

Vol. 8, No. 4

PPO

January 2006

CONNECTIONS

The quick details on what's
happening at the Bergen County Academies
Log on to our web site: www.academyppo.com



President's Message

Happy New Year! I hope you all had a wonderful, relaxing vacation with family and friends.

I'm not usually one to subscribe to new year's resolutions (mainly because there's no reason to wait until the new year to make life changes, and they're too easy to break, anyway), but I do see value in periodic reevaluations and commitments to goals. After the hectic pace of the holidays I find it refreshing to clear my calendar, take a deep breath, and reenergize for the next part of the year.

With five months left to the school year — and just five months left to my presidency of the PPO — there's so much yet to do. My goal for these two years has been to move the organization forward in a positive, productive manner for parents and students. When I began this job, I wasn't quite sure what that meant, but today I have a clearer sense of that goal.

Through our social events, informal meetings, and dissemination of information we're working hard to reach out to you to make you feel comfortable with the PPO and welcomed in the school. We're working to revise our much-outdated bylaws to bring you an organization that reflects the needs of this growing and forward-thinking academic environment. We hope that the Parent Education Institute programs scheduled for the near future will be beneficial to you in issues of parenting. We're working closely with all levels of the administration to ensure open and timely communication. And the PPO is reaching out to academic clubs and enrichment programs within the academies to offer financial assistance to enhance these experiences for your children. And the list goes on.

We're reenergized and ready to roll. As our board sits down to plan the year's remaining events, we're excited about what's to come. We're testing the waters with new events and fresh approaches (e.g. afternoon work sessions, class socials, fishbowls, reinstated program meetings, new bylaws), and are proposing some changes to structure and procedure for next year. We hope you'll like what you see, and will work with us in our endeavors to bring the best to you and your children.

We on the PPO board continue to enjoy working with all of you on our many committees, and interacting with you at our meetings. You and your children are the reasons for our excitement and our commitment to this organization, and I hope you share our enthusiasm. I encourage you to recommit with us, and whether you call it a new year's resolution or simply a continuation of your previous dedication, the outcome is one of renewed energy. Let's be sure to make this resolution last!

Be well,
Nancy Lagomarsino

Calendar Highlights

- January 21-22 **Admissions Testing for Incoming Freshman PEI Presentation**
7:00 PM, Auditorium
- January 30 **Freshman Social**
- February 2 **Model UN Yale Trip**
- February 2-5 **Half Day**
- February 7 **Regional Orchestra Performance**
- February 12 **Winter Concert**
7:30PM, Auditorium
- February 15 **ACAHA Chocolate Competition** 1PM
- February 17 **BattleBots**
Harrisburg, PA
- February 17-19 **NO SCHOOL**
February Break

Check our monthly calendar for more times and events!

Our next issue will be published on February 15th, 2006. Please submit all March calendar entries to Amrita Singh at AmritaS2@aol.com or at Amrita.Singh@experian.com and all articles to Barbara Borys at BBB527@optonline.net by February 6. Thank you.

PEI Presentation

Monday, January 30, 2006
7:00 PM

*Bergen County Academies
Auditorium*

Dr. Kyhati Y. Joshi from
Fairleigh Dickinson University
will speak to parents on
*Multicultural Awareness: The
Successes and the Stresses of
Our Youth*

Focus on the Faculty

What do The Tonight Show, The National Dog Show and the Academies have in common? The answer is Liz Mansfield. You may have seen this award winning breeder of Rhodesian Ridgeback dogs on television but, Ms. Mansfield has also been a Biology/Anatomy and Physiology teacher at the Academy since 2002. Previously, she worked as a genetic research scientist for DuPont and Bristol Meyers-Squibb. Ms. Mansfield currently serves as Student Council advisor, and has been instrumental in numerous community service activities both in and out of the Academies. Her efforts include Tsunami and Hurricane relief, as well as campus related activities such as Homecoming, September 11th Memorial Assembly and various appreciation luncheons.

