



THE PARENTS' ASSOCIATION OF STUYVESANT HIGH SCHOOL

Bulletin

www.stuypa.org

Issue 7, April 2004



Letter from the Parents' Association Co-Presidents

Well the year is flying by and our parents have been immersed in so many things, it is sometimes not easy to keep track! Since our last issue, we have influenced some issues for our students. Our knowledgeable and highly accomplished Assistant Principal of Mathematics, Danny Jaye was the keynote speaker at our PA meeting. His presentation was enlightening and informative, and highly encouraging to those who feel overwhelmed by the various choices and opportunities available to our students. We were treated to a frank discussion of assessment and the controversies over instruction and content that seem never to resolve. We also felt that

our students are in good hands and that though there may be problems, which arise during their high school careers, they may be dealt with professionally and adequately. We know that our students are highly valued and their needs are foremost with the Department of Mathematics at Stuyvesant.

The Open School visitation happened most satisfactorily. The PA offered help and assistance to the school as usual, and participants were able to be welcomed and to understand where to go and what to do. Of course, thanks to all planners and volunteers, especially those who pitched in to organize this 3-day event such as Doris Hernandez Murphy, Erica Silverman, Linda Yung, and Elizabeth Lee. An outstanding Faculty Reception hosted by our PA successfully previewed the Parent Teacher conferences. Hyacinth John and her able volunteers did an enormous job of feeding and entertaining our staff. Despite our tightened quarters and restrictive working conditions, Peggy Harvey and the committee endured graciously and flawlessly to the benefit of the school. Our parents are extremely helpful in showing gratitude to the staff and administration of Stuyvesant HS. Thanks to the many parents who donated home baked goods. Those goodies are always such a hit that some guests partake of dessert before the meal! All enjoyed a great time!

Looking forward to this month, don't forget to nominate yourself for an office of the PA. If you don't want to run for office, pick a committee and have an active role. We can use all the help we can get and fresh new ideas are always welcomed! Take some time to read over the necessary bylaws amendment necessitated by SLT regulation changes mandated by DOE. Due to a reduction in the size of the team, we needed to assign prior SLT positions as Alternates who will attend those meetings when the other SLTs of their grade are not available or choose to rotate. This maintains our Executive Board at its full strength and does not limit the opportunities of those who wish to serve.

We hope to greet you at the various functions such as College Night and the next PA meeting. Keep in touch via email, or for more pressing matters call the PA office.

*Sincerest Regards,
Linda Lam and Lori Pandolfo*

SCHOOL-BASED OPTION WON'T BE AN OPTION AT STUY

A number of schools operate under the School-Based Option staffing and transfer program, a hiring process where a school screens each job candidate. Stuyvesant's chapter of the United Federation of Teachers recently defeated a proposal to adopt SBO by a vote of 2-to-1. (In order to install SBO, 75 percent of a school's UFT members must vote in favor of the measure.) UFT representative Ellen Schweitzer recently discussed why she urged members to uphold the current system.

Currently, the school reviews all vacancies for licensed teachers in June. The Principal is required to post half of the open positions and can select which openings to post. The other half of the vacancies are listed in the UFT's job directory and filled by seniority.

For example, if there were two history and two mathematics vacancies in a school, a Principal could choose to advertise only the two history vacancies, ensuring more school control in filling those particular positions.

The two mathematics openings would then be listed in the UFT's jobs directory.

Continue on page 2

Message from the Principal

Dear Parents,

The last full week of March was Open School Week. Many parents took advantage of this opportunity to visit numerous classes. Parent-teacher conferences gave many a chance to meet and discuss their child's individual needs. Collaborations like these help to ensure academic success.

Our POS system went 'live' on March 16th in the student cafeteria. Our parent online system went 'live' on March 29th. If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Blumm, our parent coordinator, or use the 800 number provided on our website.

SING 2004 is to be staged immediately after our spring break. Over 800 students are directly involved in the three theatrical productions which are judged by our alumni.

Please note: Stuyvesant High School does not sponsor or encourage Sing cast parties either in or out of the school building. In addition, Sing faculty advisors do not organize or chaperone any events after the performance.

*Sincerely,
S. Teitel, Principal*

Parents' Association General Meeting

Tuesday, April 20th, 2004

7 - 9 PM

Refreshments at 6:30 PM

Murray Kahn Theater

Ms. Jennifer Suri, Assistant Principal Social Studies, will discuss Social Studies course offerings and summer programs '04, and will answer parents' questions (contact: gsa17@aol.com by April 13th to submit questions).

SCHOOL-BASED OPTIONS WON'T BE AN OPTION AT STUY *(Continued from page 1)*

Teachers apply for particular jobs listed in the directory and the most experienced teachers get the jobs.

While Stuyvesant might appear to among the most popular choices, Schweitzer said this is not always the case. "A lot of people are scared away by the workload," she said.

The administration fills the other half of the vacancies, which means that a faculty hiring committee sets criteria, then reviews and interviews candidates. If Stuy were to adopt SBO, a hiring committee would be responsible for filling every open position. Schweitzer said she was concerned that the workload would be overwhelming. She estimates that filling one position requires at least four meetings.

