



YONKERS PUBLIC SCHOOLS



► Points of Pride

PAGE 2



► Civic Minded Students
Care About Their Community

PAGE 3



► Code Pink: SHS Students
Turn Heads for
Breast Cancer Research

PAGE 4



currents

yonkers public schools community newsletter



Fast Facts:

International Baccalaureate Organization Authorizes Pulaski School Primary Years Programme

The Casimir Pulaski School has become the second elementary school in Yonkers to be authorized by the International Baccalaureate Organization to offer the International Baccalaureate Primary Years Programme. Pulaski joins the Rosemarie Ann Siragusa School as two of the six elementary schools in New York State to hold this elite designation.



Inspiring

That's the perfect word to describe the 24,153 students of the Yonkers Public Schools. Our

students distinguish themselves in academics, athletics, in the arts and in the community. We are justifiably proud of them and celebrate their accomplishments each month at the Stated Meetings of the Yonkers Board of Education.

What strikes me as the Trustees and I personally congratulate our students on the stage of Saunders Trades and Technical High School, is how poised they are in front of an auditorium full of people and television cameras. Exuberant or shy, thoughtful or spontaneous, every one of them shares their pride and gratitude with the teachers, principals, staff members and families

who encourage and support them. This speaks volumes about their character as individuals and the impact adults have on their lives.

To realize one of the District's key goals, *to educate all students for academic success*, emphasis is placed on the whole child. This personalized teaching and learning environment in Yonkers' schools helps our students to develop a love of learning, to do well on tests, and to take on the challenges of the 21st century.

A great school district is defined by the people in it - our faculty and staff, our parents and community members, and most importantly, our students. The *Points of Pride* in this publication are a small sampling of our students' outstanding accomplishments.

*Bernard P. Pierorazio
Superintendent of Schools*



volume 2 • number 3

winter 2008

POINTS OF PRIDE

News Magazines Rank District High Schools Among Best

In its first ranking study of American high schools, *US News and World Report* rated Saunders Trades and Technical High School and Yonkers High School among the best of more than 18,790 schools in 40 states. Both schools were among just 1,086 high schools awarded bronze status for serving all students well, their college readiness programs, and for student performance on standardized tests. For the second consecutive year, *Newsweek* ranked Yonkers High School among the best at preparing students for college with the school's rigorous International Baccalaureate program, ranked 382 in 2006 and 191 in 2007.

Seven High School Seniors Earn AP Scholar Status

Lincoln seniors Jeraldine Reyes, Gloria Felix, and Paulina Zambrano; and Saunders seniors Darwin Araujo, Leonel Rosario, Stephy Sunny, and Tina Chang were recognized for receiving grades of 3 or higher on three or more Advanced Placement (AP) Exams. Tina was also honored as an Advanced Placement Scholar with Honor, awarded to students who receive an average grade of at least 3.25 on all AP Exams taken, and grades of 3 or higher on four or more of these exams.

The College Board Advanced Placement Scholars Program recognizes high school students who have demonstrated college-level achievement through AP courses and exams.

National Achievement Scholars

Daimont Staples and Claycia Tweed, seniors at Yonkers High School, are recipients of the National Achievement Scholarship Program through the National Merit Scholarship Corporation honoring Black American high school students for their achievement on the PSAT.

National Hispanic Recognition Program Honors

The College Board's National Hispanic Recognition Program honored Yonkers High School senior Napier Lopez for her outstanding performance on the PSAT.

Harvard Book Award to Five Seniors

The Harvard Radcliff Club of Westchester County annually presents the "Harvard Book Award" to outstanding students who are "academically excellent, with exceptional personal qualities, and who makes a significant contribution to school or community." These students are Brittany Cannady, Gorton; Charlyn Brea, Lincoln; Afrah Awan, Roosevelt; Gurpreet Singh, Saunders; Mary Sayegh, Yonkers.

District's Communications Initiatives Honored

The Yonkers Public Schools website and the 2007-2008 School Calendar and Handbook earned the highest honor possible in the 28th Annual New York State School Public Relations Association Communications Contest. Both received the Award of Excellence from a panel of judges in one of the nation's largest and most competitive communications contests. The WDMC TV produced video "YPS Stays ConnectEd", which introduced the school-to-family messaging system to the public, earned an Award of Merit. The National School Public Relations Association awarded the District its top prize for the 2007-2008 School Programs Catalog and honorable mentions to the Budget edition of "Currents," the WDMC produced video "Focus: Yonkers Public High Schools," and the District's Annual Calendar and Handbook.

