

Analysis: Ways to meet the needs of English Language Learners

3

The Quality Review Rubric: A Square Peg in a Round Hole

4



Honor Roll: CSA Salutes its Members Who Served In Our Country's Armed Forces

5

The Welfare Fund: Open Enrollment Period Affords Members An Opportunity to Change Dental Coverage Program

10

CSA NEWS

COUNCIL OF SCHOOL SUPERVISORS AND ADMINISTRATORS

Nov. 2015

Volume 49, Number 3
American Federation
of School Administrators,
AFL-CIO Local 1

The Push for Computer Science: Revisiting P-Tech

BY MARIA SMITH

During Mayor de Blasio's "Equity and Excellence" education speech in Sept., he stated that one goal was to provide every public school student with a computer science education by 2026. Yes, all 1.1 million of them. To meet that mark, he introduced Computer Science for All, a public-private partnership under the aegis of the New York City Foundation for Computer Science Education (CSNYC), an organization led by venture capitalist Fred Wilson.

If the designers of this new city-wide initiative need help with their blueprint, they need look no further than Brooklyn's

Students, staff and the business world are all invested.

P-Tech, under the leadership of Principal Rashid Davis. *CSA News* recently revisited P-Tech, home to a unique partnership of business and public for a robust discussion of the need for computer science in schools nationwide. (Also, see p.6 for news of Principal Davis being honored by the *Daily News*.)

Founded in 2011, P-Tech launched from an innovative partnering of IBM, DOE, and

CUNY. The idea? Take raw talent, hone it, teach it, and develop a force of young adults who not only graduate high school but also earn an associates degree and are ready to work in high-paying jobs the day after graduation. A challenge? Yes. Impossible? No.

Now in year five, Mr. Davis can reflect on P-Tech's revolutionary blueprint, which includes a 9-14 curriculum, a non-competitive open-entry policy that allows admission to kids who aren't tech-savvy or even academically inclined. The entering body had 103 students; this year more than 500 are enrolled.

Continued on page 10

Achievement

Educator Awards



■ Educators and schools around the city were feted for their achievements. We highlight some of the awardees and their accomplishments this month on page 6.

AT LEFT: Pathways in Technology Early College High School Founding Principal Rashod Davis, left, received a Hometown Hero award from the *NY Daily News*.

6

The CSA Scholarship Needs Your Assistance!

The CSA scholarship is a fantastic program, but to work well it needs everyone's financial assistance. The scholarship is open to all students graduating from a NYC public school who will be attending any college, including community college, in the fall. It's intended for students who show leadership in school or outside school and who may have had to overcome hardships to graduate. The award is not based on the GPA or SAT scores.

Each school may submit up to three applications. One scholarship per borough will be awarded and presented at a dinner in June. Each award is \$1,500. You can download a copy of the scholarship application at our website. If you have questions, please contact scholarshipcommittee@csa-nyc.org.

To support the Scholarship Fund, make a check out to the CSA Leadership Scholarship Fund and send to CSA Leadership Scholarship Fund, 40 Rector St., 12th Floor, NY NY 10006. The contribution is tax deductible. You may also donate online at our website.

LEADERSHIP

Distinguished Individuals to Be Honored at Annual Conference

BY CSA STAFF

At CSA's Educational Leadership Conference on Nov. 14, held at the NY Hilton, we will proudly honor two extraordinary individuals for their long and distinguished careers.

New York Assemblyman Peter J. Abbate, Jr., has represented the people of Dyker Heights, Bath Beach, Bensonhurst and Borough Park since 1986 and has always been a staunch defender of public educators. He currently serves as Chairman of the Committee on Governmental Employees.

Honoree and CSA member Eathelle Clay brought the energy and drive that served her well before her 1991 retirement to her current work on the CSA Retiree Chapter Executive Board Advisory Committee.

Mrs. Clay sits on the Legislative committees of both



CLEM RICHARDSON

■ Left: CSA Retiree Chapter Advisory Board member Eathelle Clay. Right: NY Assemblyman Peter Abbate, Jr.

the CSA Central Retiree Chapter and the Bronx Retiree Chapter, to which she also belongs. She serves on the Special Events committee and the Constitutional Committee at CSA and is Special Events Coordinator for the Bronx chapter. Mrs. Clay is also a member of CSA's Lower Hudson Valley Regional Retiree unit.

She received myriad honors during her Board of Education career, where she served as District 6 Personnel Director, taught Adult education and represented the Chancellor at all Central Board C-30 principal interviews.

She remains active in the NY Police Department's 47th Precinct Community Council.

"It's a lot, but I just find the time," Mrs. Clay said. "If you want to do something you'll find the time."



Council of School Supervisors & Administrators

American Federation of School Administrators, AFL-CIO, Local 1

40 Rector St., NY, NY 10006
Phone: (212) 823-2020
Fax: (212) 962-6130
www.csa-nyc.org

President
Ernest A. Logan

Executive Vice President
Mark Cannizzaro

First Vice President
Randi Herman, Ed.D

Treasurer
Henry Rubio

Secretary
Sandy DiTrapani

Vice Presidents
Debra Handler
Lois Lee
Chris Ogno
Ronald Williams
Nancy Russo, Retiree Chapter

Executive Director Operations
Erminia Claudio

General Counsel
David Grandwetter

Comptroller
Phil Fodera

Executive Director Field Services
Sana Q. Nasser

Field Directors
Juanita Bass, Stephen Bennett,
Mildred Boyce, James Harrigan,
Christine Martin, Daisy O'Gorman,
Mercedes Qualls

Assistant Field Directors
Eleanor Andrew, Mauro Bressi, Laverne
Burrowes (Special Projects), Rosalie David,
Charles Dluzniewski, Nancy Esposito,
Martin Fiasconaro, Aura Gangemi,
Ellie Greenberg, Ray Gregory,
Robert Jeanette, Kate Leonard,
Monica McDonald, Dorothy Morris,
Ralph Santiago, Shelli Sklar, Fran Walters

Grievance Director
Robert J. Reich

Assistant Directors
Carol Atkins, Robert Colon,
Jermaine Garden, Marlene Lazar, Ph.D.,
Steve Rosen

Director of Communications
Clem Richardson

Assistant Director of Communications
Corey Bachman

Director of Political Affairs
Herman Merritt

Assistant Director of Political Affairs
Gabe Gallucci

Assistant Director
John Khani

Director of IT
Egal Sanchez

Special Assistant to President
Gary Goldstein

CSA Conference Chair
Pierre Lehmuller

CSA Historian
Manfred Korman

CSA Retiree Chapter
Gayle Lockett, Chair
Mark Brodsky, Director

CSA NEWS

Editor Chuck Wilbanks

Associate Editor Maria Smith

Design Consultant Michele Pacheco

Production Assistant Christine Altman

CSA News (004-532) is published monthly except July and August for \$35 per year per member by CSA, 40 Rector St., NY, NY 10006. Periodical postage paid at Manhattan, NY, and additional mailing offices. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to CSA News, 40 Rector St., NY, NY 10006.

PRESIDENT'S PAGE

For DOE's King, Hope and Skepticism

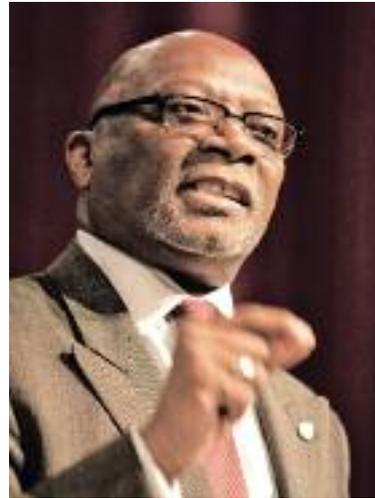
Stakes Are High For the Country's New Appointee By Ernest A. Logan

When President Obama appointed former NYS Education Commissioner John King as Secretary of Education, I thought about opportunities won and squandered by the education bureaucrats I've known in my career. This appointment raised hope in some quarters, a hue and cry in others. Off the bat, I was bored hearing about his "compelling story." I have a compelling story, too. Big deal. You better have a lot more as a member of the President's cabinet and leader of the premiere education bureaucracy in the land. Dr. King is smart and passionate about education, but this didn't always benefit schools when he was in Albany. I hope he will grow as he contends with this far more consequential job.

With every presidential election, I brush off my wish list about I want the Secretary and the Department to do. The Republican candidates always start talking about crushing the DOE. This time, there's Marco Rubio who supports teaching creationism and would consider shutting down the Department; Donald Trump who would at least shrink the Department and "tear down the union walls;" Jeb Bush who would consider closing the Department and voucherizing the entire school system. We need to resist efforts to shut down DOE and instead focus on improving it and keeping Dr. King honest.

Can you imagine a nation like China, Germany or Japan without a Ministry of Education? Education is central to the health of their economies and national defense. Same goes for us. Our wellbeing totally depends on preparing our citizens for jobs and defending our national security. To turn around our weakening position in science and technology, we need a national strategy for education, not a New York strategy, an Arkansas strategy or a West Virginia strategy. We are not fifty separate nations. We are one strong and indivisible nation and we better make sure education is at the top of the president's agenda if we want it to stay that way.

Without the DOE, our ability to strengthen civil rights and



educational equity would be undermined. Access to equal education opportunity cannot be left to the state of Mississippi, Illinois or Texas. The U.S. is in bad enough shape on civil rights. It is DOE's Office of Civil Rights that collects all data and acts on all issues surrounding students with disabilities, sex discrimination, ELL, and race and national origin discrimination. It is also the DOE that makes sure federal aid is going to the students who need it most.