She said she also believes that the school would miss out on some highly qualified teachers under SBO. "I can name so many wonderful people who have transferred into the school" via the seniority program, Schweitzer said.

PA Co-President Lori Pandolfo said in an e-mail message that while she feels that SBO is primarily a teachers' issue, "I, as most parents, believe that having the SBO rule would likely improve the teacher quality long-term."

However, she added, "SBO can't be voted in in a school where the staff is not confident that the administration will handle SBO fairly and equitably and that there are enough volunteers among them to handle the workload involved — recruitment, interviewing, observing, etc. If our staff was more trusting and confident in that, they might be more amenable to instituting the SBO."

"Of course," Pandolfo wrote, "this is my personal opinion and does not reflect a consensus of the PA."

The PA welcomes parent comment on this issue. ❖

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR PHONATON

May 10, 11, 12 – 6-9 pm
DC 37, Murray and West Streets

Contact: Jennifer Chiang to Volunteer
jchiang@tunkee.com

PARENT TRAINING

The PA Program Committee will train parents who are interested in working on future programs. Through the work of the Program Committee, parent volunteers can help the PA address important curriculum and other school issues, learn more about the school, its leadership, programs and teachers, and develop your own event planning and presentation skills (contact gsa17@aol.com). ❖

PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO PARENT ASSOCIATION BY-LAWS To Comply with Recent Changes to Chancellor's Regulations *

On February 3, 2004, the Department of Education changed its regulations to reduce the maximum number of members on each School Leadership Team ("SLT") to 17. At Stuyvesant that causes a reduction from 25 to 17. In order to implement this change, the number of SLT representatives from each constituency of the school community (i.e., students, parents and staff) must be reduced in a manner chosen by the school.

The school administration has recommended and Stuyvesant SLT has ratified the following reductions in the membership of the Stuyvesant SLT:

- Student delegates will be reduced from 5 to 3;
- Parent delegates will be reduced from 10 to 7;
- Staff delegates (i.e., faculty and administration) will be reduced from 10 to 7.

Also ratified by SLT and PA Executive Board is that the new configuration of the SLT may include alternates.

The PA Executive Board agrees with this proposal and recommends that the PA By-laws be amended as follows in order to comply with the change in the Chancellor's regulations and the administration proposal (strike-outs indicate deletions; italics indicate additions):

Article IV - Elected Positions and Elections

Section 1. Elected Positions . . .

School Leadership Team Delegates:

Senior Parent Delegates - ~~Two (2)~~ One (1)

Junior Parent Delegates - ~~Three (3)~~ Two (2)

Sophomore Parent Delegates - Two (2)

Freshman Parent Delegates - ~~Two (2)~~ One (1)

There will be One (1) Alternate Delegate for each class selected as follows:

The candidate for each class delegate with the highest number of votes other than the winning candidate(s) (i.e., the runner-up) will serve as the Alternate Delegate for that class. The Alternate Delegates will be expected to attend all SLT meetings and shall have the same duties as the SLT Delegates. The Alternate Delegate for a class shall not have the right to vote at any SLT meeting unless one of the SLT Delegates for that class is absent from such meeting.

Please note that under the current PA By-laws, the President of the PA automatically serves as one of the voting parent representatives on the SLT. The proposed amendment does not change that provision.

* Chancellor's Regulation A-655 - Category Students - Subject: School Leadership Teams

Section III Subpart C:

C. Size of Team

All SLT's must have a minimum of ten members and may not exceed a limit of 17 members. In determining the size of the team, budget allocations must be considered.

The amendment will be voted upon at the April General Membership meeting, having been presented at the March meeting in writing and posted through the Bulletin, Website and Listserv. ❖

PA HEALTH AND SAFETY COMMITTEE

The Committee is proud to have worked closely with the school administration, the UFT, and the Department of Education in the successful and safe removal of the library carpet using asbestos abatement protocols. We hope and believe that this will be the final remediation at the school of materials containing or potentially containing 9/11-related contaminants.

The committee is currently working on the following projects:

- getting the school's malfunctioning fire alarm system into working order
- evaluating the school's emergency preparedness planning
- establishing a closer working relationship with NYPD to ensure safety at after-school events
- assessing possibilities for improving the level of filtration in the school's mechanical ventilation system
- building relationships with local community and environmental groups to present a united front on downtown redevelopment issues.

We need your input, ideas, and energy. Please join us at our next Health and Safety Committee meeting – Tuesday, March 30, 5:30-6:30 PM at Stuy (room to be announced).

For more information, please contact Dave Newman, Health and Safety Committee Chair, at 718-859-5141 (home), 212-627-3900x16 (work), or dmn@panix.com. ❖

PRINCIPAL TEITEL ON CHEATING

Principal Stanley Teitel recently spoke with Bulletin co-editor Lauren Coleman-Lochner about cheating and academic assessment. Many parents and students complain that the Stuyvesant administration is lax about cheating. They also believe that methods of testing such as uniform department-wide finals, which are often multiple-choice, emphasize rote memorization over comprehension and contribute to cheating.

