



# BHSWCA FAMILY NEWSLETTER



VOLUME 11

*Native ability without education,  
is like a tree without fruit.—  
Theodore Roosevelt*

## MAY 2015

| Mon   | Tue                                 | Wed  | Thu  | Fri   | Sat  |
|---|-------------------------------------|--|--|---|--|
|   |                                     |  |  | 1   | 2  |
| 4<br>Marking Period 2<br>begins (Term 3)<br>After-school Tutoring<br>begins 3pm- 4pm<br>AP Environmental<br>Science Exam. | 5                                   | 6  | 7<br>EPIC REMIX<br>Performance<br>7:00 pm<br>National Black<br>Theatre | 8<br>EPIC REMIX<br>Performance<br>4:30pm<br>National Black<br>Theatre | 9<br>Saturday Regents Prep<br>begins 9 -12pm<br>EPIC REMIX Perfor-<br>mance<br>2:00pm and 7:00pm<br>National Black Theatre |
| 11  | 12                                  | 13<br>AP English<br>Language<br>Exam<br>NBC Trip | 14<br>AP World History<br>Exam   | 15  | 16<br>Saturday Regents Prep<br>9am-12pm  |
| 18<br>Early Release at<br>12:00pm<br>PID Guidance<br>Conferences  | 19                                  | 20   | 21   | 22<br>Superintendent visit<br>Trip to Brooklyn<br>Museum (9th grade)  | 23   |
| 25<br>Memorial Day –<br>No school for<br>students   | 26 PA<br>Meeting<br>3:15-<br>4:15pm | 27<br>SLT Meeting<br>3:00-4:00pm                 | 28<br>Trip to Yankee<br>Stadium<br>Tripod Survey                       | 29  | 30<br>Saturday Regents Prep<br>9am-12pm  |



**The April 2015 Parent Association General Membership Meeting will be held:**

**Date:** Tuesday, May 26, 2015

**Time:** 3:15 PM to 4:15 PM

**Place:** 800 East Gun Hill Road  
Evander Childs Campus Library

Future Parent Association meeting dates will be forthcoming and are announced via monthly newsletters as well as weekly phone messages.

- ◆ *Please call PA President, Ms. Thomas at 718-734-4163 with any questions.*



**Parents please note:**

**Summer School** will be in session starting July 1st—August 13th, 2015. Summer school letters will be mailed out in a few weeks. If your child needs to attend Summer School or is taking a Regents exam, please make your summer plans around these dates so that they can attend and receive the required credit and support.

**After-School** Tutoring for all subjects will commence on Monday, May 4th 2015. Please encourage you child to attend the free Tutoring that is being offered right here in their school. Feel free to call Parent Coordinator Ms. Mason at 718-944-5660 ext.2162 for more information.

**What is a School Leadership Team**

School Leadership teams (SLT's) are vehicles for developing school-based educational policies, and ensuring that resources are aligned to implement those policies. SLT's assist in the evaluation and assessment of a school's educational programs and their effects on student achievement. SLT's play a significant role in creating a structure for school-based decision making, and shaping the path to a collaborative school culture. *Description taken from schools.nyc.gov website*

You are invited to our monthly SLT meetings

The meetings are scheduled as follows:

- ◆ **Wednesday, May 27th 2015, 3-4pm**
- ◆ **Wednesday June 10th 2015, 3-4pm**



**Thank you** to all of the staff and presenters who helped to make our 4th Annual Career Day a success. Special thanks to BHSWCA PA Treasurer, Mrs. Brenida Parsons for her participation.

**Congratulations** to the following students for their winning submissions to the Morgan Book Project contest.

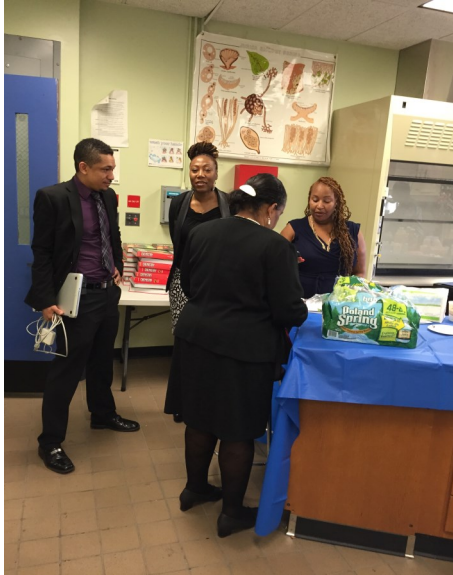
Ojay Ellis for his book, "Alexander the Great"

Amanda Campbell and Makeda Bender for their book, "The Siren."