With due respect to President Obama, I can't imagine what he was thinking when he said King's predecessor Arne Duncan brought American education "kicking and screaming into the 21st Century." But Duncan did some good. He advocated Universal Pre-K. He targeted predatory for-profit colleges and championed the president's plan to make

community college free. And he kept an eye on the crazies. Frankly, we need a strong secretary and DOE just to guard against the total lunacy of local school boards. Louisiana recently tried to repeal the Louisiana Science Education Act. The Texas State Board of Education uses religious belief to dictate the content of textbooks. All things considered, without DOE, the education picture would be totally grim.

But the Department is flawed. It should focus on public schools and stop throwing money at charters. If the Democrats regain the White House, we will have to watch John King, who, like Arne Duncan, is a pioneer of the charter movement. The Department should call a halt to its worst initiative: test-based teacher and principal evaluations that have nearly derailed the Common Core. In this, too, Mr. King is made from

The survival of the Department of Education correlates directly to the success of our nation.

the same cloth as Mr. Duncan. He was way off base when he forced test-based evaluations on New York. The fallout is still being felt as families continue to rebel against over-testing.

The Department also has to be much braver about managing out-of-control college fees and lowering student loan default rates. In addition, its Office of Educational Research and Improvement needs to expand its capacity, focusing more on what happens to students after they graduate high school and college; the challenge of educating men of color; the practices that have the greatest effect on student achievement; and which subjects have the most impact on students' lives.

I'm cautiously optimistic about Dr. King. His commitment to educational equity isn't in doubt. I've worked very effectively with him. When talks broke down with the city over the APPR, he proved to be a wise and patient arbitrator, able to broker a settlement that was fair to our members. When it came to closing our struggling schools, he was usually supportive of our efforts to use every available means to help those schools succeed. I'm more concerned about maintaining a viable Department of Education. Our national survival is directly linked to the Department's survival.

Live On Air!



CSA President Ernest Logan, left, gets miked up for a radio interview with Teamsters Local 237 President Gregory Floyd at the station 970-AM, New York. The pair discussed current educational policies, including Universal Pre-K, advanced placement courses, the new discipline code, and professional development for educators.

MARIA SMITH

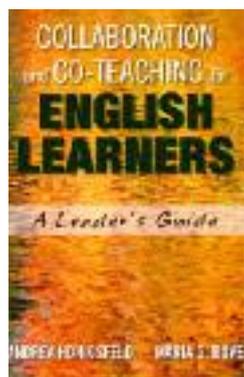
Analysis

New Beginnings: Leadership Support for Integrated ELL

BY CAROL WERTHEIMER AND ANDREA HONIGSFELD

Closing the achievement gap for ELLs has always been a challenge for educators—classroom teachers, ESOL specialists, and school leaders alike. When the New York State Education Department published the Blueprint for English Language Learners Success last year, many administrators across the state started to think about how this document could support their advocacy and leadership work on behalf of ELLs. As the blueprint notes, “All teachers are teachers of English Language Learners,” and it reinforces the need for sustained collaboration among all stakeholders. The forthcoming changes to the Commissioner Regulations Part 154 (CR 154) provided a further impetus for school leaders and teachers to examine instructional program design and leadership practices.

In the spring of 2015, the Executive Leadership Institute (ELI), a not-for-profit organization, responded to these changes in New York State by hosting a book study on *Collaboration and Co-Teaching: A Leader's Guide* (Honigsfeld & Dove, 2015), as one possible way to initiate and sustain the dialogue about ELLs' needs among school leaders. The study participants were a group of New York City school and district administrators gathered to discuss how teacher collaboration and co-teaching can be an effective framework for integrated English as a New Language (ENL) practices to support ELLs' academic, cultural, and linguistic development in the context of the K–12 ELA and content area curricula.



■ This book was the focus of a study designed to facilitate dialogue about ELLs among school leaders.

The study format allowed participants to raise critical questions and explore possible answers in a collegial, highly engaging, and safe environment:

- How do we find teachers in both the elementary and secondary levels with the appropriate certifications?
- How do we find teachers who can plan together, collaborate on shared decision making, are held accountable to each other as well as to the students, and can share the everyday responsibilities for each and every student in their classroom?
- To whom, and how, do we provide professional development for the teachers indicated in CR Part 154?
- With the new CR Part 154 mandate, how do we provide the necessary 90 minutes of integrated instruction for



Carol Wertheimer



Andrea Honigsfeld

CHUCK WILBANKS

former ELLs who are entitled to receive this teaching?

- How do we provide the appropriate planning time for the teachers?

As participants explored each chapter of the book, they identified their conjectures and discoveries and discussed prior experiences – challenges as well as successes – with co-teaching for ELLs, as well as plans and preparations already in place for the coming school year. While it was evident that even more questions could be raised, the overall conclusion was that the co-teaching collaborative model is going to be a powerful framework for instruction.

Co-teaching between a general education teacher and an ESOL teacher can be challenging but with the support of the administration it becomes a unique collaboration benefiting the educational community. Co-planning, co-differentiating, and co-delivering instruction, as well as collaboratively assessing student growth to meet individual needs, creates a positive effect on both the teacher and the student. As teachers and administrators work together, a shared vision develops of how instruction will go and what the expected outcomes are. An outgrowth of this vision is trust, one that the Framework for Great Schools promotes, in which school staff, parents, students, and administrators value each other.

It emerged as a shared belief that administrators must not only schedule common planning time for the general education and English as a second language teacher, but also should communicate frequently with both parties, ensur-

ing that all teachers have adequate resources, planning time, and professional development opportunities.

While inclusion classes, referred to as integrated co-teaching (ICT), are widespread, co-teaching to support ELLs is not new to New York City public schools. As one administrator pointed out, her school has been using the co-teaching collaborative for several years and has established a school culture that prioritizes this model. Not only does it benefit the students, she noted, but also it encourages

teacher leadership as ESOL teachers open their co-teaching classroom to share language and literacy development strategies. Another administrator remarked that the changes to CR Part 154 enable her to ensure that students who have tested as Proficient on the NYSESLAT not only receive testing accommodations for two additional years and additional help before or after school, but also must be serviced for an additional 90 minutes during school.

As the school year begins, the LI continues to provide research-standards-based professional development for all New York City and New York State school supervisors and administrators to better meet the needs of ELLs.

Carol Wertheimer holds a professional diploma in supervision and administration from St. John's University. A former New York City elementary principal, she currently writes and presents workshops for administrators on leadership strategies for the supervision of English language learners. She has presented at both national and international conferences and has served as a peer reviewer for Corwin Press.

Andrea Honigsfeld, Ed.D, is associate dean and director of the Ed.D. program (Educational Leadership for Diverse Learning Communities) at Molloy College, Rockville Centre. A Fulbright Scholar and respected national presenter, Andrea is the co-author or co-editor of over 15 books on education and numerous chapters and research articles related to the needs of ELLs. www.andrea-honigsfeld.com

A version of this article appeared in the Fall issue of Idiom magazine.

COMING EVENTS

(Events are at CSA's Manhattan Headquarters, 40 Rector Street unless otherwise noted.)

- OCT 7, 10 AM:** Chancellor's Consultation
- OCT 13, 5 PM:** School Safety Meet and Greet
- OCT 14, 3 PM:** Early Childhood Education Institute's professional development
- OCT 15, 5 PM:** New Member Reception
- OCT 21, 3:30 PM:** NYCESPA Executive Board meeting
- OCT 30, 8 AM:** Executive Leadership Institute's professional development
- NOV 4, 1 PM:** Chancellor's Consultation
- NOV 5, 1 PM:** CSA/NYPD Meet and Greet
- NOV 19, 3:30 PM:** NYCESPP Institute's professional development Executive B
- NOV 5, 1 PM:** CGNYCESPP Institute's professional development
- NOV 5, 1 PM:** CSA/NYPD Meet and GNYCESPP Institute's professional development

Confirm the above meeting times and dates with the event coordinator before attending.

Teachers' Retirement System

October 2015 Unit Values

- Diversified Equity Fund: 74.680
- Bond Fund: 17.547
- International Equity Fund: 9.085
- Inflation Protection Fund: 10.256
- Socially Responsive Equity Fund: 13.710

www.trsnyc.org

Participate in the Survey!

The Center for Court Innovation is conducting a confidential independent survey of current principals to learn more about school safety, climate, and security. This is your opportunity to describe what is going on at your schools, including positive practices! The survey takes about 20-30 minutes to complete and your progress cannot be saved.

Please make sure you and your school are included! To complete the survey, click on this link (or copy-paste it into your browser): <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/nycprincipalsurvey>.

More details about the survey, confidentiality, and how your information will be used are available at the survey link. To complete the survey on paper or over the phone, or if you have questions, please email the study director, Lama Ayoub at layoub@nycourts.gov.

From Rector Street

Mark Cannizzaro

The QR Rubric: A Square Peg in a Round Hole



Better measures of school quality have emerged

It is hard to believe that, as we enter the 2015-2016 school year, that the Quality Review (QR) Rubric is the one document to survive through the years, albeit in several iterations. It seems that every time the DOE trains its sights on something new, some DOE official explains how the QR rubric fits nicely with this newly minted idea.

This supposedly multi-purpose document has been used to measure both school quality and principal practice. Defenders boast of its amazing “alignment” to all other accountability documents.

The DOE seems unwilling to recognize that the QR rubric has long outlived its usefulness. Two major problems have rendered it obsolete. First, the QR rubric was designed to measure school quality, not principal practice. Second, changes and tools implemented by our new DOE administration as well as those mandated by NY State have exposed the rubric as narrow and unnecessary.

The DOE instituted the QR in 2006, after the advent of the school progress report. A May 17, 2006 *Education Week* article notes the DOE’s hiring of the global education products company Cambridge Education to “help design a process for judging how well schools make decisions about instruction... The aim is to balance outputs, such as test scores, with a more qualitative snapshot of how schools are functioning.”

Since then, the DOE has changed the rubric several times to focus more on student outcomes, exactly the opposite of its original intent since school progress reports were already in place and being used as an outcome based measure. In fact, a successful QR appeal must now be accompanied by a demonstrated “impact” on student learning. What happened to the “qualitative snapshot?”

