

Volume 7, Issue No. 1 Celia Cruz Bronx High School of Music Newsletter www.ccbxhsm.org

STOKED Skates Back to Celia Cruz



By Daquan Taylor and Danilza Martinez

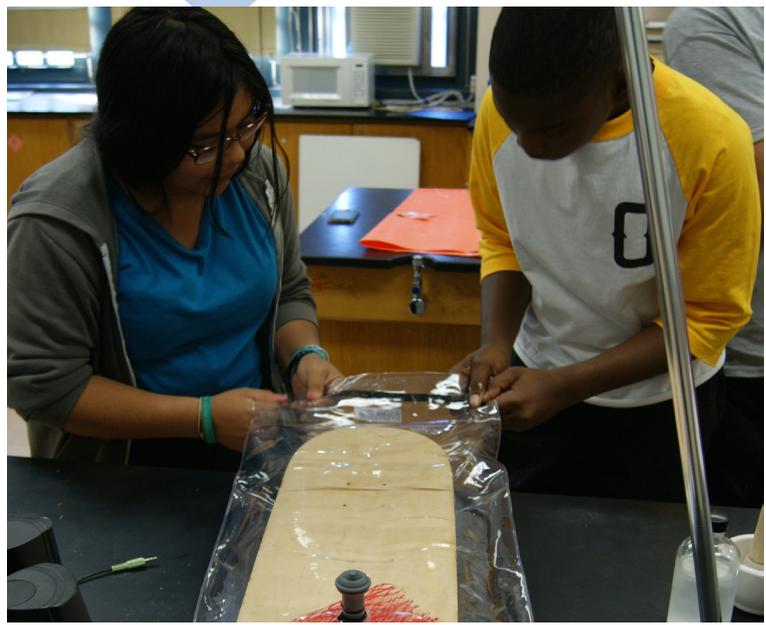
As school returns so do the after school programs. One of the returning programs this year is STOKED. STOKED is a program where students learn through action sports such as skateboarding, snowboarding and surfing. This year, STOKED is open to the Freshman, Sophomores and Juniors.

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STOKED Skates Back to Celia Cruz

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The Freshman and Sophomore group will participate in the year one program, where they will learn how to build, design and ride their own skateboard. The Juniors will participate in year two where they will collectively work to create their own skateboard brand. Not only will you skateboard, but STOKED students will have the opportunity to participate in free trips and learn how to snowboard and surf. Along with the action sports, students would have the chance to do community service and meet many inspirational people. With STOKED students would learn how to strive for success with many fun events. Students will build strong relationships and make many memories with friends. Freshman/sophomores who will be participating in year one will meet on Mondays and Wednesdays in room CC-2 starting September 30 from 4-6pm. Juniors participating will meet on Tuesdays and Thursdays in room CC-2 starting October 1st from 4-6pm. Hope to see you there!



Upperclassmen Advice

By Zoey Arce and Niyanna Carrero

High School is definitely something you don't want to mess up. With all of the pressures that we face as young adults coming into our own, High School can be a difficult and even scary time of tough choices and tougher challenges.

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2 In The Afternoon

By Ariana Jimenez and Stephanie Zuniga

These punks are definitely rockin' & rollin', and everyone's going to know it! This school is full of students who have hidden talents, and who are up-and-coming artists! Two of these up-and-coming artists are, Joshua Reguillo and Miguel Vazquez, of the pop/punk band "2 in the Afternoon."

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Advice From The Upperclassmen

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Not only can you not go back, your choices can hugely effect who you become in the future. When we speak about high school in this sense, we don't mean the popularity and how you dress, we mean your reputation with both your grades and attitude.

To help you avoid many of the common pitfalls of High School, the seniors have decided to come up with a list of tips to take into consideration.

1)DO NOT PROCRASTINATE Procrastination is your worst enemy. Everything will eventually catch up to you when you want to graduate.

2)ACTUALLY READ THE BOOKS THAT YOUR ENGLISH TEACHERS ASSIGN It helps you to understand the class and it expands your knowledge and abilities to think critically.

