

St. Angela Merici School's Focus

News Highlights from our School

ISSUE 04 - Spring/Summer 2010



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Keisy Germosen wins the HCA Annual Christmas Art Contest

Our student, Keisy Germosen, from class 7-26 was one of the winners in the Holy Childhood Association Annual Christmas Artwork Contest. Keisy was one of only 23 winners from across the United States. Her work will appear as a Christmas e-greeting on the HCA's website for kids. Also her artwork will be displayed at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington D.C. during Advent and Christmas 2010. This is such an achievement that Keisy received a letter from the Superintendent of Schools of the Archdiocese of New York, Dr. Timothy McNiff, Ed.D. In his letter to Keisy Dr. McNiff says: *"Congratulations! I recently learned of your selection by the National Office of the Holy Childhood Association as one of the winners of its Annual Christmas Card Contest. What a wonderful achievement, particularly given the large number of students participating in the contest around the country!"* We echo his words, Keisy and we are so proud of you.

Letter from the Principal

Catholic, Christian and human values are not taught nor learned in a vacuum. Today most school reformers agree that an essential part of educational reform is the teaching of values such as honesty, hard work, compassion and commitment. As much as many school reformers argue in favor of one program or another to improve education in our country the reality is that human values are an essential part of education. Human values are best taught and learned within the context of Religion. Only there do they truly make sense.

Near the end of the school year one of our first graders lost her father due to illness. Ashley Hernandez's father was called to heaven in June, 2010. It was a very difficult time for Ashley and her family. On the day of the funeral Mass I wanted a few of the 8th graders to attend the Mass and represent our school. I asked the students for volunteers. I expected a few students to come with me to Mass. I was surprised when all but one of the students wanted to go in solidarity with a fellow student who was suffering. I was moved by their compassion. During the Mass I sat behind the students and observed how reverently they attended the Mass. Once again our students make us proud of them. I know that the values of kindness, compassion and love that the children learned at St. Angela's will follow them wherever they go in life.

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Our 8th graders were semi-finalists in the Thurgood Marshall Junior Mock Trial Competition

In this competition our students learned the fact patterns of a Court case and developed the case as either prosecutors or defense lawyers.

Our 8th graders participated in the Thurgood Marshall Junior Mock Trial Competition. Ms. Llinet Beltren-Rosado, Esq. and Ms. Carmen Martinez, Esq. volunteered many hours and talents to train and coach the children for this very important competition. Ms. Beltren-Rosado is a parent of two of our students and works for a judge in the Bronx County Court. Ms. Martinez is also a parent of two of our students and works for the District Attorney's (DA) office. The students spent many hours learning the Court system. They learned how to prepare an opening statement and a closing statement; how to do direct and cross examinations and how to conduct themselves in a real court setting.

During the competition the students determined all the fact patterns of a Court case and developed the case as either prosecutors or defense lawyers. At the competition they appeared in front of an actual judge in the judge's court room and presented their case. 21 schools were in the competition and some schools had 3 or 4 teams. St. Angela's had one prosecution team and one defense team. Both of our teams went to the second round of the competition and our prosecution team qualified for the semi-finals. They lost by 1 point. Congratulation to our students for a job well done!



OUR GRADUATES Succeed

Our Graduates will attend these High Schools in the Fall:

Academy of Mount Saint Ursula
All Hallows High School
Aquinas High School
Bronx School for Law Government and Justice
Cardinal Hayes High School
Cardinal Spellman High School
Cathedral High School
The DreamYard Preparatory School
The Eagle Academy for Young Men
Eximius Preparatory Academy
Green Dot Charter School
Hostos Lincoln Academy of Science
Law and Government
Lehman High School
St. Pius V High School
St. Raymond's High School for Boys
St. Vincent Ferrer High School

Letter from the Principal continues...

This year was a year filled with many achievements. Our children did well in the I.T.B.S. at the beginning of the year. The teachers worked to create new and interesting lessons by using the *Smartboards* and the Computer Lab to get the children ready. We applaud Ms. Henriquez, our gym teacher. She has revitalized the program with her energy and creativeness. The children are learning that exercise is fun and an important part of good health – a life lesson. In Art the children participated in contests and some were awarded prizes. For the Regents Algebra exam 15 out of 17 students passed this high school test. Our eighth graders were accepted to a high school of their choice with 75% planning to attend a Catholic High School. Catholic High Schools have the impressive record of 96% of their graduates going to College. This is an impressive number when you realize that only 65% of Public High School students graduate and a smaller percent go to College. St. Angela's students did well during the year and we had few students that needed to attend summer school. Thus we did not have a summer program this year.

