

THE ESSENCE

June 2009

Volume 10, Issue 1

To support and speak on behalf of parents and children in the school, community, and before government bodies, and other organizations that make decisions affecting children. To assist parents in developing skills they need to acquire and to encourage involvement in the public school system.

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"The greatest treasures are those invisible to the eye but found by the heart"

(Unknown)



Let's Talk!!!

Final message from your ...

PTA President

Dear Parents, Teachers, Staff, Administration, Students,

For me, this is a bittersweet moment - this address will be the final speech that I will make as your PTA President. My second son, Clarence Williams, Jr. is graduating from Queens Gateway and I have decided to depart with him. I have devoted a lot of time and energy working with PTAs, not just at Queens Gateway, but around the District 28 community and would now like to spend more time focusing on my three younger sons. I want to take this opportunity to thank my dear and supportive husband, Clarence Williams, for holding it down for these 16 years...I am coming back home.

Someone once said, "This is the hardest job you'll ever love." Every person who has served on the PTA Executive Board, School Leadership Team, or any committee, will tell you that once you get involved, YOU are changed for a lifetime - You make a difference and You care. It's been an amazing journey - a journey that has resulted in major accomplishments, good times and not so good times, but in the end it has been rewarding for the students of District 28. Along the way I met and worked with the most dedicated, enthusiastic and committed group of people, you the parents. You gave of your time and made my job a whole lot easier, and for this I am deeply grateful. My heartfelt thanks to the Executive Board, Derek Braithwaite, Marion Fitzgerald, Patricia Lewis, Malcolm Robertson, Zakia Shaikh, the School Leadership Team parents, Badrul Chowdhury, Lisa Crosland, Bebi Karimbaksh, our parent coordinator, Carola Craig, student volunteer Alicia Girsamsundar and Clarence Williams, Newsletter Junior Editor for the fantastic job you have done in making Queens Gateway PTA an organization that is steadfast in its pursuit to represent parents and students.

Please continue to focus on the issues we saw as important to the advancement of our mission. The groundwork has been laid for you, the future leaders of this great organization, to carry the PTA to the next level. As committee members, board members, administrators, teachers, staff or a member of the PTA you are the future of this organization. If we keep the students always at the forefront of our vision, one good idea – your good idea – will make a significant difference.

Thank you for the opportunity to have served as your President for these past years. I wish you all the very best in your future endeavors.

Congratulations to all our graduating parents! Gone, but will not be forgotten for their untiring assistance are graduating parents Betty Camacho, Steven Cox, Lisa Crosland, Tanya Dean, Erick and Naomi Drouillard, Carol and Perez Folds, Elizabeth Gittens, Radeep and Shanta Lalak, Patricia Lewis, Trina Reyes, Zakia Shaikh, and Ray Wittaker.

Kudos to our graduating class. From your midst we have seen and heard the clear contours of a flourishing future. On behalf of the parent teachers association, I commend you. You have finished this part of the race and the entire PTA wishes to congratulate you for a job well done. Now keep your focus and make us proud.

Guidance Grapevine

June 2009

June has settled in quite nicely and we are in full swing as we prepare for end of the year activities. We celebrated our students who were nominated by their teachers to receive academic awards in specific subject areas. We honored 126 students at Awards Night on May 27th. Seniors started the month with their senior breakfast, prom and received yearbooks. There is a buzz around as they are realizing that their years at Gateway are fast approaching. We inducted 13 new members into the National Honor Society. Congratulations to all our new members.

Rites of Passage and Commencement are scheduled as follows:

Tuesday, June 23, 2009	Commencement	Hofstra University	6:00 PM
Wednesday, June 24, 2009	Rites of Passage	Hillcrest Auditorium	10:00 AM

I look forward to seeing all our families during these two occasions. Congratulations to students and families leaving Queens Gateway.

All students will be assigned a Summer Reading Assignment from their English Teacher. The assignment is due on the first day back on Tuesday, September 8, 2009. The assignment will also be posted on the school website by the end of the month. Students are being programmed for summer school. The summer school sites are as follows:

Middle School: M.S. 8 108-35 167th Street, Jamaica, NY 718-739-6883
 July 1-July 30, 2009 8:00 AM-12:30 PM
 ELA exam: 8/3/09 Math exam: 8/4/09

High School: Thomas Edison High School 165-65 84th Avenue, Jamaica, NY 718-297- 6580
 July 1- August 11, 2009 8:00 AM-1:00 PM
 Regents days: 8/12-14/09

Special thanks to the PTA and Executive Board for another successful school year. Everyone have a great summer.

Sincerely,

Linda Allred a.k.a. "GG"

Assistant Principal Pupil Personnel Services

And for your reading pleasure... "Why Parent Drink" ENJOY!!!

"Why Parent Drink"

A father passing by his son's bedroom was astonished to see that his bed was nicely made and everything was picked up. Then he saw an envelope, propped up prominently on the pillow that was addressed to 'Dad.'

With the worst premonition he opened the envelope with trembling hands and read the letter.

