



The "School of Life" Newsletter

Volume VIII, Issue II – Holidays 2016



Mayor Mike Spano (center) celebrates his visit to the Vive School with (left-right) Principal of Career & Technical/Adult Education Susan Naber, Deputy Superintendent Dr. Andrea S. Coddett, ESOL students Felicia Martinez and Gabriel Vidal, and Superintendent of Schools Dr. Edwin Quezada.

Mayor Mike Spano Visits the Vive School

The Vive School/Pathways to Success was honored with a visit from Mayor Mike Spano on Wednesday, December 14th. Joining us for the Mayor's presentation that day were Superintendent of Schools Dr. Edwin Quezada and Deputy Superintendent Dr. Andrea S. Coddett.

Addressing the entire student body in the school cafeteria, Mayor Spano spoke about the various improvements to the City which have been made under his administration, and the work yet to be done. He also responded to questions from the students and even took a few "selfies" with the crowd. At the end of his presentation the Mayor was presented with a package of holiday cards hand-made by our students.

Superintendent Quezada spoke of the importance of adult education, and indicated how impressed he was with the achievements of our students. He also translated Mayor Spano's remarks for our Spanish-speaking students.

We would like to thank Mayor Spano, Superintendent Quezada and Deputy Superintendent Coddett for their ongoing support of adult education.

Students Get the Tools for a Healthy Lifestyle

With cold and flu season upon us, not to mention the overindulgence of the holidays, it is important to emphasize such topics as nutrition and healthy lifestyles. And so the Vive School/Pathways to Success once again hosted its annual Health Fair, on Thursday, December 8, 2016.



ShopRite of Greenway Plaza Dietician Ana Leibovic, RD, informs our students regarding nutrition and healthy eating choices.

In order to promote health literacy to the community as well as our students, the event was open to the general public. As such, over 400 adults from Pathways to Success, as well as the community at large, attended the fair. Representatives from a wide range of health-related fields generously devoted their time to participate, presenting valuable information on such important topics as

healthy eating and nutrition, dental care, asthma, mental health and many more.

In addition to providing information, many vendors offered additional products and/or services for our students. Hudson River Health Care conducted blood pressure screenings. Dr. Eisinger DDS offered students a dental care package with toothpaste, floss and brushes. St. John's Riverside Hospital screened oxygen levels. And so forth.

Judging by the reaction of teachers, students and vendors, the event was quite a success. And so a big "Thank You" goes out to all of the Health Fair participants:

St. John's Riverside Hospital, Lawrence Presbyterian Hospital, Presbyterian Cancer Center, Park Care, Hudson Health Plan/MVP, Fidelis Care New York, Sunrise Pharmacy, Eat Smart New York, ShopRite of Greenway Plaza, Yonkers Chamber of Commerce, City of Yonkers Department of Parks, Family Service Society of Yonkers, Office of the Aging, Empress Ambulance, Hudson Valley Justice Center, St. Joseph's Hospital, ANDRUS, Westchester Jewish Community Services, Raymond Opticians, Dr. Robert Eisinger DDS

Vive School CTE Advisory Board Meeting

At Pathways to Success we are continually seeking new ways to enhance our program offerings. In order to further enrich our Career and Technical Education (CTE) courses with real-world input, we solicit the participation of our partners within the business and academic communities.

With that goal in mind, Pathways to Success hosted this year's first CTE Advisory Board meeting, held at the Vive School on Tuesday, December 13th. The meeting provided an opportunity for leaders from business and post-secondary education to interact with our students, teachers, counselors and administrators in an informal setting which facilitated open, meaningful dialogue.



Led by Principal Naber, and served by our Culinary students, CTE Advisory Board Members discuss the state of the job market.

The meeting began with a hot breakfast prepared and served by our own Culinary Arts students, under the supervision of Chef Edi Dedi. As our Board Members enjoyed the food, Principal Susan Naber discussed the importance of collaborating with our business and academic partners, then invited each participant to share their impressions and experiences within the job market. Among the many topics discussed were current job opportunities, vocational training, interview preparation and follow-up, industry trends, and what specific technical and “soft” skills employers are looking for in employees.