In the same *Education Week* article one principal describes her pilot QR as “like here are two colleagues having a conversation about what it means to create this particular

school.” Unfortunately, it now appears that the pilot was used to “bait and switch” as current QR parameters narrowly define how good schools operate.

New York State has mandated its own rubric, the Diagnostic Tool for School and District Effectiveness, or DTSDE, be used when state officials review our schools and districts, while the DOE has added the Framework for Great Schools to the mix.

We are required to use DTSDE, the Framework for Great Schools and the QR to analyze our schools’ health when completing our Comprehensive Education Plan (CEP). We are told that they are all “aligned.”

Although I question how well they are actually aligned, I must ask the obvious: If they are aligned, why do we need all three?

In 2010, New York State charged all of its over 700 school districts with creating an Annual Professional Performance Review (APPR) for its teachers and principals. One key component of this plan was the identification and implementation of a rubric designed to measure a principal’s practice.

The State further mandated that the instrument be researched-based and aligned to the Interstate School Leaders Licensure Consortium (ISLLC) Standards. Over 70% of districts chose the Multidimensional Principal Performance Rubric (MPPR) and almost all of the others chose similar rubrics created by respected educators like Kim Marshall and Robert Marzano.

These rubrics were chosen because they were researched based, designed to measure a principal’s practice and were directly aligned, as required, to the ISLLC standards. The QR rubric is deficient in all three of these areas.

It has undergone so many changes that any research done is no longer applicable. By the DOE’s own submission to New York State, some of the QR alignment to ISLLC standards is “implicit” which makes sense as the ISLLC

standards were not considered when the QR rubric was developed and, it was designed to measure school quality, not principal practice.

Although the difference between school quality and principal practice is nuanced, it is also significant. The principal who takes over a struggling school may demonstrate outstanding practice by first tackling the most pressing issues facing the institution simply because it is not practical or possible to fix everything at once. This type of common sense leadership is recognized by principal practice rubrics but less so by the QR.

Or consider the seasoned principal who has several new teachers working in a school struggling to raise student achievement. This principal should be evaluated based on how he/she is addressing the anticipated deficiencies in new teachers. But the QR focuses on the fact that these expected deficiencies exist at all. This is not only unfair but doesn’t make sense when trying to ascertain a school leader’s effectiveness! Although we did agree in 2013 to use the QR rubric as part of the overall evaluation system based on the DOE’s pledge to focus PPO visits more on a principal’s practice, the timing is right for a change.

Thankfully, better measures of school quality have emerged. These well researched tools recognize best practices broadly enough so that adjusting to a new rubric would require little more than familiarizing yourself and your staff on the new tool.

Efforts to align the QR Rubric for use in PPO visits, although well intentioned and thought out, have fallen quite short. Under education law 3012-d we are charged with renegotiating our previous APPR agreement. Hopefully, the DOE will make the changes that many of their superintendents and top officials quietly agree are necessary.

Mark Cannizzaro serves as the CSA Executive Vice President.

New York is Delivered from Eva – For Now

BY CHUCK WILBANKS

Who calls a press conference to announce that she’s not running for office? Eva Moskowitz, that’s who. Claiming that speculation over her political plans was so intense that she felt it necessary to tamp down the fires, Ms. Moskowitz told an assembled crowd of reporters on the steps of City Hall on Oct. 8 that she would not run for mayor.

The founder (along with the backing of hedge fund supremos) of the Success Academy chain of charter schools, Ms. Moskowitz claimed that “winnability” was not an issue, nor, she said, was the belief that a run for office and the apparently inevitable victory would be too hard on her family. Instead, she offered a different bromide: She blamed the UFT and other political enemies, and said she is better situated where she is to foster her brand of “transformational change” in education, which she compared to Apple’s contributions to computing and Google’s efforts to develop a driverless car.

“If I won, one of my first conversations would be with [UFT President Michael] Mulgrew,” the former member of the City Council said. “How is that going to go?”



CHUCK WILBANKS

■ Above: Eva Moskowitz, Success Academy founder and CEO, at City Hall Oct. 8, said she will not seek the mayoralty. Inset: Protesters highlighted Ms. Moskowitz’ anti-tax, anti-union allies.

She said she would point out to him that the entire New York school system is a vast failure, and she would argue in favor of “the elimination of early 20th century work rules.”

As of late last year, Ms. Moskowitz was collecting a salary of \$567,500 a year to manage the 34 schools in her organization, and has received tens of millions of dollars

in donations from wealthy hedge fund investors and corporate leaders, many of whom are avowedly anti-tax and anti-union. Investor John Paulson, for example, who gave Success Academy \$8.5 million in July, has urged his fellow investors to move their business operations to Puerto Rico, where they have received preferential tax status, and has, along with other

hedgefunders, made big purchases of the island’s troubled debt. To make good their investments in the bonds, they have argued that the government must close public schools and lay off teachers.

While Ms. Moskowitz addressed reporters, a protest against her was being held about 100 yards away in adjoining City Hall Park. About 150 people gave voice to some of the criticism and resentment that would complicate any run for public office she might contemplate. Gathered under the banner of “Hedge Clippers,” a partially union-backed activist organization, they chanted, “Hedge fund money has got to go,” and, “Billionaires should pay their share.” At times the voices of the protesters made it difficult for Ms. Moskowitz to be heard.

After she had spoken, Billy Easton, executive director of the Alliance for Quality Education, took to the podium and called her performance the “biggest non news conference I have ever seen.”

“The hedge fund billionaires who have sponsored Eva Moskowitz have already made it known that they plan to run another candidate, so we can fully anticipate that they will have another puppet candidate.”

HONOR ROLL

CSA Salutes Veterans

BY MARIA SMITH

In honor of Veterans Day, Nov. 11, CSA News is proud to publish the second list of CSA members who served in our

country's Armed Forces. The first list was published in the June 2015 issue. This second list includes names of members not on the original list but learned from you – our readers.

Thank you for all your hard work as educators. Thank you for serving our country during wartime, military actions and peacetime. On behalf of CSA, we salute you!



MARIA SMITH

■ This monument in New York City's Battery Park honors Navy military personnel who perished in the Atlantic Ocean in World War II.

Donald Abramson
Albert Ahlstrom
Joseph Alfieri
Jack Alkana
Irving Alter
Gregory Arnold
Stefan Axelrod
Herbert Baldwin
Bob Barrett
Roberto Batista
Albert Benjamin
Carl Benjamin
Jack Berberian
Carl Berlin
Jerome Bloom
Jerome Bloom
Albert Bortnick
Bernard Bragin
Ira Brand
Ira Brand
Stanley Bribbon
Leonard Burgess
Francis Caiola
Stanley Carter
Anthony Catania

Nathan Chaiken
Mitchell Checrallah
Paul Cioffari
Jacob Cohen
Jacob Cohen
Maxwell Cohen
Arman Colangelo
Herbert Coleman
Philip Cox
Victor Crecco
Harald Dale
Adolph Dembo
Solomon
Derewetsky
Peter DeStefano
Morris Diamond
Druckman
Henry Epstein
Leonard Epstein
Frederick Ergany
Leonard Fagen
Edward Ferraro
Bennett Fisch
Joe Fisler
Paul Flaumenhaft

Albert Fox
Howard Fritsch
Andrew Galdi
Herbert Gardner
Gilbert Garshman
Al Gentile
Alfonse Gentile
Aaron Gerstman
Dennis Gladstone
Herbert Gold
Lester Golden
Sidney Goldstein
Rosemarie
Gonzalez
Terry Grady
Robert Graham
Wilbur Grant
Seymour Greenstein
Harold Grill
Howard Gross
Jack Hadler
Frederick Hellman
Martin Herman
Sidney Hollander
Clarence Holmes
Clint Jackson
Percy Jenkins
Howard Justin
Stanley Katzman
Thomas Kelly
Max Kessler
James Kincaid, Jr.
Wilbur Klein
Harold Kobliner
Steven Koenigsberg
Frederick Koury
Herbert Laden
Vincent Lamorgese
Jack Landman
Leslie Langer
Jack LaRock
Meyer Lehman
Harold Lehrman
Philip Lembo
Stanley Leshaw
Herbert Leshner
Harold Levine
Jack Levine
Bertram Levinson
Irwin Levy
Ralph Levy
Meyer Lieman
Seymour Litman
Anthony Locurto
Leonard Lurie
John Maher
Charles Majors
Edward Malench
Joseph Malone
Edward
Markantonio
John McNeil
Morton Meisner
Bernard Mendelson
Donald Milrod
Bernie Modell
Joe Molone

Abraham Morris
Michael Mulee
Arnold Nager
Vincent O'Connor
Max Parnes
Rhonda Pekow
Seymour Perlin
Joseph Porzio
William Raffa
Arnold Raisner
David Ramos
Seymour Richman
Martin Rivkin
Jim Roberts
Sonja Rose
Stanley Rose
Howard Rosen
Sidney Roth
Roy Rubenstein
Marvin Rubinstein
Lawrence Rucker
Edward Rudetsky
Ned Sachs
Howard Sadowsky
Rick Safran
William Samber
Matthew Scaffa
Ira Schaeffer
Pearl Scher
Lester Schlumpf
Mitchell Schulich
Gilbert Seidman
Gary Shandroff
Harold Sheikowitz
Irving Silberberg
Marvin Silverman
Michael Skodnik
Martin Smith
Lawrence Solow
James Spatley
Sheldon
Spiegelman
Thomas Steinfeld
Arthur Stracher
Daryl Straughter
Sorol Suffman
Seymour Sundick
Harry Swanson
Seymour Sworkin
Philip Thau
Eugene Tierney
Gilbert Tufel
Sherman Tufel
Bernard Unger
Milton Vogelstein
Dave Waldman
David Wallis
Albert Weinstein
Max Weinstein
Albert Wiley
Delius Wilson
Robert Winthrop
Daniel Wohl
Elmer Yearwood
Mark Yohelman
Robert Yurasits
Mel Zimmerman

Grievance Corner | Bob Reich

Avoid Missteps, Protect Your Career

The Department of Education advises school leaders and Education Administrators, whatever their level of experience, that staff members working at the Borough Field Support Service Centers (BFCs) are there to assist and guide them. That's true, as far as it goes. But be aware: Seeking this assistance may be hazardous to your career.