Whether cheering for her dogs or her students, Ms. Mansfield is always the dedicated professional. Her work ethic, commitment to her students and leadership are the reason I have chosen to highlight her this month. We appreciate everything that she does for the Academy.

— Pat Cosgrove

The Academy for Culinary Arts
and Hotel Administration will hold its

8th Annual Chocolate Competition

Friday, February, 17th
at 1:00 pm.

All Junior & Senior A.C.A.H.A. students
will participate in this event.

All parents of A.C.A.H.A. 11th and 12th
grade students are welcome to attend.

Please R.S.V.P. to Chef Brace
@ (201)343-6000 ex. 2255.

Class of 2006 Welcomes Alumni

In an annual tradition, members of the Class of 2005 returned from college to share a holiday breakfast with this year's Academy seniors on December 23. The Class of 2006 hosted this delicious spread of goodies, and spent the morning renewing friendships and catching up on old times with the recent graduates. Thank you to the senior class parents, the senior faculty advisors, and to all who made this breakfast possible!

PPO Picnic is Around the Corner..... Volunteers are Needed

We're starting to plan for this year's PPO Picnic, scheduled for Saturday May 13. Last year's picnic was a huge success, attended by more than 800 current students and their families, as well as the incoming freshman class and their families, faculty, Academy Administration and Central Administration. A great time was had by all – great weather, great food, games and a great chance to catch up with old friends and make new friends. Volunteers are needed to help with setup, serving, cooking, clean-up and food preparation in the kitchen on the day of the picnic. This is only a 2 hour time commitment and is a great way to get involved with other parents. If you can't help that day, but would still like to help out, please let us know – help is needed prior to the picnic, as well. Please email any of the co-chairs, indicating your name, phone number, email address and how you'd like to help out. We can be reached at: Janet Nemeč: jnemeč2@optonline.net or 201-670-1871; Susan Bromberg: susan@tnovausa.com, or 201-573-1459; Fay Chang at 201-568-7514. Thank you!

In Need of *Connections* Help!

Would you like to keep your finger on the pulse of what's happening around the Academies? If so, we have a job for you!

The *Connections* needs an editor to take over at the start of the 2006-2007 school year. Someone who has experience with a desk-top publishing program to format and layout the newsletter would be wonderful, but we can teach you all you need to know.

For more information, contact Marianne Bente at cm2d@optonline.net.

Class News

Class of 2006: *Make sure your son or daughter has been measured for a cap and gown and that the corresponding fee has been paid. The cost is now \$30 and checks can be made payable to "Student Activity Fund/Class of 2006." *The "Under the City Lights" Fashion Show will be held at The Graycliff in Moonachie on Thursday, March 16 at 7 pm. Many seniors are participating, so look for tickets on sale soon

Class of 2007: *Golf Outing (see page 7 for details). *Class of 2007 T-Shirts have arrived. Distribution will begin this week

Class of 2008: *The Sophomore semi-formal will be held at the Princess Chateau on April 21. Tickets will go on sale about a month prior to the dance. *The popcorn festival on January 9 raised \$210! *We are planning to sell something each month, with the goal of bringing in another \$1000 from after-school sales. *The class of 2008 T-Shirt Design Contest will be launched on January 18 and will be accepting designs until February 1. For students who are humorous, creative or artistic, give it a try! We would love to see your design. *If you have any creative fundraising ideas, please share them with the class officer, advisors or parent liaisons. *The class parent liaisons are in the process of planning a social event for 2008 parents. We are forming a committee and would love to have parents volunteer to help us plan a fun evening. Some of you have already responded via our flyer, but we are still looking for others, so email Mary Wright malarkey@optonline.net or Donna Gormley djgorms@aol.com if you are interested. *Also, we have been in the process of collecting emails so that we can keep the parents updated about class happenings. We have email addresses for over half the class, but would like to have one for everyone. If you would like to be contacted via email for updates, and have not given us your address yet, please email either Donna or Mary.

Class of 2009: *The freshman class social is February 2nd. *The freshman class will be hosting a Valentine's Day Dance on February 17th (see below).

