriad of cultural artifacts and information about the Jewish people and their long history, before, during and after the Holocaust. This helped to bring the hate and crimes committed against these people into a very meaningful and real light as students became emotional hearing and seeing images of the murdered both young and old. One powerful point in the tour that showed Jewish people as victims being dehumanized was a gallery of photos innocent children that were put to death simply for being Jewish. The gallery included their names, home ad-



resses, pictures, and stories.

One of the most touching parts of this trip was the rock garden at the end of the tour. In this garden there were large rocks which had trees growing right out of them. This garden is symbolic of the spirit of the Jewish people and their ability

and desire to overcome even the worst of times. The rocks symbolize the anchor that held them down with the trees representing the Jewish people growing through that and overcoming their challenges during the Holocaust even though it seemed impossible.



Opening Act Broadway Trip

By Nadejah Green

On December 1st the students of Opening Act took a trip to The Broadway Comedy. This comedy club has been the stage of many great comedians, such as the original cast of 30 Rock and Eddie Murphy. The students of Opening Act had the privilege to watch a show by four actors from the UCB Touring Company. There were four actors in total; John, Kerry, James, Kathleen. Kerry knew that acting was what she wanted to do; she went straight to Fordham University and majored in theatre. The other actors had similar experiences. Nine schools attended this event, including Columbus/Astor High School, Clara Barton, and of course, Walton Campus. The members of Opening Act were vibrant and eager to learn how they can expand on their acting skills. The actors from UCB brought a few students on to the stage to do some long term improv. One of those students were one Walton Campus' very own, Josephine, from ISLA. She did a

scene with James. In this scene she played a strict teacher while James played an apprehensive student. The students laughed and applauded at the end of their performance. Afterward John interviewed a Student named Amy from Clara Barton High School. She told the story of how she moved from Africa to America. "The kids here in America move too fast. They are always looking at their phones, texting, disconnected from each other. In Africa we take our time; we use sticks." "Sticks?" "Yes sticks

we sit around and use sticks to make fires and we write with them." She also explain how she doesn't really know what her father does. "He's a diplomat, thats all I know. He won't tell me anything. He keeps everything secret." She continued, "I don't know, he could be out there doing anything. All I know is that he is a diplomat & he works for the government." John and his colleagues used this to do a long term improv scene. They put a comedic twist on her life and the members of Opening Act loved it.





Celia Cruz Performs at Bronx Tree Lighting

By Anabel Lugones

Lucille Roldan, coordinator of the Bronx Tree Lighting ceremony, was very welcoming to our students. She accommodated the girls in a comfortable space to rehearse with Mr. Gagstetter. She provided them all with Santa hats and refreshments. Public School 1 sang beautiful renditions of 'Joy to the World' and 'Carols of Bells'. Then the Celia Cruz Women's Choir performed, singing their interpretations of 'Santa Claus is Coming to Town' and 'Winter Wonderland'. The crowd demonstrated great fondness. You could feel the Christmas Spirit radiating off of the multitude of families and friends. The most wonderful event that night was the interaction between the Celia Cruz and the Public School 1 students. The Public School 1 students were simply in awe. Celia Cruz students sang for them and the Public School 1 students were so appreciative that they just wanted to hug them for what seemed like forever. They all took pictures together with

Santa Claus, Mrs. Claus and Bronx Borough President Ruben Diaz Jr.

The whole event was covered by Univision 41. Celia Cruz Dario Miranda was interviewed by Optimum. He spoke about being proud of his girlfriend, choir member Moniefa

Grant, as well as the entire Celia Cruz Women's choir.

Stay tuned for more dates and performances by the Celia Cruz Women's choir as they continue to sing their hearts out in the spirit of the season and throughout the new year.



School Leadership Team

By Victoria Mousso

The Celia Cruz School Leadership Team (SLT) meets once a month to discuss and create key components related to the goals of our school. This month the SLT met to review the CEP Goal and School Action Plans. The CEP are to addresses Capaci-

ty, Framework elements and Effective School Leadership. The administration plans on improving these categories by setting SMART goals (Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant, and Time-bound) that will address student learning, teacher effectiveness, and parent involvement. The Capacity Framework Element

goal is to improve and ambitious intellectual activity, the hope is that their critical thinking skills will develop and be strengthened. Rigorous instruction will be implemented inside of classrooms, instruction will be customized, inclusive, motivating and aligned to the Common Core. By setting high standards and having students engaged in