3)KEEP YOUR MIND SET ON NOT ENDING UP IN SUMMER SCHOOL

Which would you prefer, forty-eight minutes of one class a day or 2 hours of that same class while your friends enjoy

the beach?

4) PASS GYM!

If you hate it, you'll hate it even more when you get two periods of it.

5)TUTORING IS THERE FOR A REASON

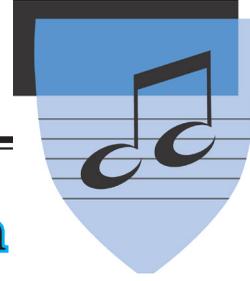
Don't be embarrassed if you're confused. We're in school to learn, so take advantage of your resources.

6)YOUR EDUCATION

MEANS MORE THAN YOUR FRIENDSHIPS

Real friends won't get in the way of succeeding your goals. They would help you rather than distract you around-the-clock.

Don't forget, if you take care of the important things, there will be more time to enjoy High School.



2 In The Afternoon

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These boys got started on their journey just about two years ago with their friend Julian. They performed one of their very first originals in one of our coffee-shop open-mics, two years ago. We were given the opportunity to sit down with the upcoming artists and ask some questions! "What inspired you guys to create '2 in the Afternoon'?" One day after an open mic, Joshua and Miguel were with a friend, told them to meet up the next day at "2 in the afternoon" for a jam session, and thus the band was created! "What inspired me & Josh to create this band is loving the same type of music like Ed Sheeran, Blink-182, 5 Seconds of Summer, and Green Day. They really inspired us to get into some form of pop, rock-ish group, especially after playing at a kids rock event. We really had the urge to create some type of music that impacts people, so they can relate to the kind of obstacles we've went through at some point in life" said Miguel and Joshua.

Just like any other upcoming artist, there's doors that open and close for them to be where they are at, "We practiced a lot, like a

lot a lot, We would come together almost every day and try to write some songs or practice some songs not knowing how it would be in the future as a band. Of course practice definitely makes everything possible, and having a strong friendship and support for each other as a band." As performers, we all get different vibes while on stage and we wanted to know what it's like for the guys, and Miguel seemed pretty ecstatic to answer! He says "Performing feels amazing! It's honestly the best stress reliever 'cause you're singing your heart out and seeing people liking the music makes me happy, the band happy, and it definitely gives us hope that one day we could play and relate to millions of people." I wish I was able to feel that way whenever I'm on stage during a concert!





2 In The Afternoon

Norman Ralph Augustine once said “motivation will always beat mere talent”, but we can all agree that 2 in the Afternoon has both talent, and motivation! They say that their motivation as a band is Blink-182, & GreenDay. These bands know how to have fun, be goofy, and childish, & still make it big in the music industry and be serious about their music... Personally, the people who listen to our music daily, and the little support we have, keeps us going.” Of course, with motivation and talent, comes obstacles. Mi-

guel and Joshua explained, “Things like money to be able to record and promote really is an issue. It’s also to get people to come to our shows, and show us some support, just like anyone else would like support. It would really make us happy to see our friends, and see them happy as well. Also, balancing between school, responsibilities at home, and expanding your knowledge on it can definitely become a hassle.” Just like any other high schooler with big dreams, there always needs to be a balance!

To top it all off, the group will

be attempting to start their first EP project called ‘Stitches’, started and recorded in October! There will definitely be exclusives, and songs that their fans have heard before! “Yeah our songs are either about heartbreak, or steps to healing from heartbreak. This EP truly defines us so it’s good to stay tuned to us on our social media accounts to stay updated! So make sure you guys look out for them for more information! Follow them on twitter (@2inAOfficial), instagram (@2inaband), and Facebook (2 In The Afternoon) !



New Teacher Profile: Ms. Murphy

By Mirelly Pena

While walking through the hallways of Celia Cruz this year, you may have noticed a few new faces. Celia Cruz has been expanding and with those expansions have come many new teachers. One of these new teachers is Ms. Murphy. Ms. Murphy is an ENL and A.P Language and Composition teacher who recently joined the team at Celia Cruz. Murphy is a native New Yorker, having grown up in Brooklyn and later graduating from Fordham University right here in the Bronx. She has been an ENL teacher for about 5 years and it’s her first year teaching A.P. Language and Composition. Ms. Murphy is looking forward to another great year and new experience at Celia Cruz.

