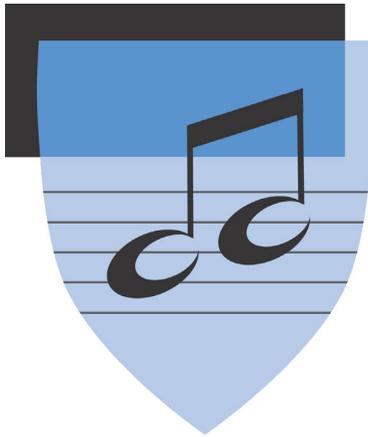


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## Good Morning America

By Zoey Arce



On Tuesday, March 10th, several members from Show Choir had the opportunity to perform on Good Morning America. Although the two days of practice leading up to the performance were very stressful, it was all worth the work to be on T.V. and meet Julie Andrews.

*Continued on Page 2*

## Women's History Month

By Nadejah Green

The All Girls Jazz Band, Sophisticated Ladies, celebrated Women's History Month with the Bronx Borough president Ruben Diaz Jr. on March 19th at Pelham Bay Park/ Split Rock Golf Course. As the people entered the banquet the girls played several new songs.

*Continued on Page 8*



## Stage Choir on Broadway

By Zoey Arce and Arianna Jimenez

On Wednesday March 4, 2015, the Stage Choir had the opportunity to perform in an off-broadway play called "The Events," at the New York Theatre workshop. The play was based off the tragic massacre that happened in Utoya, Norway.

*Continued on Page 6*





# Good Morning America

Continued from Page 1

All students had to meet up bright and early at 5 am in front of school where a van came to pick us up. Each and everyone of us got a taste of what its like to be in the media world. Everything is fast-paced, timed, and 10 seconds is apparently a lot of time to them. If one thing takes up time then things will be either sped up or cut from the show.



The best experience of it all was meeting Ms. Andrews and seeing her reaction to our singing. At the end of her interview,

she personally asked to meet the choir, which was a very exciting experience. The way she spoke and presented herself was as sincere as the characters she has played. She was

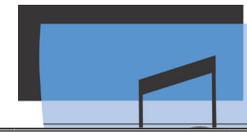
so elegant, kind, and caring; she seemed to really care about what we said. That day was by far, the best experience we ever had with our choir.

# Macbeth at Lehman College

By Casey Perez

On Friday March 20th, 2015, Dr. Abikzer took his 10th grade honors class to go see Macbeth, performed by the Lehman College's theater students and staff. This drama is one of the great tragedy themed plays by William Shakespeare. The themes illustrated in the play include ambition, fate, deception and treachery. Three witches decide to confront the great Scottish general Macbeth. The witches

predict that Macbeth will one day become king, but only one who is not born by a woman can overthrow him. Macbeth decides that he will murder Duncan. Macbeth's wife agrees to his plan. He then murders Duncan assisted by his wife who smears the blood of Duncan on the daggers of the sleeping guards. The crown passes to Macbeth. More murders ensue and the bloodied ghost of Banquo appears to Macbeth. Lady Macbeth's conscience now begins to torture



# April

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
29	30	31	1	2	3 ~Spring Break- No School	4
5	6 ~Spring Break- No School	7 ~Spring Break- No School	8 ~Spring Break- No School	9 ~Spring Break- No School	10 ~Spring Break- No School	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		



## Sounds of Celia Cruz

By Ariana Jimenez

The Celia Cruz choirs are at again! Good Morning America called the school back YET AGAIN, to perform songs from the Sound of Music! That was twice in one week! Not only did Stage Choir go, but so did Womens Choir, & Sweet Outta Lines! Some of us had to get up at 2 in the morning, to be in the school by 4:00 in the morning! We got to the set about 5:15 and it was very upbeat! Everything moved so quickly! The minute we walked in, we had to walk right out to take place at our seats! Some of womens choir were performing on the NewYork sight-seeing bus! Some of Stage Choir and Sweet- Outta - Lines we're performing in one of the rooms from Good Morning America, & another group performed at the top of the Hard Rock Cafe. The atmosphere at the set was very busy but we were able to handle it. Some of us also got to see Kevin Hart & Will Ferrell! Kevin Hart was interacting, & "trying" to conduct the choir! We went on at 8 in the morning, & ended at 9:00. We made our way back to

our busses after an exhausting & early performance! Once we got to school, Ms.Gwasda had told her Show Choir that the coor-

director will definitely keep our information to call us back soon!



