



# Bulletin

Issue 9

May 2003

## MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Dear Parents,

May begins a very stressful time of the school year. The advanced placement examinations in all subjects will be administered for two weeks. In early June many students will take the SAT I and SAT II exams. In late June students will take the mandated NYS regents. Please support your child in every way possible.

Congratulations to all our seniors and their parents. You have successfully completed the college admissions and acceptance process. Take a moment to enjoy your well-earned achievement.

Sincerely,

S. Teitel, Principal

## College Night Thanks

Many thanks to Karen Mooney and all the members of the PA College Committee for the fabulous job they did in organizing the May 1 College Night, especially the dinner for the college representatives. The college reps really appreciated the dinner, with some even thanking parents for it throughout the evening's presentations. This type of event further enhances Stuy's image among the college admissions representatives and can only help our students. Congratulations and many thanks as well to Pat Cleary and her college office staff for all their hard work for College Night.

Additional thanks to Krinos Foods of Long Island City and general manager Charlie Vergiris for the generous donation of all the Greek food for the College Night dinner. The Greek food section was hugely popular with the admission reps as well as our staff and we thank Charlie Vergiris for his kind donation. Thanks also go to the Garden of Eden (23rd Street) and Gourmet Garage (Broome Street), which honored us with discounts for foods we purchased.

## PA General Meeting

**Tuesday, May 20                      7-9 p.m.                      Murray Kahn Theater**

**Program:      Mentor Recognition Ceremony & PA Elections**

Please join us as we honor mentors and advisors for their dedication to helping Stuyvesant students develop projects for research competitions. Help us thank these dedicated people and learn more about the mentoring process. We would love to have more parents volunteer for this very rewarding work.

*—Bonnie Song and Roger Kim*

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The meeting will also include:

- Election of officers for the 2003-2004 school year (see p. 2 for a list of candidates) and
- Discussion of proposed changes to the PA bylaws.

**5월 20일 2003년 7PM**  
 Stuyvesant H.S. 내 식당에서  
 학부모 만 선가가 5월 정기 학부모  
 모임에서 있을 예정입니다.  
 많은 학부모님의 참석을 바랍니다.

家長會選舉通告  
 五月二十號的週五晚上七時  
 在斯圖維森特高中學校  
 餐廳舉行家長會選理會議  
 所有家長務請屆時出席  
 謝謝  
 選舉日期 5月20日

## CALENDAR

### May

May 12-14 PA Phonathon  
 Thurs., May 15 Chinese Parents Meeting  
 Tues., May 20 PA General Meeting 7 – 9 p.m.  
 (PA Hospitality 6:30 – 7 p.m.)  
 Mon., May 26 No School—  
 Memorial Day

### June

Tues., June 10 SLT 4:10 p.m.  
 Executive Board 6:45 p.m.  
 Wed., June 11 Parent-to-Parent: College  
 Clues 6:45 p.m.  
 Tues., June 17 PA General Meeting 7 – 9 p.m.  
 (PA Hospitality 6:30 – 7 p.m.)  
 Wed., June 25 Graduation  
 Thurs., June 26 Last Day of School

School Leadership Team: Meetings of Stuyvesant's SLT are held on the second Tuesday of each month, starting at 4:10 p.m. in the 6th Floor Library Conference Room.

### The 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 Jane Ritter, Bulletin Editor, at jmr719@aol.com.

Many thanks to this month's contributors: Stanley Teitel, Principal; Pat Cleary, College Advisor; Judy Moore and Dale Bernstein, PA Co-presidents; Harvey Blumm, Sunhee Choe, Sarah Conly, Kiki Dinos, Joanne Ehrlich, Roger Kim, Fran Meyerson, Karen Mooney, Donovan Moore, Elizabeth Roistacher, Marina Rosin, Bonnie Song and Stephen Zhang.