Mr. Teitel began by saying that a committee first developed formal guidelines for handling cheating a few years ago after a teacher caught six students cheating on an exam. The last page of the guidelines states that, *"If a student, at any time during his/her stay at Stuyvesant, is found to have engaged in a second act of academic dishonesty (based on the procedures indicated in this document), the student will be given a Principal's suspension, in accordance with the Stuyvesant school disciplinary code of the New York City Board of Education. The colleges to which the student applies will be notified that he/she has been suspended."*

To date, no student has been suspended under this policy.

Below, Teitel discusses enforcement of the code. He also discusses recent measures taken to reduce cheating. For example, during the last set of finals, Teitel told teachers not to allow students to leave the room during one-hour exams. However, he said, "we're still discussing what we're going to do for June's Regents. That's a three-hour exam." Chaperones man bathrooms and admit students one at a time. Still, student ingenuity often trumps restrictions. During one exam, a student buried a textbook in the bottom of the wastebasket in the boys' room.

Teitel said he thinks teachers can reduce cheating by composing different versions of a test for each class. To combat plagiarism, he suggests that teachers get an in-class writing sample from students early in the term.

Following are excerpts from the conversation. Directly below, Teitel talks about why the school gives uniform departmental exams, why Stuyvesant now incorporates Regents' grades into students' final course grades, and why he expects that most students achieve high scores on the Regents'.

Q. What do the other science schools do [for finals]?

A. "They don't give finals like we do. It's not the same. They give them in class. I like a uniform exam so that I know the basic material that needs to be taught is taught in every classroom."

Q. Aren't there other ways of ensuring that?

A. "How would you do it? I can't go to every class every day. How do I know that the essential ingredients of this curriculum were taught by every teacher in the department? It's a way to get the kids to take the Regents seriously. I'll tell you that when I first became

principal, although our percentage of passing was just as good, the grades were not high, because the kids used to come in and go, 'It doesn't matter. This isn't part of my grade. I just need to pass the exam.' And I'll be honest, if you go to college outside of New York, they don't even care about what the Regents grades are."

Q. All right, so that raises the question, why do we care, as long as kids are passing? The counterargument is, if these kids are all pressured to get 90 or above, even in areas that are not their expertise, this is going to produce an atmosphere that breeds cheating.

A. "You could say that in all the exams. In any exam there's an atmosphere of cheating because everyone wants to get a 99."

Q. But why should the school actually care? Why does it matter?

A. "We are rated as a school statewide because of our Regents' results, our attendance results, and our graduation results. There are 1,588 high schools in New York State. This rating is based on those three factors, and I'm sure you can figure out where we are. Now, do I really want to change that rating?"

Q. I would say that a lot of parents would say, 'Yeah, who cares, we know it's an excellent school and we'd rather have the emphasis on learning.'

A. "How do you prove we're an excellent school? When someone says to you, how do you know, I pull out data."

Q. And again — this is my feeling but this is the feeling of a lot of parents here and probably a lot of students, that the emphasis is on scoring on the tests versus learning, and if there wasn't such an emphasis on the exact scores on the Regents', there would be more room to do more essays and things that enhance comprehension rather than achievement on these tests. And there are other ways to measure the achievement of the students at a school. It would seem to me that the quality of the students and the SAT's would be a really good way to show that these kids really achieve. The prizes that they win, the research, I mean, that's not measured on a Regents' exam.

A. "We have in the CEP [Comprehensive Educational Plan], one of the goals is to talk about what we might use for other forms of assessment."

Q. Well, here's what I'm hearing. The two issues that people are concerned about — cheating, and quality of teaching, the uneven quality of teaching. Those are the two that come up again and again.

A. "Those are the two issues that are not easily

solvable. As I indicated to you, there are certain things in place to deal with cheating. Can I promise there is no cheating? Absolutely not..... We developed our own academic honesty policy. We follow it when we find what's going on, but I've got to tell you, parents fight me tooth and nail... tooth and nail...'How do you know it was my kid?' I'm not going to call you unless I'm sure...I would not make that call simply because your child's eyes wandered for a minute. So then you should come in here and support the school and say, 'You're absolutely right.' Instead, because you're afraid of what I might do, am I going to notify the college, you have to take the other attitude, how do you know?"

Q. Say you're 100 percent sure, and we know there are cases where that is true.

A. "You'll take either a zero for the individual exam, or you might fail the course and have to repeat it, depending upon whether I feel this was a one-shot deal or has this been going on all term? I'll use as an example, with the six that I convicted, they all took zeros and nobody went home with a grade above a 70 in that course, and many of them had much higher averages. They suffered academically, but I wouldn't fail them, because this was only one exam."

Q. Has anyone proposed more draconian measures?

A. "No, and I would have to tell you, that my guess is, the parent body would not support it. I'll tell you what, if parents come to me as an organization and they are prepared to support more draconian measures as an organization, I have no problem, but I'm telling you what's going to happen. When it comes down to your child and yours is the child that I'm notifying the colleges about, you are going to be livid."