Department of Education Attorneys work for the Chancellor. In other words, they are her attorneys, and their duty is to her, not you. So if you ask one of them about whether something you have done is in violation of a Chancellor's Regulation, you will enjoy no benefits of attorney client privilege. They may answer your question, but they will report any potential violations you may have committed to the Special Commissioner of Investigation, Office of Special Investigations or Office of Equal Opportunity.

The OSI, the OEO and Diversity and the Department of Education Conflicts Office all offer to conduct training at schools and to answer inquiries you may have. They can be a good resource. But remember that they are investigative offices. If your inquiry raises concern about your actions, you will become the subject of an investigation. And as I pointed out in my last column, these investigations can take a long time to complete.

Staff members of the investigative offices I have mentioned are personable and skilled in what they do. Do not be misled by their gentleness, even if they say, "Don't worry, this is not about you." Answering questions without a union representative can result in serious trouble. You have the right to have a representative present whenever you are interviewed, and you should use that right. If an investigator comes to your school or



Anything you say can and will be used against you

Do not be misled by the friendliness of an investigator. To be interviewed, you need a union representative present.

even your home, simply state that you will gladly answer your questions when your union representative is present. Request the investigator's card and case number and immediately send this information to me. You do not need a representative to be present when students are interviewed, but an adult should be present with the students and the investigator. You should provide the investigator with copies of any documents they request. If they ask for original documents make copies for your own files and ask the investigator to sign for them. If a computer is being removed, demand that the investigator sign for it.

The possible negative consequences aren't as dire when you speak with HR specialists at the BFCs, who can assist you with personnel issues. But again, caution is in order. They frequently provide inaccurate information, either through lack of experience or knowledge. For example, we have learned that many administrators, both school- and central-based, are often given wrong information about their tenure status. So if you have questions about tenure, ask us. If you're thinking of taking a leave or a sabbatical, you can review the procedures on the DOE website. Yes, you can ask advice from the HR person, but only your union knows what all your rights are. It is in your best interests to discuss such matters as leaves, sabbaticals and payroll status with CSA before reaching out to the DOE.

If you have any questions related to this column, your contract, or whom your Field representative is, or have concerns you would like addressed in future columns, please email me at bob@csa-nyc.org.

Awards & Honors

Coveted Blue Ribbon Awards for NY Schools

BY BY MARIA SMITH
AND CHUCK WILBANKS

The US Department of Education handed out its coveted National Blue Ribbon Schools awards to 335 schools across the nation on Sept. 30, and among the winners were seven New York City schools. The awards are based on academic excellence or progress in closing achievement gaps among student subgroups, the DOE said. Public and non-public elementary, middle and high schools, including traditional, charter, magnet schools, parochial and independent schools received awards.

The New York City winners are: P.S. 5 The Huguenot School in Staten Island; P.S. 100 The Coney Island School; P.S. 244 The Active Learning Elementary School in

'We have a rigorous curriculum and high standards for our kids, ourselves and parents.'

Queens; P.S. 277 The Gerritsen Beach School in Brooklyn; P.S. 682 The Academy of Talented Scholars; Harlem Success Academy Charter School 3; Icahn Charter School 2

Principal Lisa Arcuri of PS 5 cited hard work on the part of everyone from children to staff to parents for the honor. "We have a rigorous curriculum and high standards for our kids, ourselves and the parents as well," she said. "We work smart and creatively with the resources we have."

Ms. Arcuri and other recipients said the application process was formidable: School administrators had to submit five years' worth of data, including standardized test results. "Completing the application was almost a full-time job," said Jeannie Fish, Principal, PS 277, Gerritsen Beach, Brooklyn, who along with AP Janet

Kennedy, completed the lengthy document. "We were very exact in our answers and showed our school's solid accomplishments," said Ms. Fish, who started at PS 277 as a teacher. "We are just thrilled beyond words with this designation."

Ms. Fish credits high standards of staff and students alike and a solid, proactive relationship with the community, as reasons why PS 277 received this honor. "I know this neighborhood and I respect the community," she said. "We work together as partners. When educational demands became more rigorous, we worked together to achieve those goals."

Hit hard by Hurricane Sandy, PS 277, which sits on slightly higher ground, remained functional and provided a safe haven for the community since many residents were displaced by flooding. "I made sure there were after-school programs, weekend programs and that the school was an outlet for services families needed. We've been through a lot together... this designation is a wonderful recognition for all of our hard work."

Robert Groff, Principal of PS 244 in Queens, runs a Title 1 Pre-K through 3 school in which a majority of students are Asian English Language Learners. "It's a great opportunity to showcase the hard work that our families and staff have done," Mr. Groff said. His school, dubbed TALES, for "The Active Learning Elementary School," is also known for providing a vegetarian breakfast and lunch program.

The Department will honor all the schools at a recognition ceremony on Nov. 9-10 at the Omni Shoreham Hotel in Washington, D.C. Each school will receive an award plaque and a flag as symbols of their accomplishments. In its 33-year history, more than 8,000 of America's schools have received the award.

Principal Arcuri said she and her Superintendent, Anthony Lodico, will travel to Washington D.C. for the national honor ceremony. "The best part of that trip is that you can collaborate with so many other Principals and share best practices."

Outstanding Educator



■ Assistant Director, Grievance Department was honored by New Life Tabernacle Church in Brooklyn for her work as an "outstanding educator" and for "service to the community." In the photo with Ms. Atkins are Doreen Figueroa, wife of Pastor Eric R. Figueroa, Hospitality Committee Chair Malike Simmons.

Innovative Approaches

BY COREY BACHMAN

The *NY Daily News* held its 2015 Hometown Heroes in Education Awards Breakfast at the Edison Ballroom in Manhattan on Oct. 1. The judging panel, which included CSA President Ernest Logan, designated eleven NYC educators as Hometown Heroes for their innovative approaches to learning.

CSA Executive Vice President Mark Cannizzaro, who spoke before the event, detailed why these educators are the cream of the crop.

"They've earned our thanks by working tirelessly to educate our children, to give them the intellectual tools and skills they need to become productive citizens and contributing members of American society," he added. "This is no small task."

Pathways in Technology Early College High School Founding Principal Rashid Ferrod Davis was the only public school Principal to be honored in the ceremony. Mr. Davis' groundbreaking school, nicknamed P-TECH, gives students the opportunity to receive a high school diploma while earning an associate's degree in computer science. An added

bonus: Students can also compete for positions at tech giant IBM. Mr. Davis eventually hopes to expand so that students can earn four year degrees. "I give



COREY BACHMAN

■ CSA Executive Vice President Mark Cannizzaro spoke at the Education Awards Breakfast Oct. 1.

my students the same message that I received as a youngster," said Mr. Davis. "Education is the key to a better life."

Better School Contest Yields 3 Grand Prizes, Highlights Cooperation

BY CLEM RICHARDSON

CSA President Ernest Logan joked that the annual "Build a Better School" contest always costs him money.

This year's ceremony, held Sept. 22 at the United Federation of Teachers headquarters, was no exception as Mr. Logan, UFT President Michael Mulgrew, and Corey Fernandez, the Municipal Credit Union's Vice President for Business Development, pledged \$10,000 to the program.

Created by the MCU, and co-sponsored by CSA, the UFT, the New York City Department of Education, the City University of New York and the *Daily News*, the contest requires public school students to create a three minute video describing a school project they would complete if they won the \$10,000 BBS grand prize.

Schools Chancellor Carmen Farina praised this year's finalists, student groups from PS 106 in Far Rockaway, Queens, PS 47 in the Bronx, and Brooklyn's Research & Service High School, for their collaborations.

"A classroom is not teachers leading kids, it is kids and teachers working together," she said. "It's coming up with an idea and deciding whose role it is to do what. Remember that when we work together, good things happen."

Mulgrew also touted cooperation. "I would love to send you children to Washington to show Congress how to

get things done," he said. "Thank you for teaching all of us."

President Logan thanked Fernandez for creating the contest. "MCU could have written a check and no one would have noticed," he said. "But by doing this they have allowed us to showcase some great talent in our schools."

WPIX-11 News Anchor Sukanya Krishnan hosted the event. City Councilmen Donovan Richards Jr., (Dist 31 - Queens) and Robert Cornegy Jr., (Dist 36 - Brooklyn), introduced videos from students in their respective boroughs.

CUNY Athletic Conference Executive Director Zak Ivkovic introduced the PS 106 video, and said his group was committed to supplying the equipment and coaches for the basketball court the students requested in their video.

PS 47 students video, titled "Hydro Who? Hydro What? Hydroponics Sounds Cool," made an argument to create a school hydroponics garden.

Research & Service students wanted money to expand its Campus Care Community Pantry and nutrition program to serve it's Bedford Stuyvesant neighbors.

"To have our kids understand the significance of giving back in this way is incredible," Cornegy said.

Choosing one winner proved too difficult for the judges. So each of the three finalists received the grand prize as well as a \$10,000 shopping spree at the Barclay School Supplies in Brooklyn.

NATION Education

Principals Have Their Very Own Ambassador in Washington, D.C.

BY CHUCK WILBANKS

Alicia Perez-Katz can normally be found in the halls and classrooms of Baruch High School in Manhattan, where she has been Principal for the last 12 years. But right now, she is more likely to be seen in her cubicle near the office of the Secretary of Education in Washington D.C.