The students were celebrated during an awards ceremony, together with their teachers Mrs. Fidoten and Mrs. Silverman. Thank You also to Mrs. Honeycutt for collaborating on the project.

## 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Career Day

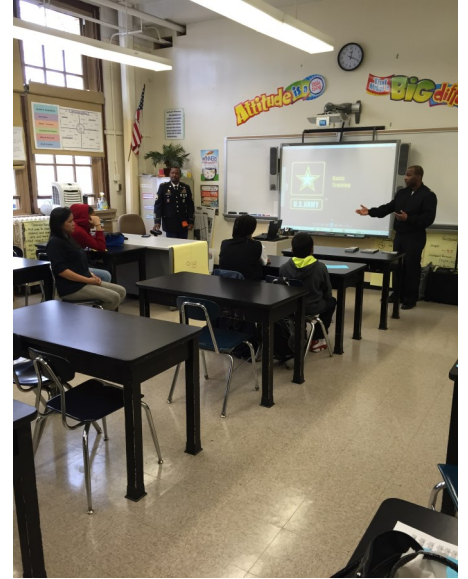
Principal Grey, Assistant Principal Wyre,  
and Assistant Principal Connell.



Nicole Dennis Benn-Writer and  
Michelle Brown-Grant- Professor



Representatives from the U.S.Navy.

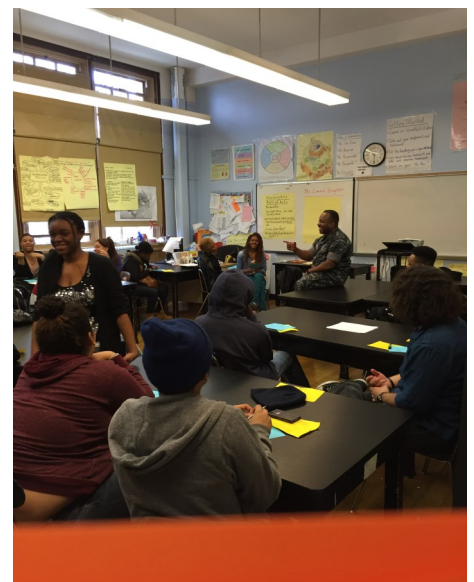


During Career Day, professionals from various careers met with BHSWCA students to discuss their personal career journeys. Career presenters discussed the education, training, and skills needed to be successful in their fields. Our students enjoyed hearing inspirational messages from adults in their community about how to become employable.

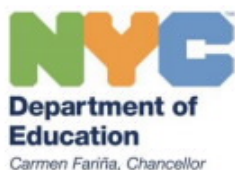
Career Day presenter Ana Maria Perdomo representing the  
NYC Mass Transit Association with BHSWCA students.



LaMard Wingster, Martial Artist, Filmmaker,  
Mentor, and Director of Self-defense for the  
United Youth Marine Cadet program.







Dear Parent or Guardian:

The Department of Education believes that our schools become stronger when we listen to our students. We are excited to announce a new opportunity - the *Advance* Student Survey Pilot- that allows students to share their experiences in class by responding to a student perception survey. This information will help teachers create effective lessons aimed at helping every child to learn.

This student classroom survey is part of *Advance*, the NYC teacher development and evaluation system. This year, however, is a pilot year and the survey results will not count toward teachers' 2014-15 annual ratings.

This May and June, NYC students will be asked to take the *Tripod Student Perception Survey* through the *Advance* Student Survey Pilot. The *Tripod Student Perception Survey* is a confidential survey developed by Harvard researchers and is the leading student perception survey in the country. Students in grades 3-12 will be asked to take the survey. To ensure survey questions are age-appropriate, the survey will come in two forms: one version for grades 3-5 and another version for grades 6-12. Surveys typically take 30 minutes or less to complete. The survey administration window is from May 4 to June 19, 2015. Schools have the opportunity to determine when is best to administer the survey within that time frame.

Questions on the survey ask how your child is experiencing his/her classes, such as how supported your child feels by his/her teacher, whether he/she finds lessons engaging, and whether students treat each other with respect. The survey also asks for some general personal and family characteristics. If you would like to view the items on the survey, please visit <http://tripoded.com/nycsurveys/> or contact your school's survey coordinator.