## Macbeth at Lehman College

her and she imagines that she can see her hands covered with blood. She commits suicide. Macbeth then encounters Macduff, and find out he was not born from a woman, but was ripped out from the womb. The play ended by Macduff killing Macbeth, and Malcolm, the Prince of Scotland, becoming king.

Lehman College's theater director, Susan Watson Turner, reimagined Macbeth as a post-apocalyptic era, whose underground civilization is ruled by a

monarchy . The set design was dark, rough, and decayed. Ta- ble, steps, and seating were cof- then encounters Macduff, and fins made for the dead. There was also an eye shaped symbol that looked over the set, as well. When the mood changed during the play, the eye would change colors. After the cast performed, the cast was open and offered the audience a Q & A ( Question and Answer ) session, and a few of our Celia Cruz student asked some amazing questions. Upon answering questions, the

director, Susan Watson Turner, mentioned how she came across this symbol when she was getting on the Metro north train at Penn Station back to the Bronx from Manhattan. She also mentioned how it symbolized that something was always watching the characters. All in all, Lehman college's Theater Department did a fantastic rendition of Macbeth by William Shakespeare.





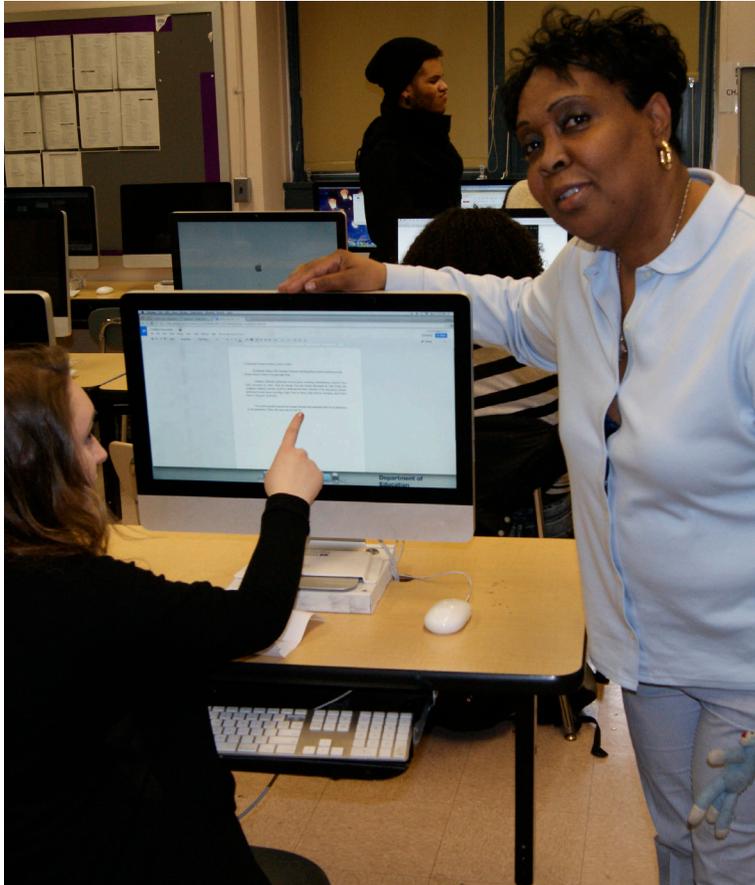
## New Teacher Profile: Ms. McCubin

By Jonah Graves

Many new staff members have joined the Celia Cruz family this year adding to the experience of being a Celia Cruz student. Judith McCubin, one of our new English teachers, joined the team and started working here early this year. Growing up here in the Boggie Down Bronx, she attended Lehman College. She attained her degree in Speech and 2nd degree in English Ed. Afterwards, she gained a lot of experience by working in Lehman high school for 6 years. Asking why she became a teacher, she said, "I really wanted to become a teacher because I love to help kids interpret English literature. Working at this school has been a pleasure because I get to see so much talent from the students. I really appreciate the music aspect of the school and how they incorporate it into their everyday lives." Though not a musician herself, she really loves music and if she could play any instrument, she wished she could play the drums because they always