Ms. Perez-Katz is one of four 2015 Washington Principal Ambassador Fellows. Fellows in the prestigious program come to Washington for a year, in the words of the Department, “to gain in-depth knowledge of national policy issues in education and to contribute their expertise to those discussions.”

They don’t just hang around in D.C. though – they travel the country, leading roundtable discussions, meeting and sometimes shadowing other principals to learn and share current best practices.

Outgoing Education Secretary Arne Duncan announced the winners of the program, now in its second year, in September. “The inaugural class of Principal Ambassador Fellows made tremendous contributions to our work at the Department,” said Duncan. “I am excited to work with this new team to



CHUCK WILBANKS

■ Baruch High School Principal Alicia Perez-Katz, left, says Principals are the key to reforming and changing schools.

bring attention to the essential role of great school leaders in creating great school environments for students. We must do more to recognize our school principals and their work, especially on behalf of students coming from some of the most challenging circumstances.”

Ms. Perez-Katz said she has gotten a window into how policy is made and how it affects people. Meanwhile, she has found plenty of opportunities to educate bureaucrats of the importance of school leadership, and is crafting a strategic plan to

guide Principal Ambassadors in coming years.

“Many times, the Principals are added on in documents, almost as afterthoughts to policy,” she said in a recent interview. “I try to get people to understand how much the principal is really key to reforming and changing schools.”

Ms. Perez-Katz credits CSA with helping make her year in Washington come to pass.

“The union was hugely helpful,” she said. “I was in an unusual situation. I had envisioned myself as a part-time fellow – relocating wasn’t our plan because our kids are in New York schools. I was able to work out a deal to commute

[she’s only in Washington a few days a week]. I also wanted to make sure I can go back to my school. CSA and David Grandwetter really helped to ensure I could go back to my school.”

The other fellows are: Joseph Manko, the principal of Liberty Elementary School in Baltimore, Maryland; Jessica Nauoikas, the founder and principal of Mott Haven Academy Charter School in New York City; and Christopher Pearson, the Superintendent of Conway School District in Mt. Vernon, Washington.

COALITION

Postal Privatizers Get Union Pushback

BY CHUCK WILBANKS

CSA is supporting a new coalition of labor, religious and civic organizations in its fight to preserve the US Postal Service. AGrandAlliance.org, which includes among its coalition the American Federation of School Administrators and the AFL-CIO, is taking on the Obama Administration’s efforts to put privatizers on the USPS Board of Governors.

The USPS has for several years been laboring under assaults from a wide variety of corporate interests who want to see it diminished or entirely privatized.

The USPS has been hobbled with budget constraints, such as when Congress mandated that it fund its retiree health benefits program for ten years to the tune of nearly \$60 billion, a requirement unheard of in corporate America. Without that burden, the USPS would have enjoyed an ample surplus. Management has responded by closing post offices and processing facilities, cutting business hours, and reducing services in general service. Thousands of postal workers have lost their jobs – middle class jobs.

Yet competitors UPS and FedEx benefit hugely from USPS: For example, Postal carriers deliver nearly 30 percent of FedEx’s business to homes and businesses – relieving the private company of the least prof-

Organized labor, allies create wall of opposition to protect USPS

itable leg of a parcel’s transit.

Meanwhile, the AFL-CIO is backing a USPS Workers Union boycott of office supplies giant Staples, which has opened USPS kiosks in their stores, staffed not with USPS workers but with low-wage, high-turnover Staples employees.

The latest outrage comes courtesy of President Obama, who has nominated a slate of candidates to the Board Governors of the United States Postal Service, including the renomination of James Miller, the former director of the Office of Management and Budget in the Reagan Administration. Mr. Miller has said there is no need for a postal service and says it should be privatized. Another Obama pick, Mickey D. Barnett, is a lobbyist for the payday lending industry – think legalized loan sharking to some of the most vulnerable people in society.

The payday lender advocate is a particularly galling choice. One idea to enhance USPS (artificially ailing) revenues has been to introduce modest banking services at

post offices, including paycheck cashing, bill payments, savings accounts and small loans, all at a reasonable rate. Such services would add immense value to citizens in rural areas where banks can be scarce, and would provide the USPS with much needed cash. Needless to say, payday lenders, offering similar services at exorbitant rates, hate such an idea, so appointing someone with Mr. Barnett’s background is an obvious conflict of interest.

The president is facing a wall of opposition on the nominations. The Grand Alliance is supporting another wide coalition of labor and social groups known as the Leadership Conference, which sent a letter to Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell and Senate Minority Leader Harry Reid, pleading that the slate not go through.

“We would be deeply troubled if anyone confirmed to a leadership position within the USPS used that position to promote the sorts of practices we have seen in the payday lending industry, or to block the advancement of alternatives” the letter stated.

CSA stands behind the AFL-CIO, a Grand Alliance and other allies in the fight to protect the USPS. You can learn more at our website, CSA-NYC.org, that of AFSA, Afsaadmin.org, and Agrandalliance.org.

VIRGINIA:

Move Over Lockers

With few students requesting them, lockers are being replaced by charging stations. In Albemarle County, only 25 out of 2,000 high schoolers asked for lockers. One Virginia high school replaced hundreds of lockers with charging stations, whiteboards and benches, allowing students the ability to continue collaboration in the hallways. Renovations may be expanded in the next three to five years. (districtadministration.com)

PENNSYLVANIA:

One-To-Ones

Researchers at the Universities of Pennsylvania, Washington and California (Riverside), recently published findings indicating that efficiency in the use of one-to-one assistants to work with students with IEPs may not be optimal. The study showed that one-to-ones engaged with students only 57% of the time, compared to teachers and classroom assistants (98% and 91%, respectively). The study concluded that its findings might be “symptomatic of broader challenges related to the delivery of special education services”. (www.disabilityscoop.com)

ILLINOIS:

Virtual Reality

Google Expeditions – a field-trip simulation system – is making its debut in classrooms. The system is touted as being more immersive than similar programs before it. It allows for 360-degree views of places and 3-dimensional images of about 100 places, to date. As the technology is still being developed, Expeditions is being offered free-of-charge. The Google kits come with cardboard viewers and a teacher app to guide the trips. (www.nytimes.com)

MICHIGAN:

Math Content

Weak math content in schools that teach low-income students is adding to the achievement gap between poor and wealthy students. The problem has been identified worldwide. A peer-reviewed study in the American Educational Research Association found 40% of the gap in the US is due to unequal access to strong Math content; the balance is attributed to family/community background. (www.washingtonpost.com)

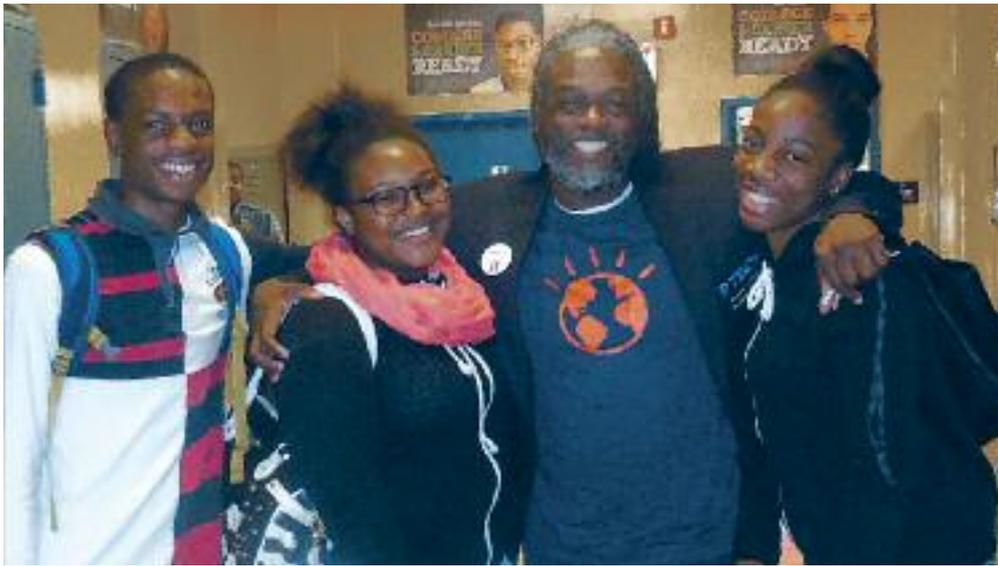
LOUISIANA:

Pre-K Funding Loss

The US Education Department, House Appropriations, has approved a bill cutting \$22.5 million to fund the final two years of preschool expansion. The combined \$32 million was to educate 4,580 new children with an additional 6,000 children to receive enhanced care. About half of the state’s Kindergartners enter prepared for school. Over 5,300 4-year-olds did not attend pre-school in 2013. (www.nola.com)

— COMPILED BY
CHRISTINE ALTMAN

P-Tech: A Well-Rounded, Solid Path to Learning



MARIA SMITH

■ Principal Rashad Davis: 'We had to redefine success, renew hope, and be deliberate with our time.'

Continued from page 1

The first cohort of P-Tech graduates in June boasted six students who graduated two years early with an associate's degree in applied science from the NYC College of Technology. Three graduates are now working at IBM. The other three have opted to finish their undergraduate degrees. None took or need remedial courses for their current positions.

"When we opened, I believed each kid would succeed. I believe that five years later," said Mr. Davis.

What makes P-Tech unique and perhaps what other computer science programs will replicate is the blend of old-fashioned values and expectations with hard work and no excuses for failure. The STEM degree is a narrow focus and the school progression is lockstep, said Mr. Davis.

"We had to redefine success, renew hope and be very deliberate with our time," he said. "And a big change? Children own their learning."

He also believes in testing. And he believes in testing often. "Let's face it; the big test threat does more harm than good. If you test often and you test effectively, students get used to the idea and aren't afraid of taking exams. My first year, we had every freshman sit for the English and Algebra Regents in January. Did they all pass? No, of course not. But they knew what to expect and how to do better," he said.