According to Murphy, her experience at Celia Cruz has been great so far, exclaiming that the students are “wonderful.” Her current goal as a teacher is to give her students as many tools as possible to be successful in the future. She believes that

she is capable of achieving her goal if her students also cooperate with her in the process, viewing teaching as a team effort between teachers and students. Although her attitude is positive, she acknowledges that there are also obstacles, explaining that her biggest obstacle is “not having enough hours in the day” and plans to overcome her obstacle by using her time wisely.

Ms. Murphy initially applied for the position at Celia Cruz as an ENL Teacher, sending in

her resume and going through the standard interview process.. After being interviewed she was asked if she wanted to teach A.P Language and Composition. At the time she had many mixed emotions and didn’t know what to say, ultimately deciding to put herself up for a challenge and take on what she feels is a great opportunity. Besides work and teaching high school, Murphy enjoys singing, dancing, and enjoys listening to reggae music.





Teacher of the Month: Dr. Abikzer

By Jailani Tirado and
Kaitlyn Castro

Without teachers, there would be no one to help us on our road to success. During lunch, students were able to go around and ask most students at Celia Cruz who their favorite teacher was or who impacts them the most. After counting in the votes, we came to find that Dr. Abikzer is the most favored teacher of September.

Upon hearing that he was selected as teacher of the month, Dr. Abikzer responded "It is definitely a very rewarding feeling." Abikzer added that he has a joy for teaching teens, and giving back something that is important for everyone to have, an education. Abikzer has been teaching at Celia Cruz for eight years, but before then, he studied at Hunter College thinking he'd become a writer as he double majored in English and film. After deciding to want to become a teacher, Abikzer chose to go to Teachers College at Columbia University, eventually receiving his masters degree in English Education. Shortly after, he returned to Co-

lumbia to work on his second masters degree, and Ed.D, earning his Doctorate in Education.

To teach at a school for quite a number of years, it is not hard to tell that a teacher goes through their own obstacles as well as having to deal with a myriad of student's obstacles. Dr. Abikzer gives us a new perspective when he says, "Life is an obstacle; but if you look at it that way, you've already lost." One thing Abikzer wants you to know is when you go through hardship, you should continue to stay focused on the important things, have strength, and keep a positive mindset. Failure is when you truly give up,



not when you don't accomplish it right off the bat. If anything, try your best to face obstacles head on; as long as you're trying to are growing." Abikzer added "Hard work definitely pays off."

Our goals may not seem as evident or as important as others but they are still goals no matter what.

Dr. Abikzer's goals for his English students is to get them to pass the English Regents. He works hard to make sure his students are having fun but most importantly, pass that regents exam.

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Teacher of the Month: Dr. Abikzer

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Though regents are very important, he wants us not only to learn English properly, but understand it and apply it to life everywhere we go. Abikzer efforts have helped raise the school's college readiness level on the English Regents from 36% two years ago to almost 85% last year. Goals that Dr. Abikzer wants us to recognize are "lessons for life," He wants us to "look through a lense" that'll help see and experience life through literature, develop skills, and use these skills to deal with many situations throughout our life.

When asked who his inspiration was, Dr. Abikzer quickly answered, "My grandfather," a person that taught Abikzer "how to have that real drive for success." He mentions how his grandfather came to this country having nothing, which was his obstacle. His grandfather's goals to constantly work hard at what he did brought him to his success, brought him to see that hard work truly does pay off, a mantra that Dr. Abikzer lives by. His grandfather was seen as

charismatic and incredible, a man Dr. Abikzer strives to be like everyday. Dr. Abikzer recalled fond memories of watching old Popeye cartoons with his grandfather quoting Popeye's motto, "I am what I am, and that's all that I am." He explained, it is important to accept who you are and

own it, but always strive to be the best you that you can be. This attitude and energy are exemplified by Dr. Abikzer, and have no doubt propelled him to being voted as this month's teacher of the month.