looked awesome. She mainly likes old school artists in R&B and Pop, one of them being Beyonce. In her free time, she loves to meet new people and travel. One of the places she has traveled to was St.Martin, where she explored the French

and Dutch sides of the island, enjoying the entertainment, scenery, shopping and beaches. So please, don't be shy! Go on up, introduce yourself, and welcome Ms.McCubin to our school.



## School Leadership Team

By Victoria Mousot

The School Leadership Team (SLT) reviewed the school's 2014-15 CEP. A school's CEP is an annually submitted document which provides a needs assessment of the school, as well as objectives designed to address the identified needs.

This month SLT members discussed five goals. They are teacher evaluation, Learning Environment Survey, regents

examination, principle rating, and parent involvement. Two out of five of these goals were successfully met. The Learning Environment Survey scores positively increased in all three categories (instructional core, systems for improvement, and culture). And the number of parent involvement in at least on school sponsored event increased from 81% to 85%

Another major instruc-

tional goal discussed was college readiness. New York City determined students need to score at least a 75 on the English Regents exam and an 80 on the Math Regents exam to avoid having to take remedial courses at city colleges. English Regents scores from students increased from 35% up to 76%.





## New York Blood Center Trip

By Zoey Arce

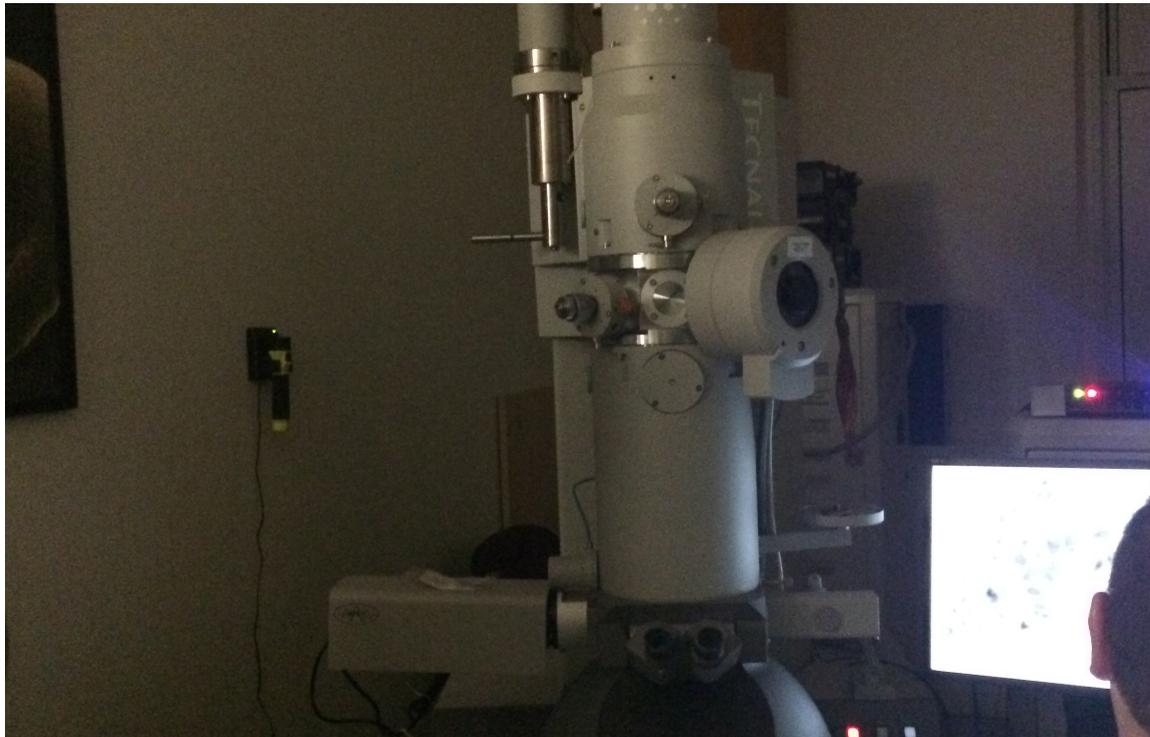
On Friday, March 13th a few students were selected to attend a special science convention at the New York Blood center. Guided by Mr. Stern, students learned about research projects being completed at the center.