This successful recipe: Learn coding. Study history. Play basketball. And take completing courses at CUNY Tech's downtown Brooklyn campus. For Stanley Litow, who helped create the school, P-Tech offers a well-rounded, solid approach to learning.

"We approached P-Tech from an educational, social and business model," said Mr. Litow, a Vice President of Corporate Citizenship and Corporate Affairs at IBM and also the President of the IBM Foundation. "In order to be successful, a student has to show proficiency in all areas. There is no remediation in P-Tech. If you're teaching a history lesson about Martin Luther King, Jr., absolutely use social media to learn about his life, but also know how to present, how to write, and how to explain to others. These so-called "soft skills" are what's needed and required in the working world."

The skills taught at P-

TECH were formulated to include what IBM found in recruiting new hires: problem solving, working in partnerships, collaborative skills, presentation, and computer skills.

In an algebra class, students use iPads to learn the basics of equations but they also work on using them in practical projects, such as creating a marketing plan.

Coding is important. During last summer, P-TECH students worked at IBM's Astor Place headquarters learning code and creating new gaming technology. They learned context and collaboration, according to Mr. Litow, with assistance from IBM mentors.

During their summer wrap-up presentation, students were asked what they had learned.

One student responded "I am not walking out of the classroom if I have a question. If I don't understand something, I am going to ask a question."

Another student impressed New York Lt. Governor Kathy Hochul with her "elevator pitch."

"These students are staying and learning at P-Tech – not dropping out – because the entire academic program is relevant," said Mr. Litow. "There isn't anything that's taught, even gym, that doesn't have some importance in what these students do every day and will do every day."

Looking forward, IBM has expanded P-Tech to four new schools and to Australia. In the Crown Heights section of Brooklyn, Principal Davis keeps fine-tuning a model that works.

"There's room for improvement. There's room to grow and learn," he said walking the brightly-colored hallways of the old Paul Robeson High School. "But we have a winner here: We've got the students and the staff and the business world invested and engaged 100 percent. We keep moving ahead."

P-Tech: Notable Moments

- 2010:** CSA President Ernest Logan and IBM's Stan Litow, former NYC Deputy Chancellor, convene a working Principals' dinner at IBM headquarters and discuss what's needed to make an academic/business STEM school successful.
- 2011:** P-TECH, a 9 – 14 STEM school opens in Brooklyn with a cohort of 103 students.
- 2013:** Based on early successes, President Obama praises P-TECH in his 2013 and 2014 State of the Union addresses.
- 2013:** President Obama visits P-TECH in 2013.
- 2015:** Six students from the original cohort graduate early; all with an associate's degree in applied sciences.
- 2015:** CNN Money names P-TECH one of the most innovative schools in the United States.

GARY GOLDSTEIN

Travel Desk

River, Sea, Or Land

Panama Seas

Jan. 7-15, 2016

Escorted land tour including the Gamboa Rainforest, Anton Valley, Playa Blanca Beach Resort and Panama City. Rates below include round-trip airfare from JFK, hotels, 15 meals, sightseeing, transfers and tour manager. We have 4 seats left.

RATES: \$2,649 per person for a double room; single rate, \$3,399.

Caribbean Sail

Feb. 13-20, 2016

President's Week Sail

Sail from San Juan to St. Croix, St. Kitts, St. Martin, Martinique and Barbados. Enjoy the luxury of the *Adventure of the Sea*, Royal Caribbean's popular cruise ship.

RATES: Call for rates. Very limited space.

2016 Spring Break

April 23-May 1, 2016

We'll fly to elegant San Juan and board the fabulous *Celebrity Summit*. We'll sail back to the states stopping in St. Martin, St. Thomas and Bermuda before we arrive home in Bayonne, NJ.

RATES: Rates begin at an astounding \$628.09 for inside cabins (plus one-way airfare to San Juan.) Rates won't last.

USA's Music Cities

April 22-29, 2016

Tour Nashville, Memphis and New Orleans! Visit the Grand Old Opry and RCA Studios in Nashville, Graceland and Beale Street in Memphis, and while in New Orleans, enjoy the French Quarter, the New Orleans School of Cooking, a Swamp Tour, and the French Marketplace.

RATES: All inclusive with air \$2579 per person double; \$3279 triple. Loyalty discounts are available.

Japan, Korea, Russia!

July 3-17, 2016

Sail the beautiful *Diamond Princess* departing Tokyo July 3 to Busan (Korea), Nagasaki, Tokyo, Kushiro, Shiretoko Peninsula, Korsakov (Russia), Otaru, Hakodate, Aomori, and return to Tokyo on July 16. Tokyo pre stay is available.

Rates begin at \$2573.00 incl. taxes. Optional insurance and air is not included. At this point flights are deeply discounted and is a great opportunity to use AA miles. Is 15 days too long?

Join the *Diamond Princess* on July 8-17 for a shorter version with rates beginning at \$1499! Call for details.

China by Land, River

Aug. 13-25, 2016

This will be a magical trip as we cruise the Viking River Cruises *Emerald* for six days and explore parts of Xian and Shanghai by land. In Xian, we'll see the famous Terracotta Army, including 8,000 soldiers, 130 chariots with 520 horses and 150 cavalry horses. We'll spend two nights in Beijing, fly to Xian for 2 nights, then board the *Emerald* for the 5-night cruise on the Yangtze, disembark the boat in Shanghai and spend 2 nights. A 4 night extension to Hong Kong is also available.

RATES: \$2,767 to 3,067, although Loyalty Passengers may receive additional savings. Rate includes most meals, sightseeing, deluxe lodging, intra-China airfare. Airfare to China and insurance not included, but please note that Viking offers deep discounts on airfare.

Sirena-Oceania

Sept. 20 - Oct. 4, 2016

Includes FREE airfare (capacity controlled)! Depart U.S. Sept. 19, and arrive in Barcelona Sept. 20. Sail the brand new *Sirena* to: Cartagena, Malaga, Cadiz, Lisbon, Madeira, Tenerife, Agadir-Morocco, Casablanca, Gibraltar (United Kingdom), Palma de Mallorca.

RATES: begin at \$5799 per person double interior. Porthole \$6299 per person; Window \$6799 per person; Verandah \$7799 per person. Gov't. fees, taxes are included. Optional insurance available.

Return to Cuba

Dec. 13-21, 2016

Depart Dec. 13 - overnight at the Tampa Marriott. Dec. 14 fly to Santa Clara in preparation for our inclusive tour to Cayo Santa Maria, Remedios, Caibarien, Cienfuegos, and Havana. Return from Havana to NY via Miami

RATES: All inclusive with air, touring, lodging, and 17 meals \$4599pp-dbl (addtl. discounts may apply). Singles add \$450. We have 38 seats and they will go quickly!

Panama Canal

Jan. 4 - Jan. 19 2017

Depart Los Angeles Jan. 4, 2017 and arrive Fort Lauderdale Jan. 19, 2017. Visit Puerto Vallarta, Huatulco, San Juan Del Sur, Puntarenas, full canal transit, Cartagena, and Aruba.

Secure deepest discount rates now with deposit. Rates begin at \$1899pp. Add taxes and insurance.

For more information, contact Gary Goldstein at ggoldstein@csa-nyc.org or (732) 786-0314.

Legislative Agenda | Herman Merritt

Free Riders, Fair Shares, and the Court



Collective bargaining sets the standards for each industry.

As I studied the results of the recent General Election, I was amazed at the low voter turnout. I don't understand the term, "off-year election." There is no such thing: All elections have consequences. We saw recently in Kentucky how a clerk's decision could gain nationwide attention.

Of course, I'm not saying consequences are all equal: On the federal level, for example, one of the most important duties of the president is to nominate jurists to serve on the Supreme Court. Once confirmed, a justice will have an impact on the country for decades. Today's Supreme Court has two appointees from Ronald Reagan, one from George H.W. Bush, two from Bill Clinton, two from George W. Bush and two from Barack Obama. Two Justices have served close to thirty years.

To be reminded of the significance of a president's choices for the Court, a unionist need look no further than a case the justices have agreed to hear that will have an impact on public sector unions across the country. That case is *Friedrichs v. California Teachers Association*, in which a California teacher, Rebecca Friedrichs, has claimed that making her pay an agency shop fee interfered with her First Amendment rights by forcing her to subsidize someone else's speech. As you know, public sector unions provide collective bargaining for both members and non-members. The Supreme Court ruled in 1977 that non-members may be charged such "fair share" fees to help cover the union's expenses. Union leaders call people who pay nothing but get the benefits of collective bargaining anyway "free riders."

There is fear in some quarters that an adverse ruling will result in a nation of such free riders, ultimately prompting the demise of unions themselves. There have been predictions of union members opting out en masse, refusing to pay dues to save themselves a few bucks. This talk has no basis in reality. Recent national polls show that union favorability is on the rise, especially

The push against organized labor may have had the opposite effect; support for unions is on the rise.

with the Fight for \$15 movement to raise the minimum wage. When AFSCME began drives to convert fair-share payers to full members, they succeeded, signing up more people in the union. I believe that the push against organized labor in Wisconsin and Michigan had the opposite effect than the Koch brothers had intended: Union members appreciate what the union has done for them and understand that in addition to fighting for the rights of their members, we fight for all workers, union and non-union alike. Collective bargaining sets the standards for each industry.

Skeptics may ask, "What have you done for me lately?" They can get a ready answer from our ATR supervisors who no longer have to move from school to school while looking for a permanent position. Or they can ask the retirees who recently received their retroactive pay increases. Or they can talk to the members who received a portion of their retroactive pay. Or they can speak with frightened members who, facing investigations, are represented by skilled, trained advocates.