Your College Advisor

By Simone Hassan Bey

Welcome back to all students, teachers and faculty of Celia Cruz Bronx High School of Music. The 'Cruz News' has a new monthly feature called "Your College Advisor," which will give you monthly advice from your guidance counselors, teachers, and upperclassmen.

Sophomore Advice: If you haven't done so well academically last year, you need to get back on track! This year, aim to take honors and/or AP classes. Colleges like to see students challenge themselves! Try to be more involved in the school this year. Join an after school ensemble, STOKED, NHS, Recycle-a-Bicycle or a local after school program in your community. One of your goals this year, should to participate in more extracurricular activities to build up your resume. This isn't only good for colleges, but you may gain some experience that you could use in a job as well.

Junior Advice: Focus! Focus! Focus! This year you should be taking AP and Honors classes. Challenging yourself is bettering

yourself. The PSAT is coming on October 14th, studying for this exam can help your prepare for the SAT exam next year; you can also get a scholarship by doing well on this exam. If you can, start visiting colleges, the earlier the better. This way, you will know what you need to be a competitive applicant

Senior Advice: This year is the start of the college process. If you haven't done so already, register

to take the SATs. Mr. Stern and Ms. Mak are currently giving SAT prep classes after school on Tuesdays and Thursdays to help get students ready for the November examination. If you haven't already, start asking your teachers for college recommendations and begin working on your college essay. Our first college trip will be to Hunter College on October 22nd.

Good Luck and stay focused.



Leading the Pack: A Sitdown with Mr. Mabry

By Simone Hassan Bey and
Andrea Ramos

The first music school in the Bronx, Celia Cruz Bronx High School of Music has grown exponentially in the past fourteen years. Our school has grown a reputation for our spectacular performances such as appearances on 'Good Morning America' and performing of the inauguration for Mayor DeBlasio. Our principal, Mr. Mabry, has played a major role in the growth of our school and the direction it has taken over the past few years.

Mr. Mabry came to the school when it first opened as a teacher. He taught English for three years before becoming the assistant principal; he became principal of the school in 2013 when the former principal, Dr. Rodriguez, retired. When the school first opened he hoped for a "solid comprehensive music school," but now hopes the school will can be just as competitive academically as it is musically. Mr. Mabry is proud of the school's musical accomplishments as well as our 92% graduation rate. However, he believes that we

can do better and would like to see a great improvement in our school's academic success. When asked if he ever feels hopeless or concerned, he confidently stated he has never felt hopeless, but states "as a school, everyone is constantly changing and growing." He has never felt completely in control either, realizing that good leader knows how to delegate responsibilities and it's a "team effort," but he is proud of building the team and believes the staff of Celia Cruz is growing stronger each year.

With fifty staff members and four hundred and fifty students,

it's amazing what the school has accomplished in a short period of time. Students and teachers alike would agree that the school has come a long way. However, they may be surprised with Mr. Mabry's plans for the future. "I want us to continue to grow and possibly open up to grades six through twelve or add a middle school." He believes this will make the auditioning process a lot easier and would change the culture of the school: "We would accept the students on music and academics equally." His message to faculty and students: "Do your best" and "We are a family."





October-2015
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October

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3 SAT Exam
4	5 ~Blood Drive in Auditorium	6	7 ~Hispanic Heritage Day @ Lehman College	8	9	10
11	12 ~Columbus Day- No School	13	14 ~ PSAT Day ~ Senior Photos and Staff Photos	15 ~Jazz Performance @ The College Board	16 ~Progress Reports ~Journalism Bake Sale - 5th Period	17 High School Fair @ Roo- sevelt H.S.
18 High School Fair @ Roo- sevelt H.S.	19 ~Middle School Recruitment Con- cert @ Lovinger Theatre	20 ~Jazz and Choir Quality Work Life Performance	21 ~Journalism Trip to Wave Hill	22 ~Hunter College Trip	23 ~Homecoming Dance 5-11pm	24 Big Apple College Fair @ Javits Center
25	26	27 ~Arts College Fair @ Javits Center	28	29	30 ~Journalism Bake Sale - 5th Period	31