Q. You have a couple of those, and you see the cheating go way down.

A. "You do that twice, we're done. ...The kids have to know, this is serious: if he convicts me of cheating, he can notify colleges...I have to tell you, though, being an academic institution, I have problems when I try to make one size fits all, which is what you're going to have to give me. When I deal with matters like this, I'm dealing with an individual at a time... Before I really decide, I try to talk to all the kid's teachers and try to get a sense about you. Was this a kid that does this all the time? Was this a one-shot deal here and I just need to slap your wrist hard enough so that you remember not to do it again, but not so hard that I've crushed you?"

Q. So like a two-strikes-and-you're-out-type deal...

A. "I have no problem with that as long as there's support from both the PA and the student body, that they understand that this will be the policy that I will now follow." ❖

CANDIDATES SOUGHT FOR PARENTS' ASSOCIATION ELECTIONS IN MAY

THE ANNUAL ELECTIONS of PA officers and School Leadership Team (SLT) class representatives will take place at the General PA Meeting on Tuesday, May 18. The specific positions open are:

- > **President (or Co-President)**
- > **1st Vice President**
- > **2nd Vice President**
- > **Treasurer**
- > **Assistant Treasurer**
- > **Recording Secretary**
- > **Corresponding Secretary**
- > **SLT Representatives and Alternate SLT Representatives for next year's Sophomore, Junior, and Senior classes**

Detailed descriptions of each position may be found on the PA website (www.stuyupa.org).

Candidates must be a parent of a child attending Stuyvesant next year and may not be employed by Stuyvesant.

We encourage any interested parents to run for a PA position. You are also encouraged to nominate other parents who you think would make an effective member of the PA leadership team.

You may use the form to the right or download a form from the PA website. Additional forms can be obtained from Peggy Harvey in the PA office, Room 205 at Stuy. Send completed forms to Peggy Harvey (phone: 212-312-4800 x2053 / fax: 212-587-3874) or give them to any member of the nominating committee. **Please submit forms by April 14.**

Parents can also be nominated from the floor at the general membership meeting on Tues., April 20.

Members of the Nominating Committee are: George Lee, Hyacinth John, Michelle Parker, John Healy and Steve Kessler.

Contact George Lee with any questions:
glee@tower-research.com, 212-732-0376 (h) ❖

I am interested in serving as an elected officer of the Parents' Association in 2004-2005.

Parent's Name _____

Child's Name _____

Telephone (Day) _____ (Evening) _____

E-mail _____

I am interested in running for the following office:

Qualification /Prior Experience (Feel free to attach additional sheets):

**Please clip this form and mail by April 14 to:
Annual PA Elections Nominating Committee
Stuyvesant High School Parents' Association
345 Chambers Street
New York, NY 10282-1099**

PA GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MINUTES

February 24, 2004 Stuy PA General Meeting
Lori and Linda chaired.
Meeting was commenced at 7.10 P.M.

I. Minutes from December and January were approved.

II. Treasurer's Report. Written report circulated at meeting. New wish list items shown on report. A balance sheet showing total liabilities and assets of \$275,843.37 was approved.

III. Program.

Shirley Zhang and Priya Prasad, Seniors, talked about their Intel research. Shirley did research to invent a new type of water purifier. She had no formal mentor or laboratory. On the other hand, Priya's research was more formal; she worked on effects of estrogen.

Dr. Olga Livanis addressed PA on the Physics and Chemistry curricula. She discussed many problems related to the high standards of Physics Regents and AP exams. A list of questions was provided to her beforehand and she answered all the questions. These pre-prepared questions and their answers were also translated simultaneously into Chinese. Further, she answered impromptu questions raised from the floor.

A number of observations emerged out of the discussion. (For fuller report on Q&A- see website www.stuyupa.org)

1. Physics students need to study the subject every day for at least 30 minutes.

2. Visit teachers at their office hours regularly.
3. All Physics teachers at Stuy are licensed to teach the subject.
4. Students deserve a lesson plan.
5. There are inconsistencies about (a) admitting problems related to poor scores, (b) union rules, (c) parents' views VS school administration's views regarding the poor showing and extra hard standards of Physics.
6. A miscalculation occurred previously, a problem now fixed; newly revised average grade is 80+ (some parents argued this average was not good for Stuy).
7. Last year, out of 792 students, 761 had passed the Physics Regents exam with 53% students with 85+ score (some parents contested this meant 47% or nearly half of the students got lower than 85).
8. There is a great difference in teaching qualities between Stuy teachers.
9. Stuy has Physics mandatory; other schools don't. Therefore, no comparison between schools is possible.
10. Some parents expressed fear that a two-tier classification of the otherwise bright Stuy students is being made because of the harsh Physics standards.
11. Average for AP Chemistry last year was at low 80s.
12. Physics tutoring is now available after school Tuesdays and Thursdays in Rm. 804; students should take advantage of it.

Dr. Livanis expressed her opinion that a layer cake method is being followed in U.S. schools (which teaches our students one science subject each year) as opposed to a spiral method practiced everywhere else (where students learn all the science subjects

simultaneously, which in her opinion is more efficient).