Please monitor the *Friedrichs v. California Teachers Association*. It has implications for all of us. Regardless of how the Court decides, our unions will continue to thrive. Remember to vote in every election, no matter how insignificant the office may appear. And finally, follow the activities of the AFL-CIO (www.aflcio.org). These are important times for organized labor.

Notebook

ABENY Update: Membership Meeting and Essay Contest

ABENY's Nov. Membership Meeting will take place Nov. 15 from 3 - 6 pm at the Bedford Stuyvesant YMCA, at 1121 Bedford Ave. in Brooklyn. Professional development on the latest developments regarding the Common Core Standards and strategies for engaging parents will be offered as well as a meet and greet. All educators and parents are invited.

Students in grades 2 - 10 are invited to participate in ABENY's annual Black History Month Essay Contest. Twenty winners from around the city will be selected and honored at the Cadman Plaza Library in Brooklyn Heights on Feb. 6.

For more information, contact Dr. Sheilah Bobo at sheilah-bobo@gmail.com or 917-412-9099.

Retirement

Lisa Esposito, Principal of PS 203, Brooklyn is retiring. A dinner celebration of Ms. Esposito's years of service with the NYC DOE will be held Thursday, November 12, at Russo's on the Bay, Queens. For more information, contact Ruth Schwartz at 718-753-1847.

Call for CSA Executive Board Nominations

BY CSA STAFF

CSA is seeking nominations for delegates and alternate delegates in all Membership Classifications (i.e. license areas) to serve on the CSA Executive Board from Feb. 1, 2016 to Jan. 30, 2019. Candidates must be members in good standing for sixty (60) days or more prior to the mailing date of the ballots, which is Dec. 14, 2015. Executive Board members are selected by a majority of votes cast. Alternates are selected on the basis of the next largest number of votes cast. In case of a tie, the ballots are with both names are re-sent to members of that classification. Appeals of the process are addressed in writing to the appointed Election Committee that makes a recommendation to the Advisory Committee. The Executive Board will make the final resolution.

In accordance with the CSA Constitution, every three years a census is taken of the membership by license area and is used to determine delegate apportionment to the union's Executive Board in those categories. The census has been taken on the basis of membership in good standing as of the close of

the union's fiscal year, Sept. 30, 2015.

The Constitution calls for one vote for each 125 members or major fraction thereof of a membership classification. No member of the Executive Board shall have more than two votes.

CSA is seeking nominations for delegates in accordance with the following breakdown:

- Principal – Elementary: 5 votes – 3 people
- Principal – Middle/K-8: 3 votes – 2 people
- Principal – High School & Alternative HS: 3 votes – 2 people
- Principal – Special Schools: 1 vote – 1 person
- Assistant Principal – Elementary/Middle: 13 votes – 7 people
- Assistant Principal – HS Supervision: 5 votes – 3 people
- Assistant Principal – HS Administration: 3 votes – 2 people
- Assistant Principal – Special Education: 1 vote – 1 person
- Assistant Principal – Special Schools & Citywide: 1 vote – 1 person
- Supervisors of & Principals Adult Ed & Asst Coord Adult Ed: 1 vote

– 1 person

- Education Administrators/CSE Chairs: 6 votes – 3 people

Any member of a membership classification*, (i.e. license area), may submit nominations or self-nominate for Executive Board delegate in that classification. The Constitution requires that nominations and elections for delegates to the CSA Executive Board take place within one month of the deadline for receipt of ballots for the election of CSA officers. That deadline this year is Dec. 14, 2015.

Therefore, it is requested that you submit nominations for membership classification delegates and alternates by Dec. 7, 2015 by 5 pm, the close of business.

Submit names in nomination, by e-mail to Erminia@csa-nyc.org or in writing to Erminia Claudio, Executive Director, CSA, 40 Rector St., 12th Floor, New York, NY 10006-1729. You must include:

- a) your name,
- b) title,
- c) work site,
- d) e-mail address,
- e) CSA Executive Board Membership Classification position for which you

are submitting your name or another's name,

f) A statement of qualifications not to exceed 150 words. (This will be sent along with the ballot to all members voting in that license area.)

Membership Classification balloting is handled by Central CSA. Ballots will be mailed on Dec. 14, 2015. The completed ballots must be received by 5 PM, the close of business on Jan. 15, 2016.

Executive Board: Community School District and Borough High Schools Election Procedures

Both the nomination process and the voting must be completed by Jan. 15, 2016. Districts conduct their own elections for District Delegate(s) and Alternate to the CSA Executive Board, Secretary and Treasurer.

* Note: There is no direct relationship between being a member of a membership classification and being a member of a professional organization, e.g., the NY City Elementary School Principals' Association. Professional associations have no official relationship with CSA or its voting process.

The Welfare Fund

Douglas V. Hathaway

Home Health Aide

QUESTION: I am a retired special education supervisor. My husband suffers from dementia or the beginning of Alzheimer's disease. He broke his hip, necessitating surgery and hospitalization. I could not leave him alone in the hospital – he tries to get out of bed, spills things, etc. Can I be reimbursed for the services of a home health aide even though he isn't home?

ANSWER: The purpose of our home health aide benefit is to help you cope with situations you have described. As far as we are concerned, home care is where the patient is. If you need medically justified assistance, and it is obvious your husband does, we will provide the coverage if he is home, in the hospital, in a rehab center or nursing home. The key is, is the service necessary? And is it being provided by a trained professional? Remember also that if he is to be moved to a rehab center, the Fund will also reimburse the ambulance or ambulette costs since your Medicare or health plan does not.



Home care is where the patient is, so long as the service is necessary

QUESTION: I am an active EA in the Bronx. I have been a member of the Healthplex dental program since I became a CSA member many years ago. My dentist retired and sold his practice. I do not like the new dentist. What can I do?

ANSWER: You have great timing. All three CSA Welfare Funds (CSA Welfare fund for in-service Department of Education participants, CSA Retiree Welfare Fund for Department of Education retirees, and DCC/CSA Welfare Fund for Day Care directors and Assistant Directors and retirees) conduct an open enrollment for dental programs each November. You may select any dental plan available to participants in your fund (or in-service Department of Education, your choices are Healthplex and SIDS), and the change will take place effective Jan. 1, 2016. You may choose a different Healthplex dentist any time during the year. Please see accompanying description of each of these dental plans.

A Call to Leaders: Send Us Your Info

From the Association of Assistant Principals to the Latino Caucus, there are a host of professional organizations affiliated with the union that do solid work for their members and play vital role in the life of CSA. To help provide recognition and keep everyone up to date, send us your professional association's latest information, including your officers, their contact information, a description of your mission, membership eligibility, and

whether membership dues are collected by CSA or paid directly by the member.

We are hoping to put together a comprehensive directory in the Jan. issue of CSA News.

Send an email to Chuck Wilbanks, chuck@csa-nyc.org and Lynn Melfi, lynn@csa-nyc.org. And don't forget to send Chuck any announcements you need to make in the CSA News.

Annual Event



DAN GOODMAN

Assistant Principals Conference: Educating the 21st Century Learner

BY STEFFANI FANNIZZI

On Oct. 17, The Association of Assistant Principals (AAP) held its 73rd Annual Conference; Educating the 21st Century Learner. CSA Executive Vice President, Mark Cannizzaro, was honored, along with former SSP Coordinator, Dr. Nancy Westeband for their remarkable dedication to the students of NYC and their continuous support of AAP

throughout the years. In addition, new Assistant Principals, and those members serving five, ten, or fifteen years were also honored by the Association.

The conference offered assistant principals and other school educators workshops for professional development and provided a publishers' exhibit. The keynote speaker was Ann E. Burg, an award-winning author of children books.

Open Enrollment Period: Dental Coverage

Each November, as a member of the DCC/CSA Welfare Fund, CSA Welfare Fund or CSA Retiree Welfare Fund, you are afforded an opportunity to change your dental plan coverage for the next calendar year. Each plan is summarized below. If you wish to change your coverage for the new year, (beginning in Jan.) call (212) 962-6061 for a dental selection form. If you do not wish to change your plan, do not do anything.

1: SIDS Dental Program

Active and Retired Members. The SIDS administered CSA self insured dental program offers you the choice of selecting any dentist you desire. Reimbursement is based on a specific schedule of set fees. In addition, a substantial number of dentists have agreed to be participating providers and accept the CSA schedule of allowances as payment in full without any additional charge to you (except a small co-payment where indicated in the schedule). This plan provides reimbursement of dental costs with participating or non participating doctors. Using participating dentists, however, will substantially reduce a member's costs.

2: Healthplex Dentcare SIDS

NY, NJ and PA, Active and Retired Members. The Healthplex Dentcare Dental Program is a pre-paid dental plan

(HMO) which offers you and eligible dependents a unique arrangement that requires no claim forms or outlay of monies (except for a \$50 copay to cover some lab charges for crowns and \$125 for orthodontics). Members select a primary care dentist from a list of providers. The primary care dentist provides total dental care at no additional cost and, when necessary, arranges for treatment by participating specialists – for example surgery, endodontists, periodontists - also at no cost to the patient. Dentcare dentists are private practitioners located throughout New York, New Jersey and Pennsylvania.

3: Delta Dental - Deltacare USA Plan 2A

For Retirees Only. This is a dental HMO plan which provides cost free dental care for preventive services such as cleanings,

x-rays and exams. Basic services such as fillings are either free or at substantially reduced fees. Major restorative services such as crowns, bridgework, and orthodontic care will cost the member 50% or less than the usual and customary charge for these services.

The Delta Deltacare plan is a most appropriate choice for members who reside in a geographic area in which there are few or no SIDS participating dentists or Healthplex dentists. The panel of participating dentists is broad covering the states of Arizona, Florida, California, New York, New Jersey, Washington D.C., Georgia, Nevada, Pennsylvania, Texas, Maryland, Massachusetts and Virginia. A listing of dentists in your geographic area is available upon request. This plan requires a minimum of 7 members in a state. If there are not at least 7 enrollees, the plan will not be available.