What is the reason for our success? Love, discipline, a concentration on academics and Catholic values are taught day in and day out. We are faithful to the Gospel of Jesus.

As new public and private schools open in our neighborhood they are challenged to achieve what is accomplished in our school. The successful combination of values and academics are hard to duplicate in many schools today. I pray that you are having a wonderful and restful summer. God bless you!

Sr. Lourdes Mercado-Almodovar, OBT



Our Communion Class Crowns the Blessed Mother

May is the month dedicated to our Blessed Virgin Mother. Every year our children celebrate the month of May by crowning the Blessed Virgin. The ceremony is a symbolic one – the boys with swords decorated with flowers acted as Knights and received the children dressed in their First Holy Communion gowns. The children prayed the rosary, recited poems and sang songs in honor to the Blessed Virgin. After this one of the girls, Rossy, who received her First Holy Communion this year, placed a crown of flowers on the head of the statue of the Blessed Mother. This is a symbol of our devotion and love to Mary as our heavenly Queen and Mother.



Writers of the Month

The following students were chosen as Writers of the Month for June:

Class 1-11 Stanley Sanchez Jamel Reid	Class 5-21 Jade Cooper Jewels Marshall
Class 2-14 Jordan Cooper Jenna Torrales	Class 5-22 Sabrina Sanchez Laura Guzman
Class 2-15 Sergio Pacheco Cassandra Dennis	Class 6-24 Autumn Glenn Aliyah Williams
Class 3-17 Karizma Jernigan Tamara Sarpong	Class 7-25 Kayla Jacobs Nadia Sanchez
Class 4-18 Julissa Vicente Chrystian Marte	Class 7-26 Victotia Occhiobi Keisy Germosen
Class 4-19 Cieara Simms Jennifer Burgos	

Congratulations to our writers!

Friendly Letter – Writer of the Month

Dear Ashley and Aniyah,

I am your brother for the rest of your life. You are going to be laughing for the rest of your life. I went to the Yankees on the 19th. I was inviting friends in to see the game.

Good-bye,
Stanley Sanchez

Jenna Torrales received an Honorable Mention Award in the LaSalle Academy 2010 Art Expo

Our students participated at the La Salle Academy 2010 Art Expo. Jenna Torrales of class 2-14 received an honorable mention award in the grades 1-5 category for the work that she did. Jenna's parents are very proud of her award and her accomplishments. This year our students worked in many different kinds of art and developed many new techniques. Thanks to the hard work and the guidance and support of our Art teacher, Ms. Thomas, our students have a dynamic visual arts program. This program is focused on the elements and principles of art, design and art history. Through creative expression our students have intellectual and personal growth.



June 2010 Music Concert

Earlier in the year all of our children in grades 1 - 4 began learning how to play the recorder. At the end of the school year during the awards ceremony they gave a concert. At these young ages they showed us that they could read music and play instruments in unison.

Family members who attended the concert were impressed with how the children performed. Thank you to our music teacher, Ms. Pepen. She works hard so that the children enjoy playing instruments and singing. Our music program helps children be more focused and disciplined in their work. We look forward to another year of musical delights.

The School Office will Re-Open.

The school office will re-open on Tuesday, August 24. Office hours are from 9:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. If you have any questions come and visit us.

Upcoming Events

Wednesday, September 8th – School begins

School begins on Wednesday, September 8th. Students in grade K to 8 will line up outside the auditorium the first day of school. Teachers will bring them to their classrooms. More information about entrance procedure will be given the first day of school. Dismissal will be at 12:00 noon on the first day of school, on Thursday, September 9th and Friday, September 10th. All children must be in their full uniform.

Monday, September 13th – full day of classes begin – special subjects begin

Full days of classes will begin on Monday, September 13th. Children must be in school by 7:45 AM. Free breakfast will be available from 7:00 AM. to 7:30 AM. At 7:30 AM children will be escorted to their classrooms by school personnel. Prayers will begin at 7:45 AM. Children who come in during prayers or after will be marked tardy.

Dismissal on regular days will be at 2:45 PM

Dismissal on regular days will be at 2:45PM. For those parents who want after-school care the after-school program will be available from 2:45 to 6:00 PM beginning Monday, September 13th. The program will include art, dance classes and homework supervision.

Lu-Del's Uniforms Store

Don't forget to visit Lu-Del's Uniforms Store to purchase your child's uniform. All students must have complete uniforms including the school sweater or vest with the school logo.

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