IV. President's Report and Announcements.

1. Peggy Harvey's invaluable contribution to Stuy PA was recognized and acclaimed by the floor.
2. No Hebrew teacher has been found yet.
3. Gina Anderson and Sumiko Takeda were ratified unanimously by voice vote to co-chair Program and Scholarship Committees, respectively.
4. PA Nominations Committee Members for 2004-2005: nominations were sought and received from the floor. Steve Kessler, George Lee, Hyacinth John, Michelle Parker, John Healy were nominated and approved unanimously, by vote, to serve.
5. Friday, February 27: Chinese Feast Fundraiser at 88 Palace, 88 East Broadway at 7 P.M. Tickets are \$38 per person, or \$350 for a table of 10.
6. College Coach program – info/make your appointment at getintocollege.com.
7. March 2 "Academic integrity" Special Parent Forum at 7 P.M.
8. March 23 "Next General PA meeting" Math Dept. presentation.
9. March 19 – third series of college tours to upstate NY colleges.
10. April 1 – Special session of college information with Pat Cleary.

Meeting was adjourned at 9.10 P.M.

*Respectfully submitted,
Partha Banerjee,
Recording Secretary*

COLLEGE CORNER

Your link to the Stuyvesant College Office: www.stuy.edu/college

College News for Seniors

The college office staff has been visiting senior classes to discuss the final steps of the college application process. It is a guidance service that was begun last year for the first time. Among the topics discussed is what to do if a student is wait-listed. The advisors say that there is movement from those lists and so students should write a letter to the school reiterating their interest and documenting visits they have made, and include other supporting information. Any student who is trying to decide between two schools is welcome to meet with the college advisors to help in that decision. A deposit must be made to one school by May 1.

Seniors have been notified that they must verify their names as they should appear on their diploma. Students need to provide the proper form and documentation to the college office by April 24. Ms. Bosco, the Stuyvesant Admissions Secretary, will make any corrections that need to be made.

College News for Juniors

College Counselor Pat Cleary and College Advisors Aileen Danaher and Dr. Lydia Schulman have been meeting with Juniors in small groups to make sure they are informed about the college process. They will meet individually with them later in the year as well. Ms. Cleary reports that more students have visited colleges at this point in the process than in past years, to which the tours jointly sponsored for the first time this year by the school and the Parents Association have contributed. "The visits have helped to make the college selection process more real to students," Ms. Cleary says. "Visiting has made the students more knowledgeable about schools in general and so it's helped to vitalize the process." Ms. Cleary urges parents and students to attend College Night on April 29. Remind your Junior student to check his or her Stuyvesant email account regularly for notification of appointments. Students and parents alike should regularly check in at stuy.edu/college for important notices.

Ms. Cleary and Ms. Danaher will continue to be available for one-on-one meetings with parents and students through May 31 (with the exception of the week of April 26-30). They will provide parents with an overview of the application process at Stuyvesant and a tutorial on web-based school

resources and they will provide individual counseling and answer questions. Ms. Cleary is here on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 3 to 6 pm, and Ms. Danaher on Mondays and Wednesdays from 4 to 6 pm. To make an appointment, call Ms. Eilen in the College Office at 212/312-4800, x2251. This service is provided free thanks to grant funds from FEMA, Project Liberty, and the Office of Mental Health.

And for Sophomores and Freshmen

A new system to track SSR teacher recommendations on-line is now available. As is explained in the Parent Handbook, a Secondary School Report file is maintained for each student in the Guidance Office. Students should contribute records of their extracurricular and other noteworthy activities throughout their years at Stuyvesant. Students should also ask one or two teachers each semester for short recommendations to become part of this student profile file. With the new system, when a teacher submits the recommendation to the Guidance Office, the notification that it has been completed goes into a database that the student can access through his/her Stuyvesant account. This saves the student a trip to Guidance and streamlines the task for the office as well. Thanks to Program Office Chairperson Ed Wong for implementing the new program and to parent Barbara Gsovski for urging the project on.

For All

The College Office has a new automated phone line. The new number is 212/312-4801. The caller will hear a general message of important notices, then be given a number of choices to pursue information including how to order transcripts, who to speak to about scholarship opportunities, and how to contact office staff. Thanks to Ed Wong for completing this project and to parent Sue Schneider for following this job through over many months. Funds were provided through a grant from Project Liberty.

College Tours

The inaugural series of three college tours organized by the school and the Parents' Association has now been completed. We are grateful to tour organizer Richard Schweidel and to Assistant Principal Eleanor Archie who worked

through the details and accompanied each of the tours. Mrs. Archie said the college tours were a success. "The tours provided our students the opportunity to see several college and university campuses, and to hear and speak to admission officers. One of the many highlights of the tours was the warm greeting we received from the Stuyvesant alums as we visited each school on our tours." Mrs. Archie added, "many students have expressed that the tours gave them a better insight into the college process and encouraged us to continue these tours next year." ❖

— Karen Mooney,
College Committee Chairperson,
mooneykL@aol.com

SCHOLARSHIP ANNOUNCEMENT

Announcing the Fourth Annual Eiger Family Scholarship in the amount of \$50,000 over four years, presented by The Stuyvesant High School Alumni Association. Completed applications are due by Friday, April 30th. No exceptions! Use the following link to download information and the application form:

www.stuyypa.org/specialpages/SHSAA_Scholarship.doc ❖

STUYVESANT PARENTS' ASSOCIATION SCHOLARSHIP ESSAY CONTEST FOR SENIORS

The Parents' Association is awarding five \$1000 scholarships for the best essays written by seniors and submitted to the PA Scholarship Committee. Let us contribute to your success in college.

