

SHARK BYTES



Volume 1, Issue 1

ROOSEVELT HIGH SCHOOL ECS

December 2017

Senior Class Updates

1. Senior night was on October 25. Thank you parents, students, and Roosevelt staff who participated and helped to make this event a success.
2. Seniors who completed five college applications by December 11 were invited to have lunch with the administration.
3. All college acceptances and scholarship letters need to be brought to Ms. Almonte in room 247.
4. Continue to request letters of recommendation as needed.
5. If you have not paid your senior dues, see Ms. Signore in room 316

Walk for Cancer Awareness

On October 27, 2017 Roosevelt held its annual Breast Cancer walk following the yearly pep rally. The walk was inspired by our very own Mrs. McLean, who organizes the beautiful event each year with the help of students and faculty. The slogan "Sharks Go Pink" is a simple line that represents the close bond that is represented within our school community. The mile walk began at Roosevelt's football field and covered the local streets. Students from grade 9 through 12 contributed to the walk, making it a success. Together we walked for a cause. We thank every student who participated in the walk. We raised a total of **\$2,541**. Go sharks!

-Pamela Kuffour



Go Sharks!



The 2017 Pep Rally was an entertaining and successful activity enjoyed by all. Activities, music, and school-wide participation made for a lively afternoon. Painted faces dotted the field and the stands as cheers and music sounded through the air. Friendly competition between classes was measured by the volume of each grade level when prompted to cheer for their grade.

The shark mascot again made his appearance, but this time he brought a friend. The two shark mascots raced one another in a tight race (who knew sharks could run?) and students rallied for their favorite. Next, the DJ called out the sports teams and their players, and while the players took their positions on the field, student painters from each class raced the clock in a bid to draw the best shark mascot.

Next, the dance team came onto the track and amped up the crowd with their enthusiasm and skill, making moves that audience members cheered and tried to emulate.

At the end of the rally, classes and teams were celebrated; the senior class shark art won the day (despite the feisty freshman shark's nipping at her fins), and everyone had a new memory to cherish. Many students and staff remained afterward to participate in the school's annual breast cancer walk. - Roy Onofre

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The Perfect Pizza Party



Ms. Sebastian-Smith congratulated students for achieving high marks in her Spanish classes this semester by hosting a pizza party for 45 students who had earned a grade of 85 or higher. To earn such a grade, all you have to do is simply hand in assignments on time and study for tests so that you can do well on them. Free pizza is a nice incentive to try my hardest each marking period. Participating in the party also helps me get to know other students I can go to for help if ever I need it.

-Luis Castillo

My experience at the pizza party was amazing. Ms. Sebastian-Smith is a really great teacher; she's always energetic and always encouraging students to achieve their best. We would like to give a big shoutout to Mrs. Sebastian-Smith for acknowledging students who have achieved mastery in the first quarter and we encourage Roosevelt Students to always do their best.

-Kevin Antony

Our very own Thanksgiving Feast

This year the ENL Department hosted its fourth annual Thanksgiving Feast. Over 100 students from the ENL program participated, and this year, an invitation was extended to members of My Brother's Keeper and the Multicultural Club. Students participated in Thanksgiving-themed activities, such as Thanksgiving Mad Libs, Thanksgiving Word Search, and a Thanksgiving Maze. The library was decorated with student writing pieces describing what they are thankful for, and both students and teachers brought in dishes from their cultures to share. Thank you to all the Roosevelt Staff for their kind donations, and special thanks to the Jewish Council of Yonkers and Susan Adiletta for donating a turkey. A very special thanks to Dr. D'Ugo and Susan Adiletta for cooking! This event could not have happened without everyone's help and support! - Ms. Madmoni



Junior Announcements

1. PSAT Scores will be available in January 2018.
2. The SAT will be taken by Juniors in May 2018.
3. All Juniors should be developing their college essay and resume.
4. All resumes are due to Ms. Heron March 2018.
5. All Juniors are to begin to discuss college selections with their parent/guardian, and Mrs. Herron

What's going on in the Math Department?

There is a lot to be a part of in the mathematics department this year! The Community Unity Club is hosting The Winter Wonderland Dance on December 15. Join us for great music, refreshment, laughs, and holiday spirit! Also keep an eye out for permission slips to the Six Flags trip in the Spring. It's going to be bigger and better this year! Don't forget academics and sign onto Castle Learning at home for classroom and Regents support. After school academies are in full swing; show up before it's too late! Congratulations to: Tchainna Alford, Unaisa Ansari, Sarinah Jean Baptiste, Michelle Crews, Camila, Sofia Echavarria, Naomi Joyce, Marilyn Mensah, Pooja Patel and Manaal Rahman for attending the STEM Partnership Program with Pepsico at Lincoln HS.- Mrs. Mercadante

An Unforgettable Philadelphia Trip!