Special projects included turning stem cells into platelets, research on HIV

in neighborhoods and using healthy participants to test out treatments, and others. Students gained experience by examining blood cells and the work of converting the stem cells into platelets through a microscope. One got the feel of actually being a scientist in the study when viewing the object under the microscope.

Hopefully throughout this trip

students were inspired to continue their dream of being involved in the medical field and it was a confirmation for them. The New York blood Center was a very interactive convention and a good experience for students who are interested in pursuing a career in the medical field.



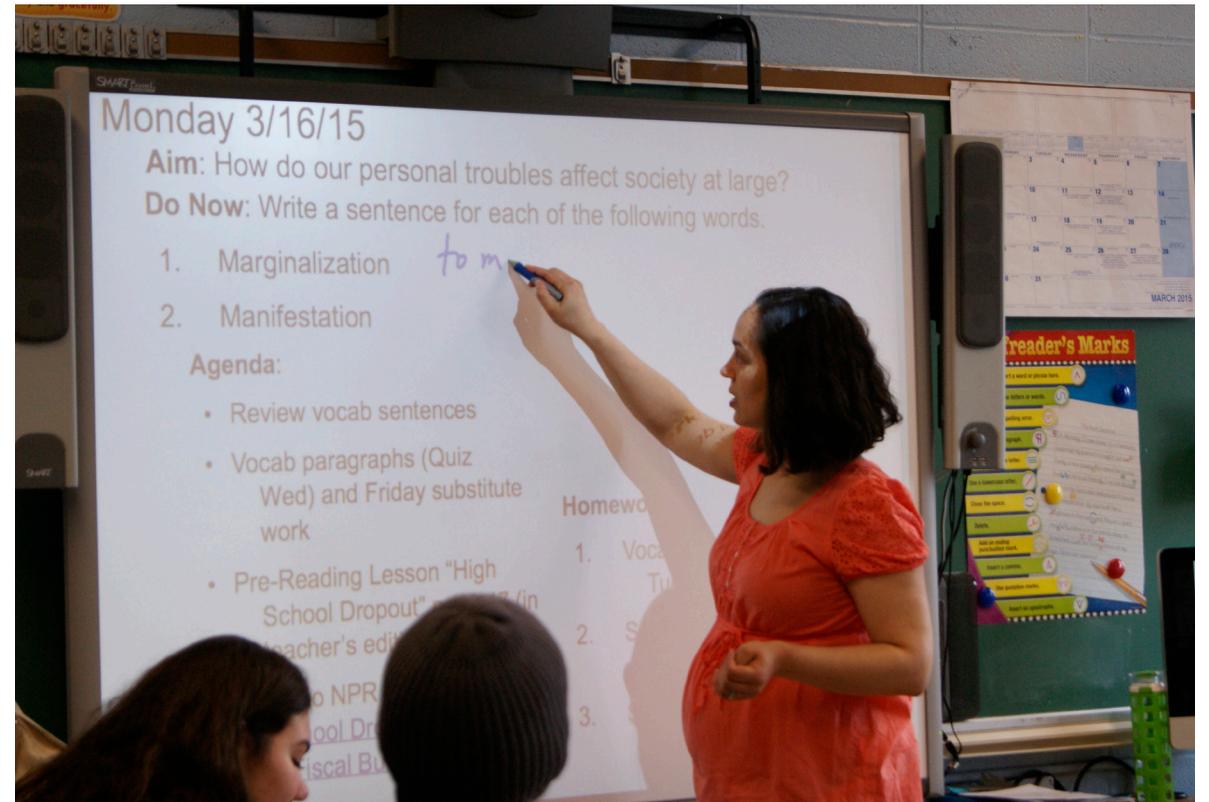
## Teacher of the Month: Ms. Perez

By Victoria Mousso  
and Emily Mutze

January's Teacher of the Month is Ms. Perez. Ms. Perez teaches AP English Language and Composition and English Second Language (ESL). Before moving to New York City, to attend Columbia University for her bachelor's degree, she grew up in Los Angeles.

In 2002 Ms. Perez began teaching through a program called Teach for America, while studying at Pace University for her masters of education. This non profit organization mission is to "eliminate educational inequity by enlisting high-achieving recent college graduates and professionals to teach" in low-income communities throughout the United States.

Ms. Perez challenges her classes with a rigorous curriculum as well as challenging hands on activities for critical thinking. Although the work is intense, Ms. Perez provides a welcoming environment for her students to ask question and be themselves.





## Stage Choir Sings on Broadway

*Continued From Page 1*

Stage choir rehearsed every day in our music classes and on Sunday, March 1, 2015, the Stage Choir met up with directors of the show, including 3 other older choirs, that were to perform on other days during the week!

“The Events” was a play that was different from any other. The songs were also different than what we had expected because they were specifically written for the play. During the show we had to spontaneously perform in “rituals,” which involved dissolving, rawring, & rolling on the floor. We couldn’t back down because it was all part of the scene! The rituals weren’t even rehearsed and informed until our last rehearsal of the show, which made it even more exciting.