Two Lincoln High School Seniors Honored for Going Above & Beyond

Neville Green and Maurine Koranteng are among ten high school seniors to receive the Westchester County Youth Board's *Youth Recognition Award*.

The goal of the award is to acknowledge high school seniors involved in building a thriving, healthy and caring community through individual efforts and actions. Both of these amazing young people more than exceed that goal through their sustained leadership roles in school and community service organizations.



Civic Minded Students Care About Their Community

Drum Major for Justice

In an emotional and joyous presentation, The Drum Major for Justice Award was presented by the Nepperhan Community Center to Superintendent of Schools Bernard P. Pierorazio for his educational leadership. The Drum Major for Justice Award was inspired by a sermon Dr. King gave at Ebenezer Baptist Church exactly two months to the day before his death. "If any of you are around when I have to meet my day, I don't want a long funeral. And if you get somebody to deliver the eulogy, tell them not to talk too long...Tell them not to mention that I have a Nobel Peace Prize - that isn't important...Yes, if you want to say that I was a drum major, say that I was a drum major for justice."

Honors for Eleven Students and the Superintendent on Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

The Power of We

The Yonkers Martin Luther King, Jr. Commission for Nonviolence presented achievement awards to nine students for their essays and posters interpreting the theme of the *Power of We* at its annual awards ceremony in January. First place winners were; Dana Graham, Gorton High School; Nivin Thomas, School 16; Charlaeton Caper, Enrico Fermi. Second place winners were: Matthew Fakhoury, Saunders High School; Jennie Kim, School 30; Justin Morgan, School 5. Third place winners were: Tasheyia Thomas, Gorton High School; Kelin Cortez, School 30, and Ciara Lawless, School 30.

Commemorating a Legacy

Yanique Reid, a junior at Roosevelt High School, and Brittany Cannady a senior at Gorton High School, were honored with the Nepperhan Community Center's Youth Award for their actions in the Yonkers community that demonstrate Dr. King's dream and legacy at the center's annual breakfast in honor of the civil rights leader.



Gorton High School Law Students Recognized for Legal Brief

Going up against some sharp legal eagles from throughout the county, students in the Gorton High School Law and Public Service Academy won the award for Best Written Brief for Complainant in the Westchester County Human Rights Commission Moot Court Competition.

Achieving Excellence Together

WDMC-TV Cablevision Channel 75
www.yonkerspublicschools.org



BOARD OF EDUCATION

Bernadette Dunne, President
Debra Martinez, Vice President
Trevor H. Bennett
Michael E. Carey
John F. M. Flynn
Richard Greco, Jr.
Lisa C. Perito
Rev. Gerald Sudick
Marlin K. Wiggins

Bernard P. Pierorazio
Superintendent of Schools

Annual 5th Grade Citywide Spelling Bee

Monday, May 12, 2008
6:30 p.m.

Saunders Trades and
Technical High School

Editor: Jerilynne Fierstein

Writer: Elyse David

Graphic Designer: Joseph Panella

Photographer: Maurice Mercado

WDMC-TV Cablevision Channel 75

www.yonkerspublicschools.org

Lincoln's Pet Project

Anyone with a family pet will be heartened to know that Lincoln High School students went all out for our furry friends at the Yonkers Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals. The student's first Bow-Wow Meow collection inspired tremendous support from the entire school community, resulting in toys, food, blankets, and a substantial cash donation to the SPCA.

Rensselaer Medal to Two Seniors

Seniors Afrah Awan at Roosevelt High School and Mogana Jayakumar at Yonkers High School were both awarded the Rensselaer Medal from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute. Morgana was also named a Commended Student in the 2008 National Merit Scholarship Program.

Code Pink: Saunders Students Turn Heads for Breast Cancer Research

The coolest "do's" were showing off pink hair extensions woven for a cause by the cosmetology students at Saunders Trades and Technical High School. These young women had another successful year raising money for



Saunders Cosmetology students - Preeti Budhram (seated) and Joelle Anisse.

the National Breast Cancer Foundation, and raising awareness about prevention among their classmates.



YONKERS PUBLIC SCHOOLS

one larkin center • yonkers, ny 10701

NON PROFIT
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
WHITE PLAINS, NY
PERMIT #7726