### Stuyvesant PA Website

Information is also available at the Stuyvesant PA website, [www.stuy.org](http://www.stuy.org). The webmaster is Chick Foxgrover.

### Contact Info

PA Website [www.stuy.org](http://www.stuy.org)  
 Stuyvesant HS 212-312-4800  
 Stuy website [www.stuy.edu](http://www.stuy.edu)

NOTE: All parents who wish to receive periodic e-mails of announcements and reminders from the Co-Presidents and the Executive Board, please send your e-mail address to [dismeado@aol.com](mailto:dismeado@aol.com).

## OFFICIAL NOTICE ELECTION OF OFFICERS FOR 2003-2004 PARENTS' ASSOCIATION OF STUYVESANT HIGH SCHOOL

At the General Meeting of the Parents' Association on May 20, 2003, elections will be held for the officers for the 2003-2004 school year. In accordance with PA Bylaws, the membership is being hereby notified of the complete list of candidates for these positions.

Position	Candidate #	Name(s)
President / Co-President	1	Dale Bernstein and Harvey Blumm (Co-Presidents)
	2	Marty Davis
	3	Linda Lam and Lori Pandolfo (Co-Presidents)
1st Vice-President	4	Elizabeth Lee
	5	Bonnie Song
2nd Vice-President	6	Kiki Dinos *
	7	Ed Griffith
	8	Jonathan Jakobi
	9	David Ross
Recording Secretary	10	Partha Banerjee
	11	Jane Ritter
Corresponding Secretary	12	Ellie Freudenheim
	13	Denis Meadows
Treasurer	14	Paul Edwards
	15	Julie Romano
Asst. Treasurer **	16	Richard Roth
SLT Delegate — Senior TWO (2) to be elected	17	Sankar Chakraborty
	18	Kiki Dinos
	19	Steve Kessler
	20	Ellen Krug
SLT Delegate — Junior THREE (3) to be elected	21	Jonathan Jakobi
	22	Rochelle Kalish
	23	Jean-Claude Kaufmann
	24	Elizabeth Roistacher
	25	Helen Ross
	26	Marcia Wertheimer
	27	Barbara Zahler-Gringer
SLT Delegate—Soph. TWO (2) to be elected	28	Frances Chin-Stevens
	29	Marty Davis
	30	Ed Griffith *
	31	Barbara Gsovski
	32	Doris Hernandez-Murphy
	33	Sheila Sasmor
	34	Sue Schneider

\* Withdrawn.

\*\* This position is uncontested; election will be confirmed by voice vote. Elections for all positions other than the one marked \*\* will be by secret written ballot.

On the evening of the election, each candidate will be allowed to provide one sheet of written information in support of his/her candidacy for each office, and each candidate for a contested seat will have the opportunity to speak briefly.

## Health Course, Year-Long Classes Discussed by School Leadership Team

By Elizabeth Roistacher

The School Leadership Team's April 8 meeting included discussions of the junior-year health course, annualized programming, diversity, rules about where students can congregate during free periods, and proposals for dance, school organization and the college office.

Principal Stanley Teitel proposed moving the health class, currently taught to juniors, to freshman year. He felt that presenting topics about health to freshmen might help students deal with issues such as eating disorders, alcohol and sexually transmitted diseases. One student felt that the health class didn't really address these problems. Other students and one parent felt that freshmen were not ready for topics taught in health. While the idea of giving the health class in the sophomore year was raised (as it was at the general membership meeting), Mr. Teitel said scheduling demands rendered this unworkable. In response to a parent question about having separate classes for boys and girls, Mr. Teitel said state law does not permit this. (Having separate swim classes is permitted as a protection of religious beliefs.) While the group came to no consensus, it appears that Mr. Teitel plans to go ahead with this change beginning next fall. It would not affect current students, only future classes of incoming freshmen.