Dear Dad:

It is with great regret and sorrow that I'm writing you. I had to elope with my new girlfriend because I wanted to avoid a scene with Mom and you. I have been finding real passion with Stacy and she is so nice. But I knew you would not approve of her because of all her piercing, tattoos, tight motorcycle clothes and the fact that she is much older than I am. But it's not only the passion.....Dad she's pregnant. Stacy said that we will be very happy. She owns a trailer in the woods and has a stack of firewood for the

whole winter. We share a dream of having many more children. Stacy has opened my eyes to the fact that marijuana doesn't really hurt anyone. We'll be growing it for ourselves and trading it with the other people that live nearby for cocaine and ecstasy.

In the meantime we will pray that science will find a cure for AIDS so Stacy can get better. She deserves it. Don't worry Dad. I'm 15 and I know how to take care of myself. Someday I'm sure that we will be back to visit so that you can get to know your grandchildren.

Love, Your Son John

PS. Dad, none of the above is true. I'm over at Tommy's house. I just wanted to remind you that there are worse things in life than a Report card That's in my center desk drawer. I love you. Call me when it's safe to come home

Happy Father's Day!!!

PTA Wall of Fame

Louis Aghanwa
 Patricia Aghanwa
 Anthony Agwai
 Tochukwu Agwai
 Wendy Alleyne
 Linda Allred
 Irene Anderson
 Rudal Anderson
 Carmencita Arizabal
 Jesus Arizabal
 Artur Aronov
 Zhanna Aronov
 Marcia Austin
 F. Bacchus
 Indira Balkaran
 Jai Balkaran
 Ann Barrett
 Asma Begum
 Shahana Begum
 Devanand Beharry
 Indranie Beharry
 Kamla Bhagwandas
 Ravi Bhagwandas
 Rhonda Blache
 Ibrahimia Bocoun
 Jennifer Bocoun
 Catrina Booker
 Derek Braithwaite
 Nicole Britton
 Marlene Bryant
 Judith Calhoun
 Kenny Calhoun
 Kilpatrick Camacho
 Sally Camacho
 Nancy Carrington
 Muhammad Chaudhary
 Musarrat Chaudhary
 Andrea Collins
 Sean Collins
 Steven Cox

Lisa Crosland
 Jude Delisca
 G. Max Delson
 Marjory Delson
 Cristina Diaz
 Dora M. Diaz
 Elso Diaz
 Hazel Dickens
 Erick Drouillard
 Dulcia Dwyer
 Cynthia Edwards
 Mabel Enabulele
 Aboy Esonwune
 Rita Esonwune
 Mr. & Mrs. Evbuonwan
 Marion Fitzgerald
 Carol Folds
 Elizabeth Gittens
 Ana Gallardo
 Suzette Gayle
 Pamela Hall
 Denise Hazel
 Nalini Hendrax
 Yasmin Henry
 Eddie Herrera
 Iliana Herrera
 Lorna Higgins
 Mahmuda Hogue
 Elvadeen Huie
 Marlen Hunter
 Warren Hyatt
 Forida Islam
 Keshia Jaboin
 Anthony Jefferson
 Kim Jefferson
 Mr. John
 Anita Johnson
 Kim Johnson
 Nathaniel Johnson
 Bebi Karimbaksh

Juanita Kelly
 Mahboob Khan
 Nazir Khan
 Cecil King
 Cheryl King
 Rakesh Kissoon
 Rookmin Kissoon
 Kayi Kudosu
 Evelyn Kupvpika
 Radeep Lalak
 Patricia Lewis
 Lyvis Linton
 Maxwell Madu
 Dhermantie Mahadeo
 Gurdath Mahadeo
 Rookmin Mahadeo
 Frances Mannino
 Audra Massiah
 Beverly Massiah
 Matjerry Mathurin
 Hilary Matthew
 Yvonne McFarlane
 Velma McLennon
 Rosario Merida
 Maritza Morillo
 Miguel Morillo
 Marcia Morrison
 Maurice Morrison
 Ghandi Moussa
 Charmaine Munro Rowe
 Joy Myers-McDonald
 Indranie Naraine
 Jagat Naraine
 Devika Narainsamy
 Kellee Nazaire
 Kamini Nazirbage
 Mamzad Nazirbage
 Charlene Nicholson
 Mertland Nicholson
 Nikolay Nikolayev

Nina Nikolayev
 Vincent Nikolayev
 Adenike Oyalabu
 Dr. Bode Oyalabu
 Beth Passaro
 George Pierson
 Sherrie Power
 Ada Rampersaud
 Hansraji Rampersaud
 Jairam Rampersaud
 Eduardo Rivera
 Gitana Robertson
 Malcolm Robertson
 Lourdes Rodriguez
 Rafael Rodriguez
 Anthony Samuels
 Irma Samuels
 Maria Sanchez
 Amanda Sancler
 Debbie Sanichar
 Zakia Shaikh
 Yonette Shepherd
 Sheila Smith
 Gale Sookdeo
 Alicia Strong-Jones
 Fredricka Thelwell
 Allison Thomas
 Catalina Torres
 Jose Torres
 Agnes Toussaint
 Diana Uva
 Donette Washington
 Donnette Washington
 Clarence Williams
 Sandra Williams (1)
 Sandra Williams (2)
 Berth Yacoub
 Jeanny Yacoub

