

MS 331 Young Leaders Newsletter



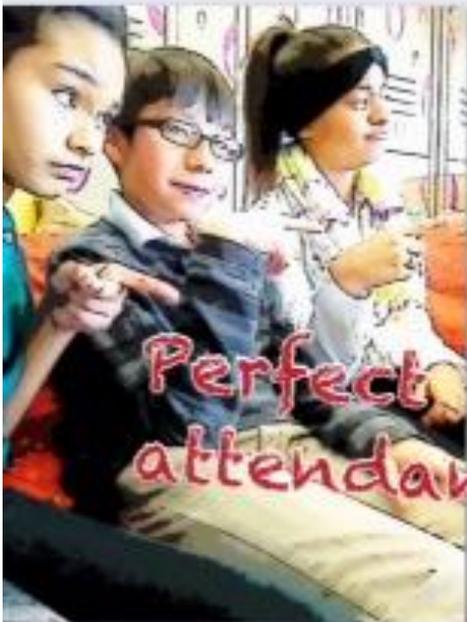
Super
Scholars



Bright
Futures



You should have been there!



Perfect
attendance



2013
Series #3



Student Community Board

Established: March 2012

Announcement:

We're still enrolling new members for the Student Community Board. If you plan to join, apply next year.

Mission Statement

The MS 331 Student Community Board is a group of like-minded students and staff; who work together to serve the best interest of our school community. We strive to make each voice heard and celebrate the successes of our community by organizing events, providing service, and demonstrating P.R.I.D.E.



Thanks to our PENCIL Partner Latham & Watkins for training our Citizens School students for the mock trial apprenticeship



Geisha and Jadie interviewing Kenneth for the job

On Monday February 4, 2013, during their YFC (Your Future Career) session, aspiring TV writers were visited by Susan Wald (screen writer for General Hospital), Catherine Martin and Kate Whipple (attorneys at Latham & Watkins) and learned about their career paths and how they got to where they are today. Students led a Q & A session with them and spent about an hour discussing the work it takes to get started in a career in television/film writing.

The Student Community Board's Headquarters is located in room 439. Members have the luxury of using a fully loaded workstation during their lunch time to complete the projects needed for the events planned. Under Mrs. Connell's supervision active members are also afforded the opportunity to relax, mingle, and play any games available during their free time. Our membership is made up of school staff, students, and a group of lawyers who help us plan the events.

Thumbs Up to Mr. Smith!
Writers for the school newsletter have full support from Mr. Smith who makes the computer lab available during lunch. Students are able to work on projects, listen to soothing music, and conduct research for the newsletter. Thank you Mr. Smith!



MS 331 Young Leaders!

Special Interest Articles:

- Student Sponsorship Program
- The Soccket
- Jobs in School
- Being a super scholar
- The DREAM Program
- Emotional Creatures
- Aiming high!
- School Highlights

My First Step to Success

My name is Chanice Fernandez, I am 13 years old and I have been accepted into the Student Sponsorship Program. Going to a catholic school never really crossed my mind until I started my 8th grade school year.

I found out about the Student Sponsorship Program through Mrs. Connell, my counselor. When the high school process started I was excited about being able to apply for high school. One day my counselor asked me if I was interested in going to a catholic school. I thought about it but I figured I wasn't going to be able to pay all the money, but my counselor informed me

about the SSP. First I sent the application; it took a pretty long time for them to call me. I waited and waited until one day I got home and my mother tells me "Chanice, they called you from a school called St Raymond's Academy for Girls." I was so excited! I asked her "What did they say?" She told me "they gave me a date for an interview."

Mrs. Connell took me to the interview and I met the principal St. MaryAnn D'Antonio. When she was interviewing me she asked very simple questions about me. She asked me "Why are you interested in going to a



Principal D'Antonio and Chanice F.

catholic school and not a public school? "I replied to her "I would like to go to a catholic school because I have been raised in a catholic household and my faith plays a very big role in all my decisions." The principle was really impressed because unlike many other people I was not embarrassed to speak about my faith. She told me that I got the full scholarship and mentor right on the spot!

Dreams do come true!

By Yosmarlin Polanco

I am proof that dreams do come true! Just put effort, energy and believe that you can do it! Getting accepted to Cathedral High School for Girls on a full scholarship is an accomplishment my parents, counselor and I are very proud of. Cathedral High School is a private, Roman Catholic high school in Manhattan for girls. The school was established in 1905 by the Sisters of Charity. Enrollment is open to young women of all

cultures and faiths. There are plenty of college preparatory courses as well as AP classes such as calculus, biology, history, Spanish, English literature and physics.

The process to apply to such an excellent school is not as easy as it seems. Aside from completing a large amount of paper work; you must go through an interview process. In order to do well in the interview, you must dress professional, use proper language so

that you make a good first impression, and you must know why you are applying to the school. I am very grateful to my parents, teachers and counselor Ms. Ferreras for their support. It is my goal to continue to make them proud as I continue to journey a successful path to college and beyond. My advice to everyone is to always work hard for what you want and never give up.