Write an approximately 400 - 500 word essay, format it in MS Word, and e-mail it with your name, student number, and home phone number by the deadline, 11:00 PM, Saturday, May 1, to: sumitake@earthlink.net.

Essay Question

What is something you have observed, experienced or learned during your Stuyvesant years that has surprised you and has influenced the way you think, what you think, or what you do? Please feel free to be either serious or humorous--or both.

The essays will be judged on content and creativity. The members of the Scholarship Committee are Stuyvesant parents, not your teachers. We are looking for your unique insights.

All essays will be kept confidential and read only by the PA Scholarship Committee members, who will not know the authors' names. If we elect to publish any of the essays, we will first ask the authors for permission.. Winners will be announced at the Stuyvesant High School Awards Night in June 2004 (winners' presence not required).

Any questions? Call Sumiko Takeda Nakazato at (212)695-3072 or e-mail sumitake@earthlink.net. ❖

— Sumiko Takeda Nakazato, Chair,
Parents' Association Scholarship Committee

COLLEGE NIGHT >>> Thursday, April 29, 7-9:30 pm

Visit with representatives from more than 135 colleges and universities. Recommended for Sophomores and Juniors and their families.

Sweet Contributions

The Parents' Association provides a buffet supper for the college representatives who visit Stuyvesant on College Night. It is renowned in college circles for the quality and variety of the food and for the graciousness of its presentation. One of the highlights of the dinner is a sumptuous dessert table contributed by Stuyvesant families. Please contribute baked goods, dried fruits, fruits salads, nuts, and other sweets for this presentation. Contributions should be delivered to the school on April 29 before 5 pm. For more information or to make a donation, contact Theresa Bockwoldt at Tbock59@hotmail.com or 718/678-5271. ❖

PA GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MINUTES *Chinese Translation by Peter Chang*

以下為二月二十四日PA會議之紀錄

2004年，二月二十四 史代文森家長會綜合大會

Lori Pandolfo 彭多福 及林小蓮 Linda Lam 共同主席主持

大會於晚間七點十分開始

I. 十二月及一月之會議記錄通過審核

II. 財務報告

財務書面報告已於會場傳閱。家長會新通過購置之項目並詳列其中。目前家長會款項之餘額 (\$275, 843.37) 及款項支出情形已通過大會之審核。

III. 會議概況

張雪莉 (Shirley Zhang) 及 溥俐雅 (Priya Prasad) 兩位四年級學生編談參與英特爾比賽之研究計畫。張雪莉之研究計畫為一新型之濾水器。計畫進行過程中，她並無特定之指導教授或專屬研究室。溥俐雅之研究計畫則較為嚴謹，她的題目為離散素之影響。

副校長李凡尼博士在此次家長大會上並針對史代文森高中之物理、化學課程進行專題演講。她報告了許多由物理州考及AP考試之高標準所延伸出來的問題。家長會並在李教授參與會議前遞交一份家長欲詢問之問題表。李教授已於事前準備好所有問題之解答，並一一回答該表中詳列之問題。這些問題及李教授之回應，並同步由與會之同步翻譯人員翻譯至中文。另外李教授亦回答現場家長之提問。

當天的討論當中，形成了幾項值得深思之項目：(欲見全文及問答之細目請至網站 www.stuyupa.org)

1. 學生至少每天得研習物理三十分鐘。
2. 定期利用老師辦公室時間討論釐清無法解答的問題。
3. 所有在史代文森任職的老師皆有該科目之合格教師證書。
4. 所有學生皆值得老師為他們設計一個專屬的教學計畫。
5. 校方及家長在學生學業表現、統一規定及物理超高標準上存有相當大之歧見。
6. 前些時日所發生的計分錯誤之烏龍事件已告落幕。計算錯誤之分數已全數修訂完畢。目前平均分數為八十分以上(有些家長認為此一平均分數以史代文森來說並不好)。
7. 去年來說，在所有七百九十二位學生當中有七百六十一位學生通過物理全州考試。其中百分之五十三的學生的考試分數達到八十五分以上(有些家長則宣稱這不代表百分之四十七，幾乎一半的學生考低於八十五分嗎?)。
8. 史代文森老師的教學品質參差。
9. 史代文森之物理課程為必修，其他高中並無此一制度，因此，無從比較學校表現之差異。
10. 有些家長關切校方可能由於此一嚴苛之物理標準所延伸出的兩段式物理分班。
11. AP物理課程去年之平均分數為八十分出頭。
12. 課後物理輔導目前已開放給學生，時間是星期二及星期四在804教室。學生應盡量利用。

李凡尼博士並指出，目前美國的科學課程設計是屬於漸層式(學生一次只學一個科目，等該科目教授完畢，再教授下一個科目)，這與全球所使用的並進式(同時學習所有的科學科目)背道而馳。依李教授之個人意見，全球所使用之並進式教學法較有效率。