On November 27th, students from Roosevelt visited Philadelphia, Pennsylvania for a tour of American historic sites. Their first stop was the Museum of the American Revolution where they viewed actual artifacts from the American Revolution including the Declaration of Independence, Bill of Rights, letters from civilians in the colonies, and weapons used in the war. They even saw the actual tent George Washington lived in! There, they also learned about the lives of slaves and Native Americans during this time, which is usually left out of history lessons. Afterwards, they visited the Liberty Bell and Independence Hall where they saw many more historic artifacts. The students learned a myriad of new information about the American Revolution that they wouldn't have learned if they didn't visit these historic sites. Special Thanks to Mr. Bordas for organizing this trip and all of the teachers who helped chaperon our students.

- America Avila





Physical Education – “TEST TEACH TRAIN”

The foundation of our students’ overall fitness development will come from our Test-Teach-Train approach. Through our fitness assessments, we monitor every student’s strengths and potential. The Test- Assessment process begins with a test to establish a baseline. Test results are interpreted in relation to a student’s physical development, gender and designed to individualize training goals.

Teach- Every class students will have the opportunity to maximize fitness and athletic potential, to help each individual meet their needs. Classes will focus on improving performance levels, biomechanics, strength training, cardio fitness, and sports nutrition.

Train- Students are eager to improve and have personal goals set. They will see a direct correlation that if they focus on improving their fitness levels, it will help them in their everyday lives.-Mr. Calabro



International Assembly

During International Education Week, an assembly was held in the library. Overseen by Dr. D’Ugo, Ms. Madmoni, and Ms. Adorno, the event focused on three exchange students from different parts of the world, including Bangladesh and Thailand. They all attend different high schools in Westchester and the U.S. government provides them one year to live in the U.S. The exchange students discussed their experiences in a new country and high school, their daily routines and their family.

During the assembly, they were teaching their language and showed the students of Roosevelt how to pronounce certain words. One of the students brought a bindi, a decorative mark worn in the middle of the forehead by Indian women, and put them on the girls. One girl discussed the cultural shock when she met her host family and found out it was a same sex couple, something out of the norm in her Bangladeshi culture. Other students in the same program attend schools all over the country like Massachusetts and California. Each student brought a part of their country and showed it to the Roosevelt students! – America Avila

English Department: A Published Poet

We have a published poet here at Roosevelt! Renad Qumbargi (‘18) submitted a poem she wrote for Mr. Cerasuolo’s English 12 Creative Writing class into Poetry Nation’s Amateur Poetry Competition. She is currently a semi-finalist in the running for a \$2,000.00 grand prize. Furthermore, her work will be published in the newest volume of *Upon Arrival*, an anthology featuring some of the best amateur poems from around the country, beginning in Spring of 2018.-Mr. Cerasuolo

Heartbreak - By Renad Qumbargi

I love you
I love you and the person you are
But why must you be the person I adore
The person that brings me most pain
Because you wanna play this game
I lay and think why must I put up with
this lame excuse of a crush
Just hush and stop speaking
I can hear the wood creaking and
sneaking in the abandoned house of my freaking body
Peeking into every room seeing part of
my heart scattered like glass
Just completely shattered and in a
pattern of pure despair
I pound on my chest at my best to
release the stress that I bare
I dare for you to try and fix my heart
collect the pieces in a cart and dump
them down the ditch
The ditch where my body lies
As the lies you told me touch and hold
me tight through the out the starry night



Our restorative circle: We were discussing how certain games can increase our mental agility.

My Brother's Keeper

By: Chris Lopez and Sony Grandoit

Our chapter's focus this year is to build resilience through empowerment and brotherhood. Students from Roosevelt's MBK chapter have engaged in spoken word creation during our weekly restorative circles, a WE trip held at Madison Square Garden in collaboration with The Unified Yonkers Student Leadership Council spearheaded by Mrs. Schwan of RHS, an interview with former NBA star Felipe Lopez and attended the Black/Latino College expo at Fordham University. We have steered our meetings to train our students in: self-awareness, self-regulation, mental agility, strengths of character, making connections and optimism.

The spoken word piece is a new addition to this year's MBK program. A number of our members are avid wordsmiths and appreciate a fellow brother

sharing their original pieces during our meetings. Barry Rowe, our charter's president, stated, "Since the spoken word started, I have seen the similarities in our mindsets and the progression of learning from one another's experiences."