Dream Specialized High School Program

By Maryam Waggeh



DREAM Scholars!

Three 6 graders and one seventh grader were accepted to the DREAM Specialized High School Institute. Marlon Diaz, Mark Diaz, Nayeli Familia, and Monika Herrera were accepted and enrolled into the program.

Dream is a 22month extracurricular program of rigorous coursework designed to assist eligible NYC public schools

students in preparing for the specialized high school admissions test. Dream helps their students in verbal, math skills, problem solving, critical analysis, time management and test taking strategies that will help you with the SHSAT.

In order to be eligible for this program students have to have a minimum scale score of 683 on the

2012 grade 5 NYS ELA exam, have a minimum scale score of 690 on the 2012 grade 5 NYS math exam, and have had a minimum attendance rate of 90% during grade 5.

Congratulations to our young leaders who made it!



Students gainfully employed as DOE staff

By Erick Miron

did an outstanding job. However, there were only 6 available positions.

Janaya Hill, Alex Florenio, Keneth Dejesus, Virgen Nunez, Andri Pena, and Juan Casado were all fortunate enough to get the job. All of these students demonstrated great communication skills.

The other 2 applicants who unfortunately, didn't earn a spot were Ezequiel

Pena and Kendell Weathers. Both of them showed PRIDE, and amazed us with their confidence level.

It was absolutely impressive the way they carried themselves and dressed for success.

For me, interviewing other people was a privilege. I was able to learn more about other students at M.S 331.



Our first Paycheck!



After an extensive search and interviewing process, 6 MS 331 students were hired to work in the school. The Student Community Board members interviewed those who applied. In order to be hired the student applicants had to convince the whole committee, student members then took a vote and decided who would get the job. Everyone who applied for the program

The Soccket BY DANESSA DIAZ AND ERICK MIRON

On January 22, 2013 a group of 7th grade students were filmed by Discovery Channel, Canada. The students were introduced to a soccer ball, which was made-up of an indestructible material. Although, this ball looked like and felt like a soccer ball it was not a soccer ball, it was a soccket. The creators of the soccket had very little experience in

engineering when they had started. Although they had little experience they succeeded in making the soccket ball. The ball generates electricity from the kinetic energy from playing. From just 30 minutes of playing, you can generate 3 hours of electricity! After playing you can also charge electronics. The

soccket was mostly invented for the families that can't afford to buy electricity. This is a fun way to incorporate playing and creating light at the same time. To think that the kinetic energy from playing a soccer game can generate energy for up to 3 hours is amazing! If we could, we would buy this ball because you never know when you might need it.



You should have been there!

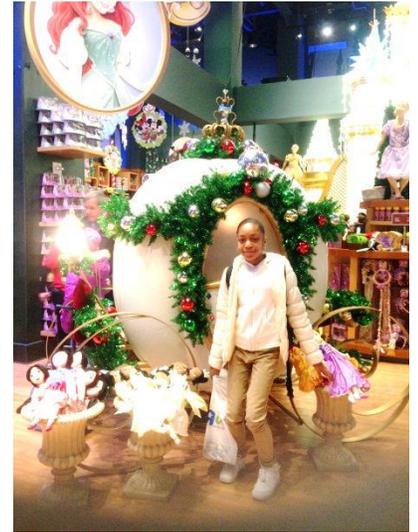
By Ninibeth Tavaréz

Attendance and punctuality are highly rewarded here at MS 331. For those of you who went to the trips, you know what I am talking about! If you have 100% attendance and no lateness you get to go on some of the most interesting trips, and if that continues for the whole year you keep on getting rewarded. In the past students were taken to other special places including Mars 2012, Dallas BBQs, and

Rye Play Land just to name a few. Our first trip this year was to the “Shake Shack” restaurant. It was awesome, and the place was reserved for us. How Amazing!!

The journey did not end there!! We then went to the Big Toys R Us!!! Wow the Candy Land was wonderful, we were all

free to walk around and explore. Some kids bought things, and some of us just explore. We also went to the Disney Store. When I got to the Princess castle I’m not going to lie I felt like a PRINCESS. Our day ended with a visit to the M&M store and a walk through Times Square.



“I’m not going to lie, I felt like a PRINCESS”

But, WHO is behind all this?

Well, I had a reliable source that explained to me who coordinated all this. I found out that the school has an attendance committee that tracks the attendance of the whole school. But, Ms. Cortez and Ms. Rosa are the two most important members of this team. Ms. Rosa makes sure your parents know every time you are late or absent. If you thought you can get away with cutting school and your parents not finding out, think AGAIN! They

would not let you get away with missing school. So how is it all funded? Ms. Cortez took the initiative to write grants and get money for our trips. She does an excellent job at coordinating and paying for the expenses when we go.

THANK you Ms. Cortez and Ms. Rosa for such a great gesture!

On behalf of our student body I want to express how grateful we are for all the work you do behind the scenes. You made us feel special!

THANK you Ms. Cortez and Ms. Rosa for making sure we are always in school!