IV. 會長報告及各項通知

1. 與會家長表揚裴古哈維 Peggy Harvey，家長會事務員對史代文森家長會之優良貢獻。
2. 目前尚未尋獲希伯來文教師。
3. 吉娜安德森及中田、竹田暉子由與會家長齊聲通過加入 Program Committee 副主席及獎學金小組。
4. 2004-2005 年家長會選舉委員被提名人又史提夫凱瑟李爾治約翰海辛吉米雷派克約翰喜立 以上被提名人均由與會家長所提出 所有被提名人名亦同時在無異議下全數投票通過。
5. 二月二十七日星期五之中式聚餐會預定在 88 East Broadway 晚間七點鐘舉行餐會門票每張\$38或每十人桌\$350。
6. 大學申請輔導計畫之相關資料及會面預定請至 www.getintocollege.com 網站。
7. 三月二日晚間七點之家長專題論壇題目為“學術舞弊”。
8. 三月二十三日家長綜合大會將由數學部門進行報告。
9. 三月二十九日第三次紐約上州大學巡禮。
10. 四月一日派特克繼 Pat Cleary 將專題報告大學申請程序。

會議於晚間九點十分散會

謹此紀錄，帕薩班吉 Partha Banerjee，會議總記

APRIL COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Check the PA website and Listserv for dates and locations

Academic Integrity Committee Meeting

E-mail: MBreit@milberg.com and MDavis370@earthlink.net, with your phone number, if you plan to attend so that we can contact you if there are any last minute changes.

Teams, Clubs, and Publications Committee

The main issue on the agenda will be the Speech and Debate Team, but parents concerned with other extracurricular activities are encouraged to attend. If you plan to attend please e-mail with phone number: Constance Rodgers <croddgers@nyc.rr.com> and MDavis370@earthlink.net in case there are any last minute changes.

SLT Sub-Committee on School Tone

will address the issues of academic integrity, cheating, and theft. The several constituencies are encouraged to meet beforehand and circulate their thoughts and proposals via e-mail to all other constituencies, i.e. all members of the SLT and other interested parties. We will extend an invitation to Mr. Teitel and Ms. Damesek to attend this meeting.

E-mail Mdavis370@earthlink.net with your phone number, if you plan to attend so that you can be informed of any last minute changes.

五月十八日星期二 晚上 6:45pm

家長會董事及選舉學校領導團

請出席投票，父母每人一票

競選職位包括：

主席(共同主席)、第一副主席、第二副主席、財務、副財務、會議秘書、書信秘書、

10、11、12 年級領導團及後備代表

詳情請上網頁 www.stuyupa.org

四月二十九日 星期四 晚 大學夜 7:00pm

135間大學派員講述其大學之特色及解答問題

歡參十一年級家長帶學生參加

ASK SLT: RATING TEACHERS

Q. Hi Gary, Students take tests and get progress reports periodically. Is there any sort of review system on teachers? There are certainly some teachers, even at Stuyvesant, that are not doing their job well, or at least can modify and improve. What kind of channel is available to parents and students to reflect upon teachers constructively without drawing "retaliation" later?

A. Yes, there is. There is a nation-wide website for high school students to evaluate their teachers. It's called "RateMyTeachers.com". If you go to this website you will see a list on the left side of your monitor. Click on "Find Your School." It will ask you to type in the first 3 letters of your school's name. Type in the whole word "Stuyvesant." When you see "Stuyvesant High School" appear on the screen, you will see the alphabet from "A" to "Z". Click on the letter that is the first letter of the last name of the teacher whose evaluation by students you would like to see.

You will, then, see an alphabetical listing of Stuy teachers. Look for the line that has the last and first name of the teacher you want to know about. The line also lists the subject he or she teaches, the date of the last rating, the total number of student ratings, the overall quality [from 1 (worst) to 5 (best)], and the average easiness, also rated from 1 to 5.

Next, click on the teacher's last name and you will see a webpage for that teacher alone. It gives you a number of things to read. There are all the comments by the students, as well as the number of ratings, the average easiness of the teacher, the average helpfulness of the teacher, the average clarity of the teacher, the popularity of the teacher, and the overall quality of the teacher. The averages are based on a maximum score of 5.0.

There is also a place on the teacher's webpage for a student to click on to rate this teacher, and there is a place to click to challenge a rating. This challenge will be forwarded to the students at Stuyvesant High School who are monitoring this website.

This is by no means a perfect vehicle for students evaluating their teachers, but it's a beginning.

More importantly, it's the only way I know for parents to find out something about what students think about particular teachers. This might help some students in making up their class schedules for the next term at Stuy.