Math Team Boosters

Halfway through the Mandelbrot season, The Academy Math Team continues to lead the competition. We are dominating in all areas — National level team, National individuals, Eastern regional team and Eastern individuals. It is particularly gratifying to see our team members of every grade participating. Keep up the great work.

At the invitation of Mr. Holbrook, Andre Ngut, a Princeton student, has been delivering lectures on various math topics to the team. Many thanks to Mr. Ngut for so graciously giving of himself -- especially on the weekends!

— Sharon Drucker

The freshman class will be hosting a

Valentine's Day Dance

Friday, February 17th

from 7:00pm - 10:00pm

in the gymnasium

for all grade levels.

Student council members will be selling tickets during lunch the week of the dance and tickets can also be bought at the door.

Admission for the dance is \$5.00.

Entertainment will be provided by a DJ.

Volunteers are needed to provide baked goods which can be brought in that morning to room 126a.

Cultural Connections...

Theatre Arts News



Performing Arts programs require different kinds of spaces from math, science, technology and humanities classes. On Monday December 19th the BCA community celebrated the opening of our newly designed and expanded theatre arts studio with celebratory remarks, an actual ribbon cutting and the performance of a scene from Shakespeare's *Love's Labors Lost* by AVPA: Theatre seniors. Superintendent Robert Aloia, Donna Todd from Central Administration, building administrators and Performing Arts Parents Association officers plus all AVPA: Theatre students were present for the event. The studio is fitted with a carpeted area, a hardwood floor area, mirrors for mask classes, a theatrical lighting system and draperies to be used to transform the space into a performance venue for smaller productions. In addition all theatre arts classes and some rehearsals will take place in this exciting new space.

While the January wind may send temperatures plunging outdoors, inside BCA students involved in the Theatre Arts program are heating up multiple spaces with their passion for their work. From the band room to the choir room to the stage, to the scene shop, to the new theatre arts studio, students are working on this year's all school musical, Steven Schwartz's *Pippin*. Over 100 students are working with director Victoria Pero to develop the dynamic and innovative concept for the show. Student stage managers, assistant directors and choreographers work along side adult professionals. Mike Lemma and Bill Pavlu continue in their roles as pit orchestra director and master carpenter. They have been joined by Hanne Dolasse –vocal music director, Kristina Horn – choreographer, Stephanie Shultz—set designer and Madelaine Hartman – Production Stage Manager. The musical has been moved to trimester two to allow for BCA's participation in Paper Mill Playhouse's

Music

The Orchestra musicians recently performed a joint concert with the North Jersey Philharmonic. This was given to a packed house of 1,000 elementary students. In addition, our senior interns worked closely with the NJP board president and conductor to prepare educational skits and written materials. On January 19, several students will take a trip to see the show "Blast" which is a visual ensemble of brass musicians. I am looking forward to the newly formed Ensemble Prestige performance on January 20. Advanced ensembles have extensively rehearsed and undergone evaluations in order to participate. Thanks to the student leadership to have started this new and successful program. Funds from this concert will be set aside

Rising Star competition. Mark your calendars for **Friday and Saturday March 3 & 4 at 7:30 pm.**

Theatre Arts classes are beautifully "at home" in the new studio. The addition of a second theatre arts teacher, Victoria Pero, has made it possible to bring back the elective, *Acting Methods*, which is open to all students. We study the nature of the actor's warm-up (physical, vocal and imaginative) and work on non-scripted and scripted material. Within AVPA: Theatre freshmen are working with simple character masks in Acting, on Medieval Theatre in Theatre History and jazz in dance; sophomores continue their study of contemporary scenes in Acting, the realism movement in Theatre History and ballet in dance; juniors continue their monologue work focusing on the physical manifestation of isolation in Acting and move into writing for electronic media in Playwriting; seniors are doing a textual exploration of Georg Buchner's play *Woyzeck* in Acting, connecting text to voice work in voice and speech and closely analyzing text from the director's perspective as well as directing sophomore acting students in directing class.