Students had an opportunity to engage in our series aimed at building resilience. The fall series began with the topic of self-awareness and has moved forward to self-regulation and impulse management as it relates to peer to peer interactions, which include online and social media outlets and face to face interactions. Students had an opportunity to act out various scenarios and break down the different methods of handling real situations, such as dealing with money and managing impulses.





The Roose Awards

By Ms. Young

The third annual Rōose Awards took place on Friday, an event which celebrates the sophomore class' movie-making skills. From conception to fruition, students in Modern Drama (i.e. all sophomores) are tasked with the writing, storyboarding, acting, directing, editing, sound designing, poster-making and trailer-creating aspects of making movies. It is common to find a few teen film crews around the building during lunch periods and after school throughout the fall, and it is precisely this dedication and effort that prompted the Modern Drama teachers, along with a few key colleagues, to create an "Oscars-like" affair for these hard-working kids.

To put on a show like this requires a lot of hands. Tom Muniz, our esteemed art teacher and Roose Awards designer, once again took on the task of creating the trophies. Media Instructor Marc Roennau tasked his technical squad with all that transpires "behind the scenes" (equipment set-up, lighting, sound, video and sound clips). The show could not have gone on without the expertise of juniors Bejin Benny, Leo Prenga, Kevin Antony, Angel Rodriguez, and senior Amanda Acosta.

Kicking off with the beautiful Für Elise, played by RHS senior and pianist, Tereza Triesha, the event was hosted by a trio of 2015 Awards Alumni:

Cameron Giss, Justin Esty, and Tianna Baptist. Awards were presented by prior winners and the giving of such was interspersed with snappy dialogue, Best Film nominees, music, art and dance. As artists Leslie Rojas and Zachary McKenna sketched conceptions of song lyrics on the big screen, teachers Coleman and Hassel sang with students Nianisis DeLeon, Kiara Phillips, and Deanna Storms while the audience shared a "Madison Square Garden" moment, turning their phone lights on and waving them in the air in time with the music.

Best Sound Design went to Kevin Prado's Boys Night, and Prado also won Best Actor for his depiction of an exuberant young man off with his friends for a night of hilarity and things gone terribly wrong. Best Director went to Andrew Rangel, who also won for Best Cinematography and Best Movie for Restart, a searing tale about two sisters' search for a haven from domestic abuse; Natalia Swan took best actress for The Fallout, a tale about the timeless frustration of the love triangle; Editing went to Harold Carasquillo for Isolation, about an emotionally troubled student trying to grasp control of the world around him; and best screen play went to Alexia Rodriguez for Sincerely Unknown, an eerie tale about obsession.



A Shark in the Spotlight

By Krisica Vasquez



Who is Mrs. Alvarez Garcia?

Mrs. Alvarez Garcia is a well-known teacher at Roosevelt. She has a B.S. in Sociology and Urban Studies from Fordham University, and an M.S. in Curriculum and Instruction from The University of Scranton. She tutors students that are struggling with Algebra I, Algebra II, and Calculus. She won the W.I.S.E. award in October of 2016, which is an award that is given to educational professionals that have developed methods of teaching that make learning easier.

Q: Why did you decide to teach math?

A: "It's not like I chose to teach math, I feel like it was chosen for me. I didn't go to school to be a teacher at all and I was just always good at math. When I was in high school my principal and my calculus teacher referred to me for tutoring, and I remember saying to him "I can't do that, I'm not good enough" and he said "Yes you are!" and I started tutoring. The first kid I started tutoring is now a heart surgeon."

Q: What keeps you motivated, even when it seems like there's no hope in your class?

A: "The students motivate me. My main priority with students is to make sure they don't become apathetic. That's my main thing, for them to stay motivated. Maybe for them I can't give them all the same regent at one time so I have to differentiate, and do what's right by them as individuals. I can't treat them all the same, so I have to give everybody chances; an opportunity is provided to every student."

Q: How long have you been teaching? How many years have you been in Roosevelt?

A: "This is my 17th year teaching; I started teaching in 2001 at Yonkers High. I was at Roosevelt between 2011 and 2013; I left and came back in the fall of 2015. This is my 5th year at Roosevelt."

Q: What is your experience like at Roosevelt? Is it satisfying, is it challenging?

A: "It's very satisfying. The students here do not have a sense of entitlement. I think that they really cherish and value their teachers, which is why I came back to Roosevelt. I really appreciate Roosevelt and I feel like I make a difference. I know it sounds cheesy, but I really feel like I do, that's why I always tell my students that I never thought, "I can't do this or that" and make them feel like they can."

Q: When did you receive your W.I.S.E. award?

A: "I was nominated in June of 2016, won the award in August, and was *finally* presented with the award in October of 2016."