The SLT also discussed the possibility of changing from semester-length classes to annualized programming. Mr. Teitel suggested one benefit of year-long classes would be better pacing of AP courses, and a teacher noted that if teachers had an entire year with a student, there was a greater chance of helping to improve student writing. Certain disadvantages were also noted: students would have fewer teachers to ask for recommendations and certain limitations would be placed on the choice of electives because of the other classes a student is taking. Annualized programming will not be implemented next year but will remain under discussion.

Two proposals were introduced by parent representatives for inclusion in next year's Comprehensive Educational Plan. Rochelle Kalish proposed a dance program that would combine physical education with music and art. She said this survey course would address issues of community. Judy Moore proposed dividing the school into four "houses," each composed of students in all grades as well as faculty advisors, as a way of creating smaller communities within Stuyvesant. (This house proposal would not constrain class selection in any way.)

Parent representative Sue Schneider proposed an automated phone system for the College Office to help deal with frequently asked questions and thus free up staff for more essential work. The cost of the proposal is being researched, as is how it would be funded. One student noted that frequently asked questions could be included on a website, but some people thought not everyone would have access to the web from home.

The Diversity Committee reported that it had discussed ways to introduce cultural awareness and community outreach into student activities. One idea was to have outside organizations or individuals come to school to hold workshops for students. These workshops would be open to all students and held during free periods and after school. One teacher suggested talking to the departments about incorporating different cultures into the curriculum. For example, music appreciation currently deals only with western music. Mr. Clemmons, a teacher representative on the Diversity Committee, proposed having representatives from the Intercultural Development Research Association (IDRA), which is based in Texas, pay a two-day visit to Stuyvesant to evaluate how diversity could be promoted at Stuyvesant; the organization would investigate the school's demographics, clubs, activities and curriculum as part of its evaluation. Mr. Clemmons said more information can be found at [www.idra.org](http://www.idra.org). The SLT voted to set aside funds to contract for such an evaluation, with either IDRA or a similar organization; however, this does not bind the SLT to proceed with this approach.

The final item discussed by the SLT was the proposal of the School Tone Subcommittee concerning where students could be during their free periods. The principal's cabinet rejected a proposal by the School Tone Subcommittee to permit students to be on all floors but the tenth (which is considered too isolated), but only in areas that would not interfere with classes. Members of the subcommittee felt frustrated by the administration's rejection of their proposal, feeling that they had wasted their time. Mr. Teitel clarified that floors 1, 2, 5, and 6 are open to students. He added that the SLT is only advisory to the principal and that its primary role is to write the CEP (Comprehensive Educational Plan) and align it with the school budget. Students said that the policy about where students can congregate was not being enforced consistently. Another student commented that the original policy still does not have clearly specified consequences (something that is required according the Students' Bill of Rights). Parents as well as students, it was noted, needed to be made aware of school policies and the consequences for their violation.

The experience of the School Tone Subcommittee and with participation in C-30 committees (which are advisory in the selection of assistant principals) has led many SLT members to feel concerned about the effectiveness of their roles. Improving school tone is within the purview of the CEP; yet the advisory role of the SLT on this issue has not been heeded. Members of the SLT are concerned about developing guidelines that will provide for more effective involvement in decision-making.

If you have comments on any of the above, or if there are other issues you think the SLT should address, please contact one of the parent representatives.



## Announcements

### Interested in Being a Mentor?

The Stuyvesant PA is holding a recognition ceremony to honor Mentors/Advisors for their dedication, advice, time and efforts on behalf of Stuyvesant students. Join us! Learn more about what it is to be mentor.

Date: Tues., May 20, 2003

Time: 7 p.m.

Place: Stuyvesant Auditorium

—Bonnie Song & Roger Kim,  
Intel Research Chairs

### Family Orientation, Sat., June 14

Please e-mail Hannah Li at hli57@yahoo.com if you can volunteer for the Family Orientation from 8 a.m. to noon, Sat., June 14. Every parent can contribute. We need parents who are bilingual in Chinese/English and Korean/English, parents to answer questions about transportation to school, parents to direct visitors around the building, parents to monitor the Principal's Town Hall meeting, knowledgeable parents to sit in on "parent home-rooms" and answer general questions, parents to mingle in the dining hall and so on. Thanks for your consideration. We couldn't do these events without you.