Since we were featured in the play, the directors told us that we were basically actors of the show, so we were given some lines, including Ms.Gwasda! Overall, once the show was done, we got amazing feedback and a few of our Stage Choir members had been interviewed.

Not only had we been inter-

viewed, but a picture of a few Stage Choir members made it into the New York Times! It was a great experience especially being high school students singing with your high school choir.



## Spotlight on Walton Volleyball

By Gregory Stayne-Pyne

In the past the girls volleyball team has been known to slay the opposing teams with hearts of gold and hard work. One team member stands out above the rest. She is the epitome of hard work, skill, compassion and love for her sport.

Ashley Carols is that special girl, and it hasn’t been an easy road for her to accomplish as much as she had in her four years at Celia Cruz High School. Always having a love for the sport, Ashley took her volleyball games as serious as she could, never missing a game or a single practice with a prep time before each game, of 15-30 minutes. Ashley has practiced over many hours and devoted many weekends to the sport. When she wasn’t practicing she was helping the other girls on the team saying that “The girls on the team are like family to me and I’d do anything for them” not only showing her devotion to the sport but to the ones who partake in the sport as well. Ashley has been at the forefront of

the season with her teammates winning eight out of 12 games last season.

Her coach, Ms. Marinescu exclaimed that she has exceed-

ed expectation with her upbeat attitude and teamwork and that certainly gave way to the great titles and victories of the volleyball team.





## Walton Tennis Team

By Tyler Mills

The Spring sports season has begun and tennis is underway. This year the tennis team is recruiting female players from grades nine through twelve. You can still join while there are spots available. They are accepting players of all levels

and will train together several times a week after school. "It's a great sport to join. It's fun, you make new friends and you get to challenge yourself against other schools" said a member of the team. If you are interested in joining contact the coach, Mr. Swillinger at T & P. Some of the upcoming games

will be held on Monday March 30th against Taft at Crotona Park, Wednesday April 1st against Stevenson at Van Cortlandt, and Thursday April 2nd against Truman at Truman High School. For more upcoming games visit psal.org and check out the schedule.