Outside the studio, freshmen will perform a tribute to Rosa Parks on January 20th as a part of the International Day of Tolerance assembly. On Friday, January 6 all AVPA: Theatre students traveled into the city to **The Classic Stage Company**. Columbia University MFA students in partnership with **Classic Stage** are presenting a three play Moliere cycle. We saw their outstanding production of *Scapin* which beautifully enhanced the freshman mask work, the sophomore study of Moliere and comedia dell arte and the importance of physical work for the actor emphasized by Ms. Pero in the junior and senior acting classes.

— Dr. Rebecca Strum, Performing Arts Coordinator

for charity. Currently, all students are preparing for the Winter Concert, which will take place on February 15 (the 16th has been set aside as a snow date). We will have all our instrumental ensembles perform and I am happy to announce Cecelia Brauer as our professional guest artist. Cecilia performs on the glass armonica, the only instrument truly invented in America -- and Benjamin Franklin was the inventor! She will perform a small solo set and with our flute ensemble (on a work composed by one of our senior interns). Please come and support our hard working musicians.

— Michael Lemma

Dr. Patrick Finley - PAPA Guest Speaker on February 13th

Performing Arts Parents Association is pleased to have rescheduled our session with Dr. Finley for our next meeting on Monday, February 13th at 7:30 p. m. In his inimitable style, Dr. Finley will discuss the numerous performance, competition and study opportunities for vocalists at the Academies. If you had the pleasure of attending the Winter Choral Concert and January's Coffeehouse, you heard but a sampling of what delights abound!

Coming to a Stage Near You: *Pippin*

As we look forward to the Academies' March 3rd and 4th performances of *Pippin*, the Performing Arts Parents Association would like to remind everyone to:

- * Submit your creative one-liner and business card ads to be included in the *Pippin* Playbill. Please take advantage of the opportunity to congratulate everyone involved in this musical production!
- * Volunteer to provide food and help serve the hard-working cast, crew and orchestra our traditional Dress Rehearsal Dinner on Thursday, March 2nd from 4:30 p.m. until 6:00 p.m. After many late nights of fast food, this smorgasbord is greatly appreciated!
- * Purchase refreshments, *Kisses for the Cast and Crew*, and lovely floral bouquets we will be selling at each performance. If you wish to order flowers in advance, please call Gloria's Flowers at 1-800-536-2056.

All of our profits support BCA's performing arts programs. For further information, please contact Kathie Ventura at kav23@optonline.net or 201.930.9247.

To all AEDT parents:

We are in the planning stages for the Third Annual EWeek “Take an Engineer out to Lunch” Luncheon currently scheduled for early March 2006. An exact date has yet to be determined. The Sophomores, Juniors and Seniors will remember the 2005 luncheon as a wonderful event with interesting speakers, delicious food, and a great T-shirt to take home.

The T-shirt is designed by the students and a competition is held for the winning design and slogan.

Freshman can look forward to participating in this rewarding and enjoyable luncheon that is becoming an AEDT tradition. We need to work together again to make this a successful luncheon.

In order to get this event off the ground, we are sending out a call to all AEDT parents for volunteers to plan and help run the luncheon. The lunch is catered by the school, however, we need volunteers to provide desserts and donate beverages, paper goods, and decorations. In planning, we need help setting the agenda and creating the handouts for the students. We also need some help the day of the event setting up and generally helping out.

This year, we are looking for corporate sponsors to help defray costs. Last year we did receive some donations from parents but it was not enough to cover the costs and an AEDT parent was kind enough to cover the balance. We estimate that this year the event will cost between \$1600-\$1800.

Last year we asked for \$15 from each AEDT family to help out. Any donation towards the EWeek event is greatly appreciated- checks should be made out to Student Activities Fund - Eweek. Please mail them to:

Anitha Ramnath
16 Pelz Farm Court
Mahwah, NJ 07430

Please contact either Rachel Bunin 201-501-0280 drbunin@optonline.net or Anitha Ramnath at 201-684-0279 Anitha_Ramnath@hotmail.com if you can volunteer your time, provide dessert or beverage donations, be a corporate sponsor, or have any questions or additional ideas.