All student survey responses are kept completely confidential, which means no one in the school will know how your child responded. Students are not asked to write their names or ID numbers on the survey. When they are finished, they will seal the complete survey in an individual envelope before handing it in. The reports that teachers receive will not show the individual responses from any student, so you and your child can be confident that their responses will remain private.

The survey is voluntary. Students and families can opt out of participating in the survey by completing the form included in this letter. Students may opt out of participating in the survey at the time it is administered even if the below form was not completed and submitted. Additionally, if students do not feel comfortable answering a particular question, they may also skip any question on the survey they do not wish to answer.

Please contact your child's school if you would like more information or to see a copy of the survey.

Sincerely,

The Department of Education

***BHSWCA students are Poets -  
POEM IN THE POCKET DAY  
A POETRY SLAM—April 17th 2015***

**Kavin Ellis**



Reciting, "Hold On,"  
an original work.

**Monee Hunter**



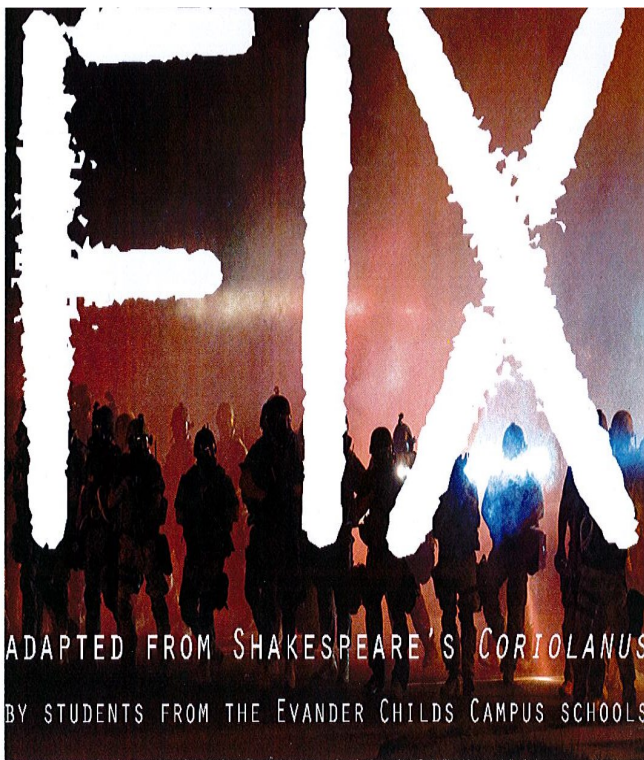
Reciting, "Craving Perfection,"  
an original work.

**Raul Delgado**



Reciting, "The Sea,"  
an original work.

**COME JOIN US!**



SHAKESPEARE REMIX

**FIX**

BY STUDENTS FROM THE EVANDER CHILDS CAMPUS SCHOOLS  
BASED ON SHAKESPEARE'S *CORIOLANUS*

**Thursday, May 7 @ 7:00pm**

**Friday, May 8 @ 4:30pm**

**Saturday, May 9 @ 2:00pm & 7:00pm**

**National Black Theatre**

2031 Fifth Avenue between 125th and 126th streets

Director: **Ron Russell**

Associate Director: **Jessica Bauman**

Lead Artist-Mentor: **Aubrey Saverino**

Lighting Designer: **Cecilia Durbin**

Costume Designer: **Amanda Jenks**

Sound Designer: **Ron Russell**

Production Stage Manager: **Molly Minor Eustis**

Student Stage Manager: **Celony Acosta**

**Admission is FREE, but space is limited.**

Please make a reservation at:

**[www.EpicTheatreEnsemble.org/FIX](http://www.EpicTheatreEnsemble.org/FIX)**



Bronx High School for Writing and Communication Arts

Terri Grey, Principal

Theresa Wyre, Assistant Principal

Norval Connell, Assistant Principal

April 2015

Dear BHSWCA Parent or Guardian:

In June 2010, the New York State Education Department identified our school, Bronx High School for Writing and Communication Arts/11x253 as a focus school, as required under new State accountability rules. This means that, according to NYSED criteria, our school has not performed as well as some other schools in the State of New York.