### Families of Freedom Scholarships

A new scholarship fund aims to help families who suffered a loss of income as a result of the September 11, 2001, attacks on the World Trade Center. "Families of Freedom 2" scholarships are available to those who live south of Houston Street: residents, business owners or employees who lost jobs or income due to the attack, and/or their dependent children (current seniors and those up to age 24). To see criteria and get application forms, call toll-free (866)243-4644 or visit [www.families911.org](http://www.families911.org).

### Dear Russian-speaking parents:

Let's share our experience of being parents of Stuy kids. Let's think together about creating a support group. Please e-mail your suggestions to Marina and Alex Rosin at alexrosin@sprintmail.com or call (718) 421-9701. Thank you.

### Parent to Parent: College Clues

Learn about the college application process from other parents at a PA program Wed., June 11 at 6:45 p.m.

**Parent Coordinators Wanted:** The Department of Education is hiring parent coordinators for all schools, including Stuyvesant. For information, see the DoE website, [www.nycboe.net](http://www.nycboe.net).

## Chinese Parents Meeting Set for May 15

### 通知

家長會定於五月十五號星期四晚上六時三十分至九時召開今學年的第三次中國家長會議。會議主題是：一、學生在高中四年裡如何圍繞自己的志向和興趣去選擇、安排課程。(由學校負責老師講述) 二、邀請學校學生會的中國學生主席介紹他們是如何參與學校的社會、科學、體育、義務活動。三、邀請家長講述他們在幫助子女在學業上進步的經驗。

會議計劃採用餐會形式，本著迎新送舊、繼往開來的精神，邀請所有的中國家長參加，中國學生如有興趣也歡迎參加。

為了办好這次會議，特訂如下要求和建議：

由家長的姓氏第一個字母排行 A 至 G 的家長攜帶飲料、紙杯、紙碟、紙巾、刀叉。

第一個字母排行 K 至 P 的家長攜帶點心、沙律、甜品。

第一個字母排行 Q 至 Z 的家長攜帶主餐、炒飯、撈麵、餃子以及各種菜色都無取巧。如有家長因時間關係不能準備，希望籌款購買食物。可打電話給：

RUBY FAN (718) 392-4213

STEPHEN ZHANG (917) 587-0538

LINDA LAM (718) 476-0788

祝會議召開成功。

家長會啟

—Stephen Zhang

**DRAFT Minutes**  
**Stuyvesant High School Parents' Association General Meeting**  
**Tuesday, April 15, 2003**

Co-President Judy Moore called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

**Co-Presidents' Report.** Judy announced that:

- College Night is May 1; orientation for incoming students and families is June 14; graduation is June 25.
- Juniors should ask teachers for college recommendations now. Recommendations are not due until the fall but some teachers set quotas on the number they will write.
- The PA is planning bus trips to colleges next fall.
- Chaperones are needed for a student government-sponsored bus tour of colleges in May.
- Volunteers are needed for the PA Phonathon, May 12–14. Contact Harvey Blumm (e-mail Hblumm@aol.com). Phonathon letters have been mailed; parents who contribute early will not receive phone calls.
- Students can enter the PA's Scholarship Essay Contest by writing a 250–500 word essay on the topic: "Imagine that one day you unlock a secret door at Stuy and discover an entire, unused 11th floor in the building. Explain in detail what you would do with it and why." Five \$1,000 scholarships will be awarded. Deadline is May 1.
- The PA bylaws are being revised. Parents are encouraged to review the revised draft, which was available at the meeting and will be posted on the PA website. Comments should be sent to Melanie Arwin (mgarwin@aol.com), chair of the bylaws committee, by April 28.
- Advocates for Children encourages people to write Governor Pataki to protest school budget cuts. Information is available at the group's website, [www.insideschools.com](http://www.insideschools.com).
- The chancellor's office has sent a letter to parents about SARS (Sudden Acute Respiratory Syndrome).
- The Executive Board received final reports at its April 8 meeting from the special committees on Health and Safety and Political Action. The Health and Safety Committee's report, written by Chairman David Ross, was available at the meeting; Richard Roth, chair of the Political Action Committee, delivered an oral report. The membership accepted the reports without objection.