"It pays to study"

Academic Excellence...Are you a super Scholar?



Being a super scholar at MS 331 gives you the opportunity to go on special trips such as Broadway shows, restaurants, snow tubing, etc.



We went snow tubing on February 1, 2013. Last quarter we went to see Wicked, a popular Broadway show.

If you have never been a super scholar you don't know what you are missing!

EMOTIONAL CREATURES...

BY DESTINY WARNER



Thank you Ms. Flow!

A group of 6 and 7th grade girls attended a trip with Ms. Floresca and Dean O' Toole to watch a play called Emotional Creatures. This play was amazing because all of the actors were girls, just like us. During the play, the female actors on stage talked about the different

ways girls all over the world are treated. For example, one girl talked about Africa and how living there as a girl can be isolating. Another girl talked about being unpopular in school and her struggle with not being like other girls. The main point of the play was to



show how girls are just as important as boy's. This play showed me that girls are beautiful and unique creatures who should support each other through thick and thin, because we run the world.

If your dream does not scare you, it isn't big enough!



"Our meeting with Emily Dalton Smith, Program Officer at the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation"

On Thursday January 29th a group of young girls met with Emily D. Smith, the Program Officer at the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation.

This provided a wonderful opportunity to discuss future career goals, possible challenges, and ways to empower ourselves.

She was very open about sharing her experiences and identifying some of the mistakes she made along the

way. Listening to her made me realize that the sky is the limit! Like us, Emily D. Smith is a product of public education. Knowing that she works for such a prestigious foundation shows me that I too can aim high with the education that I am receiving.

Many of us shared with her how we are all very

anxious about getting accepted to our top high school choice.

We were really touched when Emily said that if you are not a little anxious and scared than you are not challenging yourself enough. We have to be courageous to take a leap of faith and aim high!

“There is time and a place for everything”

by **Kendell Weathers**

As crazy as it seems, Dean A is a life saver and I can't believe it took me this long to notice. He has saved my life and my future and I can't thank him enough for that. Dean A has demonstrated to me that he really cares; keeping us safe in the school is how he shows it. Not only is Dean A, a dean he is also a great coach of the green lion's basketball team.

He makes us work hard with phenomenal plays, tricks, and strategies. Dean A played basketball as a child growing up.

During his college years he was considered “the little man” but he always used to find his way around the “big man”.

He was a great player from what he told me and now he's teaching his amazing skills to us. The plays he makes has won and lost lots of games, but at the end we have all learned something from it all. When Dean A isn't teaching on the court he's keeping everything in order so that the 8th graders can go to class and learn, this year he is teaching 8th graders but

last year he did a great job with the 6th and 7th graders. He does a great job checking class rooms, helping outside, managing behavior, and lunch detention. He keeps the pink slips and suspensions in order on a list in his office. This allows him to track our behavior so that we can get incentives and have privileges taken away. Some people (Students) find Dean A to be an annoyance, but all he is doing is keeping the school in a great shape as well as doing his job. In conclusion Dean A knows that there's a

time to play and a time to work, and he has shown by example when those times are. Dean A takes his job too serious when he wants to. He is a funny kind of guy, he does take responsibility for his actions, which I greatly appreciate. Truly Dean A “you are a great person and you will always be remembered by me because of how awesome you are. I surely hope that you read my column. I wanted you to know that I appreciate you in many ways especially for what you do and I thank you for being a role model and leading my life ...my future...Thank you.”

BECAUSE I AM A GIRL!

By **Danessa Diaz and Monika Herrera**

Because I'm a girl a club ran by Ms. Galeski a 7th grade social studies teacher. In this club we boost each other's self-esteem and motivate each other to do better socially and academically.

Every Wednesday we do something different such as having a pajama party, karaoke, watching chick flicks and we drink hot chocolate while we spoke about our feelings to one another. When we're together we act as a family, although sometimes we might think

differently we have intense discussions instead of arguing.

This club has helped us be more secure of ourselves and to appreciate different points of view. This club has helped a lot of girls get along with all types of different people. On the first day of the club everyone was isolated from each other, staying with their own friends. A lot of these girls didn't talk or get along with each other but when Ms. Galeski spoke to us about friendship and giving



people chances, everything changed. By the following week all the girls started talking to one another and the tension was broken. I am very grateful for having someone like Ms. Galeski!



“IT’S UP TO YOU”

One song can spark a moment,
One flower can wake the dream.

One tree can start a forest,
One bird can herald spring.

One smile begins a friendship,
One handclasp lifts a soul.

One star can guide a ship at sea,
One word can frame the goal.

One vote can change a nation,
One sunbeam lights a room.

One candle wipes out darkness,
One laugh will conquer gloom.

One step must start each journey,
One word must start each prayer.

One hope will raise our spirits,
One touch can show you care.

One voice can speak with wisdom,
One heart can know what's true.

One life can make the difference,

You see, It's Up to You!

Source Unknown

School Highlights



“We do not remember days, we remember moments” Cesare Pavese