Q: What did you have to accomplish to receive the W.I.S.E. award? A: "I think my use of polja and my pedagogy was what caught their eye."

Q: How did you feel when you received the aforementioned award?

A: "Overwhelmed. I couldn't believe I got that award because I was against everybody in Westchester County. I can't believe I was nominated, and that they recognized something I do on a daily basis. I just couldn't believe it, you know?"





Advice from “Momma D” – Our very own Advice Column

Hey, this is Momma D! I'm here to give our fellow Roosevelt students advice on any matter that they would like to discuss. These are completely anonymous questions. Any student who would like to submit an index card seeking advice from yours truly, please see Mr. Meade and you may be selected to be in our next newsletter.

Q: How do I control my temper?

A: You can control your temper by finding activities such as a sport or a hobby that you like to do to cope with your anger. Find anything that can turn a bad mood into a good one. Also, remember that people may do things just to get a reaction out of you, but never give them that satisfaction. Take a deep breath and try to relax as much as possible.

Q: These girls and I have been “kind of” friends for about 2 years now. Lately it's been bothering me that more than usual that they do a lot of things without me. I feel left out and I know it shouldn't bother me but it seems to have made me very upset that they don't tell me as much as they did before. What should I do?

A: I think you should communicate and tell them how you feel. Once you state the problem, if they're real friends, then they'll work towards a solution and you guys will fix it. Communication is key for any relationship in your life. Always keep that in mind. This should be a test for your friendship and as you get older you'll learn the type of characteristics you want in a friend.

Q: Christmas is coming but I haven't talked to one of my relatives. It's been a year but Christmas is around the corner. What do I do?

A: You can choose your friends but you can't choose your family. Don't let your pride ever get in the way when it comes to family. You should say Merry Christmas because what's the worst that can happen? If they don't respond well then at least you know you tried your best and it would be their loss. Pride can be detrimental in relationships don't let it ruin yours.

Artist's Corner:



Unaisa Ansari

Grade 11



Alex Cruz

Grade 12



Samiha Mohamed

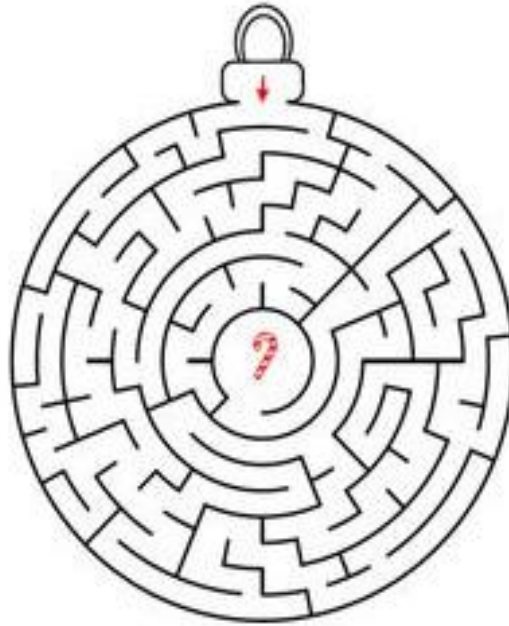
Grade 11

Puzzles:

MAZE AND WORD SEARCH



Get to the Candy Cane to Complete the Maze



Sharkbytes Staff

Members:

Ademi, Ardea

Almonte, Ashley

Asencio, Darlyn

Avila, America

Baptist, Tianna Rose

Barron, Elijah

Brown, Natalie L

Cruz, Alyssa

Diaz, Melissa A

Gibbs, Vickia A

Grant, Judah A

Herrera Alvarez, Melany

Kuffour, Pamela

Onofre, Roy

Patterson, Travis L

Perez, Michael

Santana, Daniel J

Smith, Dejanella Delaine

Villa-Sanchez, Irisneida

Watford, Bry'Nazia L

Young, Shane A Jr.



WORD SEARCH:

FIND THE NAMES LISTED BELOW:

ALMONTE

ASCENCIO

DECHENT

GARCIA

GEORGE

GRANDOIT

HASSAN

HERON

MEADE

G	P	X	M	W	K	X	J	Y	H	C	N	N	E	J
I	R	H	K	N	R	A	X	P	G	A	E	V	G	G
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C	T	U	N	E	X	D	F	S	H	E	R	O	N	N
U	U	U	N	D	P	R	A	D	G	Z	Q	C	E	Y
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X	F	K	P	C	D	F	S	T	N	H	T	D	H	O
M	T	A	V	P	W	E	W	B	R	O	H	P	A	Z
Q	W	O	R	F	M	T	A	P	J	H	E	C	D	M