**Minutes.** Draft minutes of the March 18 PA general meeting were presented by Jane Ritter, Recording Secretary, who said the preamble to a motion introduced by David Newman would be added to the final version. The minutes were approved as amended.

**Treasurer's Report.** Donovan Moore noted that the PA is on track to carry over about \$40,000 to next year. He noted that Stuyvesant received generous one-time grants in the past two years.

**School Leadership Team.** Elizabeth Roistacher said the SLT's April 8 meeting included discussion of (1) moving

the health course from 11th grade to 9th grade so issues of substance abuse and sex can be addressed earlier; (2) annualizing student programming, meaning that courses would last a full year instead of a semester; (3) reviewing the progress of C-30 committees which advise the principal on the hiring of assistant principals, and (4) reviewing rules about where students may congregate during free periods. Elizabeth said the administration had not accepted a proposal on where students can congregate that had been proposed by the School Tone Subcommittee of the SLT. Students are now allowed to congregate on the 1st, 2nd, 5th and 6th floors away from classrooms. She said Principal Stanley Teitel promised to offer further information about enforcement of the rules.

**Nominating Committee.** Donovan Moore and Carey Meltzer reported that nominations for PA positions had been received and additional names would be taken from the floor. Candidates must be parents of a Stuyvesant student and candidates for treasurer must have experience in financial reporting. Donovan said the Nominating Committee would not recommend candidates. Elections will be held at the May 20 PA General Meeting. The ballot box will be open from 7 p.m. – 9 p.m. with sign-in beginning about 6:30 p.m.; parents must be present to vote; both parents in a family can cast ballots, and parents can vote without staying for the meeting. Donovan said candidates can prepare a one-page statement to distribute at the May 20 meeting. He said candidates in contested races would be given an opportunity to speak, with two minutes allowed for each president or co-president candidate and one minute allowed for candidates for other offices. He asked all candidates to fill out an information sheet.

Nominations were closed after the committee reported names of those who had submitted forms and took additional names from the floor. Candidates are listed on p. 2 of this bulletin.

Russell Pinsley, a member of the nominating committee, made the following motion, with an introductory statement noting that although minority students represent a large portion of the Stuyvesant population, their parents are underrepresented on the Parents' Association:

It is moved that the general membership urge PA officers to use the committee co-chair appointment process to address this, and in the process they would mentor and create a pool of people moving forward.

The motion was seconded. After discussion, the question was called and a vote to close discussion passed. The motion carried with 27 in favor and 15 opposed.

## Old Business

Dale Bernstein reported that a resolution tabled at the March general meeting that suggested the PA take specific steps to increase the number of black and Hispanic students at Stuyvesant would not be taken from the table. She said the PA will organize a forum on this issue and asked interested parents to contact her or David Newman.

### Program — Substance Abuse Among Teenagers

Panelists were:

- Dr. Alan Hilfer, Director of Internship Training at Maimonides Medical Center and also Assistant Director of the Child and Adolescent Unit.
- Dr. Bruce Phariss, a psychiatrist who holds a subspecialty certification in Addiction Psychiatry. Dr. Phariss is also Clinical Assistant Professor in Psychiatry and Public Health at Weill Medical College of Cornell University and medical director of the Midtown Center for Treatment and Research, the medical college's outpatient substance abuse treatment program.
- Sarah Levithan, a Hunter College student and graduate of Bronx Science High School, who is a recovering addict. Ms. Levithan, an intern at Phoenix House, leads peer groups and parent education seminars. She plans to enter a Master's Degree program for Social Work at Fordham University in the fall after graduating from Hunter College.
- Christina Pultzer is Director of the New York State SPARK office at Stuyvesant. The SPARK office has conflict resolution specialists and student mediators.