Members who enroll in either the Dentcare or Delta dental plan may change primary care dentists during each annual enrollment period or at any time if they are dissatisfied with their dentist.

4: Healthplex - S200 Florida Program

For Retirees Only. Healthplex offers this new option for those retirees permanently living in Florida. The new Healthplex S200 program covers more procedures than the previous plan offered with CompBenefits, and had a greater number of participating providers. With over 2,300 participating providers plus hundreds of specialists in Florida, you may select ANY participating provider without a referral. There are defined co-payments for some procedures, and no additional reimbursement is provided.



RETIREE Chapter

CHAIR'S MESSAGE

Gayle Lockett

Ready for Action!



We must insist Congress modernize the 2003 Medicare legislation

This year's federal, state and local elections are behind us. Now, we must monitor the actions – or inaction – of officials at every level and be ready to take action.

Nowhere is this more imperative than with policies affecting our Social Security and Medicare benefits. A major worry is whether Medicare officials will use their tremendous buying power to significantly reduce the spiraling costs of drugs. We should have the same advantage as Medicaid, which obtains major rebates from drug manufacturers. The biggest hurdle to that? Getting Congress to revise the 2003 Medicare Modernization Act, which created the Medicare prescription drug program. All of us need to carefully follow the presidential candidates' solutions to this potentially serious and escalating financial problem. And it is a key reason that all RC members should contribute to CSA's Political Action Committee.

Is this happening to someone you know? According to AFSA more than 160,000 retirees and 83,000 people receiving Social Security disability benefits are seeing their Social Security checks garnished in order to pay for their student loans. This is a horrendous public policy. For many people, Social Security helps cover their basic needs of housing and food. For more information contact The Action Network of AFSA, AFSANational@afsaadmin.org

What's New

Bravo to the new steering committee in Northern New Jersey for successfully holding their second planning session. Mark Jacobi volunteered to be the unit leader. After establishing this unit, we will move on to Connecticut, where we may form our eighteenth unit. For our members who are not geographically located in an area with enough members to form a unit, the 3-5 year planning committee, chaired by Joe Rosenberg, the RC Executive Vice Chair, is working on a tentatively named "Out of Bounds" unit to better serve members.

We are investigating the feasibility of developing and linking unit websites to the RC website. Also, we are discussing how modern technology can be used to enhance keeping our members informed on political issues and concerns as well as social events.



Just a reminder: if you change your main address, email address, and telephone or cell phone numbers, you need to notify the RC and the Welfare Fund offices to ensure that your contact information is updated. If you live for several months at an address different than your main address, please tell us where and how long you are temporarily relocated.

Thank you to our veteran's, past and present, who are our heroes!

Wishing you a healthy, inspirational and happy Thanksgiving!

RC Regional Units

SUNCOAST

Suncoast will have it's first of two 2016 meetings on Jan. 26. Information will be mailed to just after Christmas. Our second, final 2016 meeting will be March 11. Norm Sherman will provide a Retiree Benefit Refresher Course and a speaker from Mobile Physicians will discuss MD home visits. More info will be provided at our Jan. meeting and in the March meeting mailing. Remember, if you need assistance, call me at (941) 383-0408.

— MIKE NEMOYTIN

STATEN ISLAND

On Sept. 21, we held our annual BBQ at the Berlin Lodge. Members enjoyed coffee and donuts on the veranda overlooking the lake. State Sen. Diane Savino brought us up to date on political matters. To top off the day, our resident chef, Lou Greenzweig, cooked over open coals. Joining us were RC leader Gayle Lockett, Director Mark Brodsky, and Title TTK Nancy Russo. Our holiday gala will be held Dec. 8 at the Staten Island Hilton.

— AL NIELSEN

MANHATTAN

Remember to send a copy of your registration form for CSA's Nov. 14 conference to: Stanley H Wilson, 400 E. 56 St., 8M, New York NY 10022 so that you can receive your \$15. rebate.

— STANLEY WILSON

QUEENS

On Dec. 11 the Queens Unit is featuring a luncheon at Il Poeta, an Italian restaurant in Forest Hills. A flyer has been prepared with all of the details. Also, our Book Club and Bridge Clubs meet regularly throughout the year. So, take advantage of our numerous activities at reduced rates for members. Further, you can download our enrollment/renewal form for membership, keep up to date about our events, view all of our flyers and download our newsletters as well as read timely information from CSA on our website: www.csaqueens.org. You can also contact me with your questions at: stermanlen@aol.com

— LEONARD B. STERMAN

PENNSYLVANIA

The newly established Pennsylvania Retiree Unit held its first meeting on Sept. 28, at the Hideout in Lake Ariel, PA. Dr. Douglas Hathaway, Administrator of the CSA Welfare Fund, was the guest speaker. Participants learned about the many benefits of being a member of the Retiree Chapter and had the opportunity to have their questions answered. A needs and interest assessment for planning of future events will be sent to Pennsylvania retiree members within the next few weeks. Please contact Denise Sandra Levinsky, Unit Leader, at denise.levinsky@gmail.com for more information on the unit.

— DENISE LEVINSKY

Upcoming: RC Elections

Nominations and the election of CSA Retiree Chapter officers and Executive Board shall be held within one month of the last acceptable date for ballots for election of the CSA officers as enumerated in Article VI, Section 1 of the CSA Constitution.

Retiree Chapter officers are: Chairperson, First Vice Chair, Second Vice Chair, Treasurer and Secretary. The Executive Board shall consist of the officers, 20 elected members and six alternates. The present Executive Board will approve the selection of an election committee appointed by the Chair. Further information will be in the Nov. issue of the CSA News.

Welcome New Chapter Members

Cruz, Maria
Darrigo, Barbara
Fairweather, Gary
Kavanagh, Andrew

Livanis, Olga
Mcclain, Deborah
Neil, Faye
Pisacano, Anthony

Rosales, Leslie
Rosenbloom, Brian
Sundick, Robin
Thompson, Sharon

Tobman-Michelen,
Rhonda
Vellucci, Barbara
Walsh, Christine

Save the Date

There will be a Nov. general membership meeting at the NY Hilton on November 14. For a list of current officers and Executive Board members, visit the CSA website, www.csa-nyc.org. Click on the Retiree Chapter.



Council of School Supervisors & Administrators, NYC
 New York State Federation of School Administrators
 Local 1 AFSA, AFL-CIO
 40 Rector St., NY, NY 10006



Periodicals

US POSTAGE PAID AT
Brooklyn, NY 11201
 and Additional Mailing Office



Borough Briefs / In The Schools

Compiled by
Corey Bachman

Staten Island D-31



■ Ralph McKee Career and Technical Education High School Students are training to enter high tech and emerging fields.

Video Games Are Part of the Solution!

On Staten Island, students at **Ralph McKee Career and Technical Education High School** are playing video games on their personal laptops, phones and computers – and their teachers are thrilled. The Software Engineering Pilot Program (SEP) at McKee teaches students to develop the computational and problem solving skills they'll need to enter emerging high-tech fields. The SEP classes, which are centered on computer programming, often engage students in developing, deciphering and debugging their own video games and other objective-oriented projects. As Jacob Byrne, a freshman in the program describes it: "Making video games makes sense because it lets us put the programming skills we learned into a project that's real and kind of fun to think about. It's not just loops and 'if-statements' and theory."



■ PS 69 students in Queens created music and video thanks to the John Lennon Educational Bus Tour, a moving recording studio honoring the late musician.

video – all in one day. The state-of-the-art rolling recording studio, now in its 18th year, is making its way to schools in the five boroughs in honor of what would have been Lennon's 75th birthday Oct. 9. The Educational Tour Bus events will culminate with the creation of the world's largest human peace sign in Central Park Oct. 6.

PS 7 The Forest Park School, October Parent Advisory Council meeting had a Read Aloud with Kindergarten Teacher Shari Gensler and members of the school's parent community. Ms. Gensler read Apple Countdown by Joan Holub with students and parents. "We encourage family literacy," said Joseph Amelia, principal of **PS 7**. "Our read alouds help our students learn to love reading and become comfortable with books. Many of the parents attended and those who did sat with their child and enjoyed reading together." After the reading, students painted apples. Using Title I Parent Involvement Funding, the school presented books to all who attended.

Manhattan (DIST. 1-6)

The Green Team

In the past, **Murray Hill Academy's** Green Team students made recycling bins for each classroom that were nicely decorated and worked well — but only for a short time. They realized they'd need a long-term solution. Students looked to DonorsChoose, a nonprofit that allows individuals to donate to public school projects, in order to purchase

recycling bins. Within 6 months, the project was fully funded and the school received more than \$1,700. With the funds, the students were able to purchase eighteen bins that will be located near the school's copy machines, in the teacher's lounge and in all of the classrooms. "By using these bins our learning community is doing its share to protect the earth. It is a small step in preserving and protecting our resources for ourselves and for future generations!" said Anita Manninen-Felix, principal of Murray Hill Academy.



■ Murray Hill Academy students in Manhattan took initiative to help 'green' their school. Anita Manninen-Felix is principal.

Brooklyn (DIST. 13-23,32)

Honoring the Fallen

The **James Madison High School** Band honored runners during the 14th Annual Tunnel to Towers Run held in Battery Park City on Sept. 27. The event is inspired by the late New York city firefighter, Stephen Siller, who famously strapped on 60 lbs. of gear and ran through the Battery Park tunnel to get to the World Trade Center on 9/11. He died in the towers' collapse later that day.

Queens (DIST. 24 - 30)

Original Music and Reading Out Loud!

The John Lennon Educational Bus Tour made a stop in Jackson Heights on Sept. 28 to give **PS 69** students the opportunity to write, perform, record and produce original songs. They also produced and shot documentaries and a music

Send Borough Briefs to Corey Bachman at corey@csa-nyc.org