A big “Thank You” goes out to all the Advisory Board Members:

Nora Donoher, Assistant Director of Human Resources, St. John’s Riverside Hospital

Rosanna Rojas, Community Relations Specialist, Fidelis Care New York

Marco Rodriguez, School Director, Westchester School for Medical/Dental Assistants

James Carlson, Director of Business Development, GoodTemps

Edi Dedi, Co-Owner, Zuppa and other fine area restaurants (and our own Culinary Instructor).

Jaime Martinez, Executive Director, Yonkers Downtown/Waterfront Business Improvement District

Kevin Francis, General Manager, Staples

Idie Benjamin, Director of Professional Development, Child Care Council of Westchester, Inc.

Joe Bulfamante, Building Manager, Trione Management (retired)

Crysta Jones, Assistant Director of Ossining Extension, Westchester Community College

Vive Launches First Baking Class

With the continued influx of hotels and restaurants in Yonkers, as driven by Mayor Spano, the food service/hospitality industry continues to grow in leaps and bounds. To accommodate the growing need for professionals in these fields, The Vive School/Pathways to Success has been operating a Culinary Arts Program for both day and evening students. However, in order to offer students a different set of culinary skills, as well as an alternative entrée into the food service industry, Vive launched its second food service program, Baking.



Baking (and ESOL) Teacher Rosemary Roche oversees students in the preparation of an awesome apple pie.

Begun in October, the Baking Program has been a huge success. So successful, in fact, that a second class was added, on Friday mornings, to accommodate the demand. Students in this class learn how to create wonderful desserts, such as pies, cakes, cookies and even crème brulee, from scratch. Hands-on instruction is provided by ESOL Teacher Rosemary Roche, who helped develop the curriculum and has taught both classes from the start (along with her regular ESOL classes).

The next Baking Class will begin the week of January 9th. If you are interested in signing up for this or any other vocational program, please see Ivan Newfield in Room #104.

Happy Holidays!

By Susan Naber

As you can see, the holidays have been an extremely busy time here at the Vive School. However, there has been plenty of celebrating to go along with all the hard work.

This Thanksgiving there was more to be grateful for, thanks to our good friends at Stew Leonard's. As they have for several years now, the gourmet superstore donated several turkeys for the holiday. The birds were then distributed to students via raffle at the Vive School. Thank you once again Stew Leonard's, and congratulations to all the lucky students who won themselves a Thanksgiving dinner!



Vive students proudly display the turkeys they won from our partner, Stew Leonard's.

Staff members from Vive and the various Pathways to Success satellite locations once again celebrated the holidays at the renowned Zuppa, located at 59 Main Street (also just a few blocks south of Vive). The party was hosted by our own Chef Edi Dedi, Culinary Arts Teacher. A fixture in downtown Yonkers for more than a decade now, the highly rated Zuppa offers an inspired take on classic Italian cuisine. For more information on Zuppa, call 914-376-6500, or visit their

website at zupparestaurant.com. Needless to say, a good time was had by all!

We are fortunate to have a wonderfully diverse student population here at Vive, affording us the opportunity to celebrate holidays from various cultures. Christmas is observed on December 25th, in order to commemorate the birth of Jesus Christ, the central figure of Christianity. Hanukkah, is an eight-day Jewish holiday commemorating the rededication of the Holy Temple in Jerusalem in the second century BC. Kwanzaa is a weeklong celebration honoring universal African heritage and culture.

In closing, the staff here at The Vive School/ Pathways to Success would like to wish all of our students and family members the most joyous and healthy of holidays, and a happy new year!

For more information on Adult Education, please contact Susan Naber, Principal of CTE/Adult Education at 914-376-8600 or snaber1@yonkerspublicschools.org



Happy Holidays! See you soon.

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