I am **pleased** to report that our school **made adequate yearly progress** (AYP) in the 2011-12 school year according to the State; however the State determined that we did not make adequate yearly progress based on data from the 2012-13 school year.

BHSWCA is making every effort to provide the **highest quality instructional program** to best meet the needs of every student in our school by:

1. Continuing to offer college and career exploration courses designed to **improve the college readiness** of all of our students in grades 9-12. We are offering the service of 3 school counselors to assist with college planning. We are continuing to host **Career Day**, where over 20 speakers presented this month, including one of our parents Brenida Parsons, on different careers to ensure access to **career readiness** for all. We are also partnering with **The Leadership Group** to fund 3 social workers on site to address the social and emotional development needs of our students.
2. Revising and aligning our curriculum to help us address the **Common Core State Standards (CCSS)** and the 2014-15 Citywide **Instructional Expectations and showcasing it on ATLAS**, a web-site you can access to see how teachers are addressing the CCSS with your child. We are partnering with **Generation Ready, Innovative Designs in Education, and NYC Talent Development Coaches** to ensure that all of our teachers have access to high quality, rigorous and differentiated professional development in order to meet the needs of the students who have not earned college readiness scores on their state assessments.
3. Funding **after school and Saturday tutoring** and **S.A.T. preparation** classes to provide additional academic support to students throughout the school year. Tutoring starts on Monday, May 4<sup>th</sup> and Saturday, May 9<sup>th</sup>. Increasing our after school offerings with a dance partnership through **New Beginnings Performing Arts Studio**. We are consistently offering poetry, drama, and art and mural classes with **Community Word Partnership**. We also offer yearbook and newspaper courses to our students. We are continuing to partner with **Epic Theatre Ensemble** to provide a national award winning theatre program to all of students during and after the school day and during the summer. **The performance is NEXT weekend at the National Black Theatre.**



4. Outfitting our school with Smart Boards, and adding new ipads and laptop computers. We also **updated our technology** in our computer labs and purchased new textbooks and classroom materials, like graphing calculators, for each student to use. We will receive the macbooks, ipads, and AppleTV's for our classrooms from our Apple ConnectED grant this month and next!

5. Partnering with the City's **Advanced Placement Expansion Initiative** to provide opportunities for our scholars to earn college credits in high school. We are offering **4 Advanced Placement courses this year**, including World History, English Language and Composition, Spanish and Environmental Science. We are also working with Lehman College Now and Monroe College Jumpstart to offer college credit courses.

6. Increasing our outreach to families via **SchoolMessenger**, weekly automated telephone messages and access to **Skedula/ Datacation via Pupilpath**, our online program that gives you access to attendance, assignments, grades and transcripts for your child. As well as adding May guidance conferences on May 18<sup>th</sup> and continuing **Student-Led Spring Conferences** so that you can learn more about the **CCLS standards** that your child is meeting. We are showcasing a new website at [www.BHSWCA.org](http://www.BHSWCA.org) to help you stay in touch with all that is happening in the school.

I am confident that the instruction and support that we offer at BHSWCA will prepare your child to meet the **demands of college and career**.

1. I ask that you support your child by making sure that she/he comes to school **every day at 8 am**;
2. that all homework assignments and school projects are completed on time;
3. If your child needs **tutoring after school or on Saturday**, our after school program has starts up again on **May 4th and our Saturday Academy begins May 9th**.
4. I encourage you to become active in the school's **Parents' Association and our School Leadership Team (SLT)** to stay connected and to be a partner in your child's education; We have a SLT meeting **THIS Wednesday**
5. Use **Skedula, ATLAS, and BHSWCA.org** to stay informed and if you do not know your password, call your child's guidance counselor or me directly.
6. Ensure your child wears his/ **her uniform** every day, Monday-Thursday, as it helps to support a safe and orderly learning environment.

Thank you for your continued support and cooperation. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me directly at 347-754-0317 or email me at [tgrey@schools.nyc.gov](mailto:tgrey@schools.nyc.gov).