Dr. Hilfer—noting he is a parent of a Stuyvesant graduate—said a particular issue at Stuyvesant is that Stuy students feel they can handle anything and often underestimate the effects of alcohol and drugs. He said that his child and other recent graduates told him that the drugs used most often by Stuy students are marijuana and alcohol, although other drugs are available as well. The students told him that using drugs and alcohol is considered a rite of passage and that some kids go to unsupervised parties on weekends to get high. He said the kids commented that substance abuse problems are noticed by parents and school officials only when a student's grades fall. Dr. Hilfer encouraged parents to be involved in the day-to-day lives of their children so that problems will be noticed and addressed early.

Dr. Phariss echoed the need for parents to set limits for their children and be role models. He encouraged parents to learn about substance abuse by reading information on the website of the National Institute on Drug Abuse at [www.drugabuse.gov](http://www.drugabuse.gov). He said that teens who smoke are more likely than others to use other drugs or alcohol, and that even teens who drink coffee can get in the habit of using substances to change how they feel—making the

use of marijuana or alcohol just another small step. He also said it is rare for anyone to use ecstasy or cocaine without having first used marijuana. He encouraged parents whose children have prescriptions for Ritalin to monitor the child's supply because Ritalin is pharmacologically like cocaine and can be ground up and snorted. Dr. Phariss told parents that changes in behavior can indicate a child is abusing drugs or alcohol. Such changes include withdrawing from family or friends, staying up later at night, withdrawing from hobbies or sports, and showing mood changes, especially on vacations when a child might not be able to maintain his or her substance abuse. He said that if a child is caught stealing or getting into fights, the parents should assume the child is abusing drugs or alcohol. Treatment for a child's substance abuse typically requires the participation of the family.

Sarah Levithan recounted her journey from smoking cigarettes in seventh grade "to be cool" through trying marijuana at 12 years of age to using hallucinogens and cocaine and heroin in high school. Now off drugs for the past 6 1/2 years, she said she was able to hide her drug use from her family and friends because she was smart and they trusted her. In response to a parent's question about getting professional help if a child is suspected of drug abuse, Ms. Levithan suggested the parents require the child to take a drug test because it will demonstrate that the parents are serious about addressing the child's behavior.

Christina Pultzer encouraged parents to take literature available from the SPARK office and led the group in an exercise about how parents might react when a child is suspected of using drugs or alcohol.

In a question-and-answer session, one parent asked how to prepare seniors for the alcohol and drug abuse they may encounter at college. The panelists noted that children are better prepared for such encounters at 19 years of age than when they were in middle school or high school but also said that parents can ask college administrators if they have "dry" dorms and "zero-tolerance" policies. Panelists also said they recognize that teenagers will experiment with alcohol and drugs but that parents must be concerned if substance abuse becomes more than experimentation and leads to changes in behavior and grades. One panelist said parents are not likely to learn about a student's experimentation—and, therefore, should recognize a problem exists if they do find out.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jane Ritter, Recording Secretary

**Sure! I'll help with the June 14 Family Orientation!**

Parent Name \_\_\_\_\_

Student Name \_\_\_\_\_ Student grade \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

I am bilingual in English and \_\_\_\_\_

Please return to the Parents' Association, Stuyvesant High School —  
Room 211, 345 Chambers Street, New York, NY 10282, or e-mail  
Hannah Li at hli57@yahoo.com.

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

**Dated Material**