## STOKED Mentor Photo Shoot

By Gregory Stayne Pyne

The STOKED program of Celia Cruz is a reach out program that helps the children of cities all across the country by feeding their desire for activity and physical participation. As many know, the Stoked program starts off by helping the children design skateboards and construct them to their liking. After the program, kids are allowed to keep the boards that they have constructed. The program also includes snowboarding and surfing. This past St. Patrick's day, Tuesday March 17, the program had a professional photographer, Paul Tucker, come to show the children how to take professional photographs, including action shots that the children were able to take themselves using the amazing equipment that was brought by Paul. Kevonne Monahan is one of the students who attends Stoked and said that "the entire program that day was fun and one that I'll never forget, especially the instruction on how to freeze frame shot pictures."





## Women's History Month With The Borough President

*Continued from Page 1*

Solos were performed by Anahi, Amanda, and Nadejah. After these wonderful ladies greeted the special guest with their music, they were applauded and took their seat to listen to Sukanya Krishnan from the Pix11 morning news. She gave a heartfelt speech motivating females to connect and empower themselves and other. She knows that women and men alike can not sit and wait for things to come to them; they must take action to reach their goals. As the speech went on she continued to grow even more emotional and received praise from everyone in the audience.

Maybelline Roman then sang the Star Spangled Banner in order to introduce the rest of the program and received a standing ovation. Right after Ms. Roman's performance, Vanessa Arenas of the Morris Heights Health Center encouraged people to stay healthy. To get tested for HPV and diabetes and to continue to share health tips among other people.

Another section, Womens



History Through Our Eyes, was introduced by Mrs. Krishnan. Two students of Celia Cruz, Maybelline Roman and Nadejah Green, stepped up to the podium to express their thoughts on womens history. Maybelline told the story of the suffrage movement and how they fought for their right to vote starting from the late 1800's ending in 1920. She showed her appreciation for those women of the past because they effect her as well as other women today and opened up many opportunities for ambitious women. Nadejah Green followed and explained

how jazz music had a significant effect in womens history. Jazz music opened up jobs for women and helped removed the ideal stay at home mom image. It helped women express themselves freely and be notified for it. She too expressed her gratitude for these women of the past that allowed women to become musicians too.

At last, Ruben Diaz Jr., the Bronx Borough President, stepped up to the podium and highlighted three honorees, one of which all Celia Cruz students may know. One of these honorees was actress and author, Sonia Manzano, better



## Women's History Month With The Borough President



known as Maria from Sesame Street. First she was teaching you how to spell and count and now she teaching young women how to become leaders in their very own community. She says her first act of leadership was on the set of Sesame Street, when she insisted on having platanos on set for actors to eat. This at first may not seem important but it was the first of many. She also says; "You know you're a leader when you look behind you and see a crowd of people stepping up to follow. The second honoree was Marissa Shorenstein of AT&T New York; she contin-

ues to give back to the community and encourages funds to go to schools and extracurricular activities for kids. Lastly there was Verona Greenland the founder president and CEO of Morris Heights Health Center. She went to UCLA and Columbia and has over 15 degrees. She has traveled all over the world, but decided to stay here in the Bronx and improve the borough even after already being here for some 37 years. She said, "believe in yourself, no one will tell you that you are pretty so you must believe that you are." She gave some very helpful tips on how to become an entrepreneur and be success-

ful in all that you do. At the end, Ruben Diaz Jr. encouraged all to continue being great leaders and to stay healthy while promoting the #not62 campaign. There are 62 counties in New York City and we should strive not to be number 62 when it comes to our health. So when you have some health tips or start your own healthy journey share it with the hashtag #not62, so that the Bronx can become healthy together. After these remarks the All girls jazz band and other powerful women enjoyed the company of each other, music, and delicious cannoli cake.