— Gary Lincoff, SLT Freshman parent

You can forward questions for your SLT representatives to individual representatives (listed in the PA Directory), or to the Bulletin. We will print selected questions and answers in future issues. ❖

STUYVESANT CALENDAR

| | |
|-------------------------|---|
| Tuesday, March 30 | Health and Safety Committee meeting – 5:30-6:30 pm. Guests welcome. |
| Thursday, April 1 | College meeting of Junior parents with Ms. Cleary. |
| Mon. 4/5 - Tues. 4/13 | Spring Recess |
| Tuesday April 20 | PA General Meeting 7 pm (Hospitality* - 6:30 pm) |
| Thursday April 29 | College Night – reps of more than 100 colleges & universities (Reg Deadline SAT 6/5) |
| Friday, April 30 | Deadline to apply for Eiger Family Scholarship |
| Saturday, May 1 | Deadline for PA Association Scholarship Essay Contest Deadline for Seniors to deposit at first choice colleges |
| Mon.-Wed., May 10-12 | PHONATHON - DC 37, 6-9 pm Murray and West Streets |
| Tuesday May 18 | PA General Meeting 7 pm (Hospitality* - 6:30 pm) |
| Monday May 31 | Memorial Day - School Closed |
| Tuesday June 15 | PA General Meeting 7 pm (Hospitality* - 6:30 pm) |
| Friday June 25 | Last Day of School |



GET INVOLVED! OUR KIDS NEED YOUR SUPPORT!

Are you a contributing member of the Stuyvesant Parents' Association and/or a volunteer? To join the PA, or to be listed in the Parent/Student Directory, please complete this form and mail it with your annual dues donation of \$ 20, tax deductible, to:

Parents' Association, Stuyvesant High School
345 Chambers Street, Room 211, New York, NY 10282

- I want to be a volunteer (check committee interested at right)
- Add me to ListServ Announcements
- Check here if you **DO NOT** want your contact information to appear in the Parent/Student Directory
- Check here if you **DO** want your information to be shared with Fundraisers other than the PA who are raising donations for Stuyvesant through Centennial Activities and others

First Name _____

Last Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Home Phone _____ Fax Number _____

Work Phone _____

Email _____

Student First _____

Student Last Name _____ Student Grad Year _____

Languages _____ Skills _____

Dues are voluntary and are not a prerequisite for Parents' Association membership or for listing in the Parent/Student Directory.

- COMMITTEES**
- Academic Integrity
 - Appropriation
 - College
 - Communications - Newsletter
 - Communications - Website
 - Faculty Reception
 - Family Orientation
 - Hospitality
 - Independent Research
 - Membership Outreach
 - Membership Outreach - Chinese
 - Membership Outreach - Korean
 - Membership Outreach - Russian
 - Membership Outreach - Buddy
 - Phonathon
 - Programs
 - Scholarship
 - Health & Safety
 - Public Affairs
 - Teams & Clubs

Dated Material

345 Chambers Street, Room 271
New York, NY 10282**Bulletin**

THE PARENTS' ASSOCIATION OF STUYVESANT HIGH SCHOOL



THE PARENTS' ASSOCIATION OF STUYVESANT HIGH SCHOOL

Bulletin

www.stuypa.org

Issue 7, April 2004

Stuyvesant PA Website

Information is also
available at the
Stuyvesant PA
website,
www.stuypa.org.

CONTACT INFO

PA Website:
www.stuypa.org
Stuyvesant HS:
212-312-4800
Stuyvesant website:
www.stuy.edu
Stuyvesant High
School
345 Chambers Street
New York, NY 10282

FACULTY RECEPTION VOLUNTEERS – *BIG THANKS!*

On March 25, our faculty appreciation dinner was a success due to the creativity and hard work of our twenty parent volunteers. They miraculously transformed our cafeteria into a beautiful dining space. There was a delicious array of foods; some of the treats were homemade. A special thanks to Peggy Harvey for her guidance, patience and assistance, to Stephanie Hinds-Phillips for her support and hard work throughout the day and to the Chinese and Korean parents for providing their special foods.

Thank you to the Stuyvesant Ad Agency faculty advisor, Ms. Amy Cappell, for the beautiful poster and banner which are now decorating the cafeteria.

Our parent volunteers were: Sook Hyun Cho, Sandra Jang, Young Lee, Grace Hong, Lauren Park, Sumi Takeda, Kiki Dinos, Audrey Mazur, Gillian Smith, Katherine Bendo, Hannah Li, Jackie Ochs, Elizabeth Roistacher, Mei Ying Chow, and Teresa Bockwoldt ❖

— *Hyacinth John and Elizabeth Lee, Co-Chairs, Faculty Reception*

華人家長會將於五月七日星期五晚七時舉行講座，項目包括新的 SAT 的要求，怎樣選擇大學，課外活動的重要性。地點在史華文生中學對面的 IS 69 初中的餐廳，由 201 Warren 街入口。若有問題，請電共同會長林小蓮 718-476-0788。

OPEN SCHOOL WEEK VOLUNTEERS THANKS!

The PA deeply appreciates the great work of the volunteers who came out for Open School Week, and helped me it such a success! ❖

Stuyvesant PA Bulletin

The PA Bulletin is published monthly by the Stuyvesant High School Parents' Association. It is mailed to parents one week before most Parents' Association general meetings. Contributions and suggestions are welcome. Please contact Tony Micocci (tony@micocci.com) or Lauren Coleman-Lochner (lsc6@columbia.edu), Bulletin Co-Editors.

Many thanks to this month's contributors: Gina Anderson, Peter Chang, Lauren Coleman-Lochner, Kiki Dinos, Linda Lam, Elizabeth Lee, Karen Mooney, Sumiko Takeda Nakazato, Dave Newman, Lori Pandolfo and Stanley Teitel, and to Li Wah Lai for her layout work.