Sincerely,

Terri Grey, Proud Principal and Your Partner in Education

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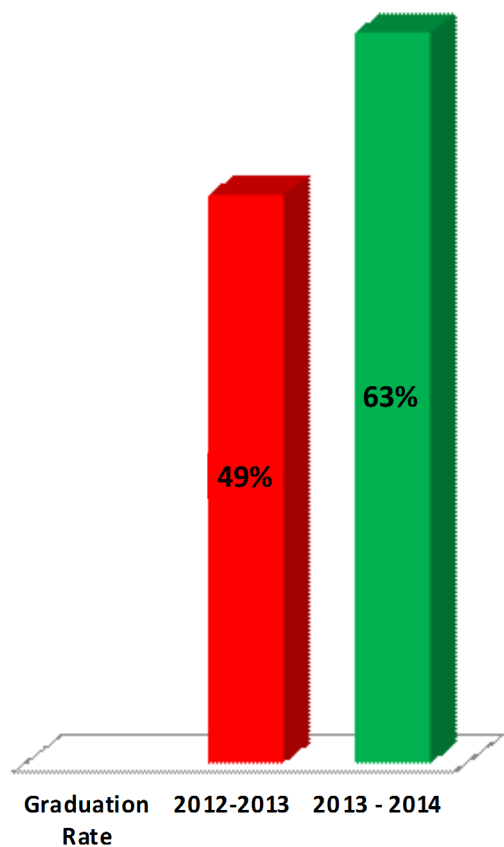
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## Progress Made over the Past 2 Years

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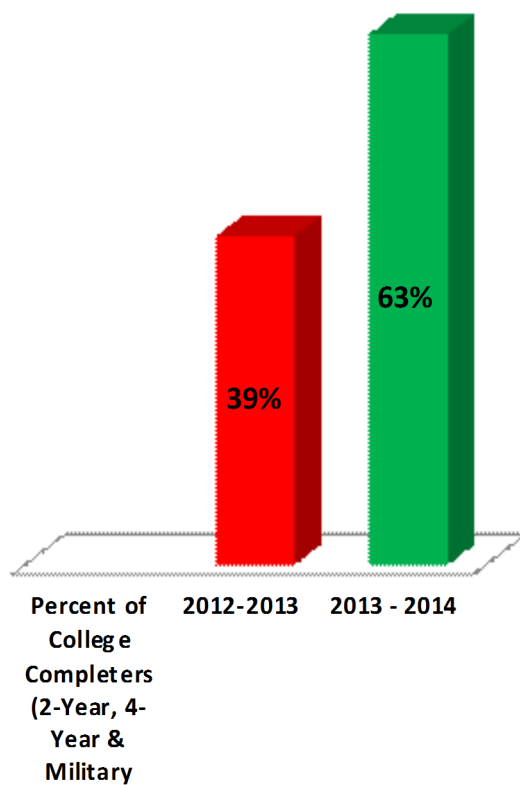
### Graduation Rate

*Growth = 14%*



### Percent of College Completers

*Growth = 24%*

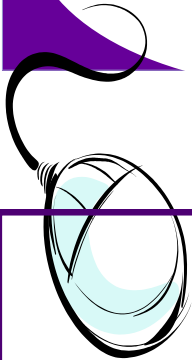


Data was taken from NYSED school data page

(DataNYSED.gov - <http://data.nysed.gov/profile.php?instid=800000057981>)



Have you checked us out on the web?  
We're there! Visit [www.BHSWCA.com](http://www.BHSWCA.com)



**Visit us on the web for  
all school information.**

- \* Bell schedule
- \* School calendar
- \* Graduation requirements policies and procedures
- \* Link to SKEDULA
- \* School sports
- \* Special activities and events
- \* College resources
- \* Parent Association information
- \* Grading policy

It is very important for the school to be able to reach parents and families reporting information about the school and your children. If there has been any change to your contact information, this includes your address, phone number, email address and information on the blue emergency cards. Please call your

**Parent Coordinator, Mrs. Mason at  
718-944-5660 Ext. 2162**

### **The school day begins at 8:00 A.M.**

Please help your child schedule their transportation in the morning, allowing them enough time to get through scanning and be in their class and ready to learn at 8:00 A.M.

- ◆ BHSWCA is a uniform school. Students must report in uniform and have their student ID. Parents of students who arrive out of uniform, (Monday-Thursday,) or without ID, will be called everyday as the students enter the building
- ◆ If you have not already done so, please make sure to sign and return your child's Cell Phone Policy as soon as possible to Mrs. Mason in room 216.

### **BHSWCA Mission Statement**

**The administrators, teachers and staff of the Bronx High School for Writing and Communication Arts (BHSWCA) pledge to create a community of life-long learners, readers and writers who use the written word as our vehicle to explore our world and discover our potential.**