Note of Appreciation

On behalf of the Marquez family, I would like to thank the Bergen County Academies family for its generous and kind expression of service during a most difficult time for Joe’s family.

A special thanks for the leadership and guidance that Nancy Sytsma and Bonnie Obojkovits poured out for the students. As always, with compassion and understanding, Pat Cosgrove and Russ Davis gave the students the opportunity to work through their grief by opening up the Guidance office for

much-needed support.

Thank you to all the families who graciously volunteered their time to prepare meals almost daily as well as the abundant breakfast baskets.

A special thank you to the family who on a cold winter morning delivered hot bagels and various spreads for the Marquez family to enjoy for breakfast. The gratitude of Joe’s family that I was privileged to witness has made me more appreciative than ever to be a part of the supportive community of the Bergen County Academies.

Mary Ann Hoogerheyde

SAVE THE DATE...

Golf Outing

to benefit "Class of 2007"

May 1st 2006

Bergen Hills Country Club

River Vale, New Jersey

(Minutes from the Palisades Parkway)

- * A chance to get to spend the day with fellow Academy parents
- * Golfing at a historic golf club in the heart of Bergen County
- * Chance to win prizes

What we are looking for now:

- * Volunteers
- * Door Prizes
- * Event Sponsorships (GREAT ADVERTISING OPPORTUNITIES, tax write off)
- * Golfers

For any of the above or more information contact

Sabrina Ganz

Email: SABSTG@AOL.COM

Phone: 201-358-6501

Go KNIGHTS!



Knights apparel continues to be available throughout the year. Questions call-Rose Ranuro 201-664-3371.

We are preparing for our Scholarship Committee. In order for the senior athlete to be considered for one of the awards you MUST be a member of the Booster club. For any membership questions, please call Al Barios 201-843-2540.

We will be hosting our 3rd annual cheerleading competition on March 5th. Details to follow. Thanks for your continued support throughout the year.

Rose Marie Ranuro
*President of the Bergen Tech Knights
Parent Booster Club*

BattleBots Alert

The Titanium Knights Robotics Team is well underway with our preparations for the 2006 national event. Delays in the release of the competition event date and location and the availability of sponsorship monies are our primary concern at this time. As you may know BattleBots IQ is a competitive physics robotic sport in which high school students learn about science and engineering through a six month robot building project. These teams design and build robots to compete against each other in the official BattleBox arena at locations around the country.

The program has the ultimate goal of creating more and better future engineers by generating excitement in engineering and making science and mathe-

matics fun. Every year, financial assistance is needed to fund this beneficial endeavor and this year has been the toughest yet! Your help to find corporate sponsorship or to help with various fundraising activities throughout the year would be greatly appreciated. Besides monetary donations, BattleBots accepts donations of certain types of building materials, sheet metal, power tools, batteries and specialized hobby and robot components. If you think you can help out, contact the BBIQ Program Coordinator, Joe DeFalco 201-343-6000 x2211 or jdefalco@bergen.org. Donations by check can be made directly to the Student Activities Account-BattleBots and mailed to the Hackensack campus. For more information visit: <http://www.bergen.org/BattleBots>.



Academy Model United Nations 2006

March 23-25, 2006

Raytheon Chairman and CEO to Deliver Keynote Address

HACKENSACK, NJ., January 18, 2006 - Academy Model United Nations (AMUN) has announced that William H. Swanson, Chairman and CEO at Raytheon Company, will deliver the keynote address for the 2006 conference on Friday, March 24, 2006. He will deliver the keynote address to around 1000 high school students. The address will take place at the Bergen County Academies Auditorium.

For more information, please visit our web site: www.academymodelun.org

Academy Model United Nations (AMUN) is a three-day conference hosted by Bergen County Academies in Hackensack, NJ. This year will be the seventh year that we are welcoming students and teachers from all over the nation to participate in this exciting and educational experience. Our event fosters problem-solving skills and provides the first taste of organized debate for many students.

For more information on this event, please contact:
Yulia Neverova, Secretary of External Affairs
yulnev@bergen.org