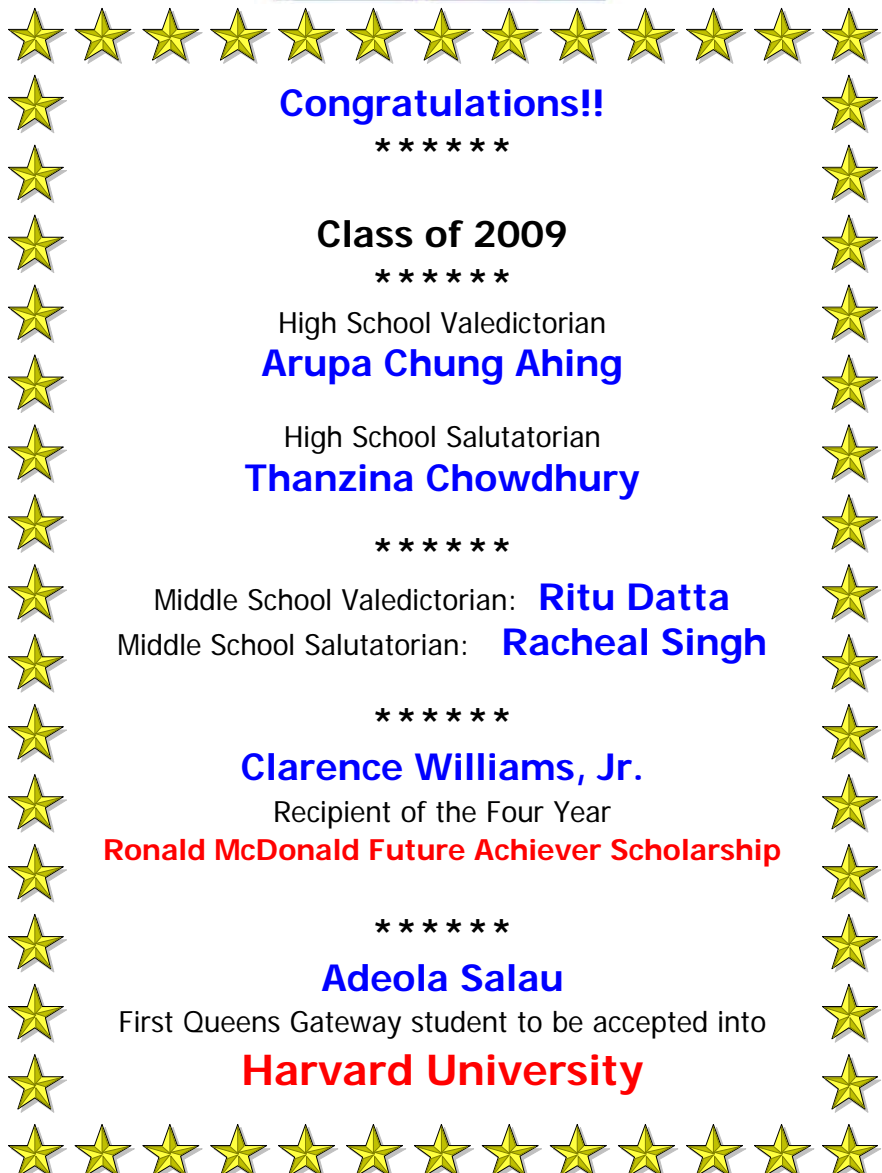
In YOUR EYES...

I've seen and met angels wearing the disguise of ordinary people living ordinary lives.

~Tracy Chapman

This time I will take a BOW!

Have you ever wondered which **hurts the most?**
 Saying **something** and *wishing* you hadn't? or
 Saying **nothing** and *wishing* you had?



Congratulations!!

Class of 2009

High School Valedictorian
Arupa Chung Ahng

High School Salutatorian
Thanzina Chowdhury

Middle School Valedictorian: **Ritu Datta**
 Middle School Salutatorian: **Racheal Singh**

Clarence Williams, Jr.
 Recipient of the Four Year
Ronald McDonald Future Achiever Scholarship

Adeola Salau
 First Queens Gateway student to be accepted into
Harvard University

DATES TO REMEMBER

PTA Executive Board MEETS
 Every 1st Monday of the Month @ 6:00 p.m.
School Leadership Team
 Every 1st Tuesday of the Month @ 6:00 p.m.

Watch Out ... Budget Cut

- TUESDAY June 16 PTA meeting @ 7:00 p.m.
- WEDNESDAY June 17 8th Grade Rites of Passage Rehearsal
- TUES.-WED. June 16-24 Regents Exams
- THURSDAY June 18 Senior Luncheon
- MONDAY June 22 Dance 8 Affair
- TUESDAY June 23 High School Commencement @ 6 p.m.
- WEDNESDAY June 24 8th Grade Rites of Passage Ceremony
- FRIDAY June 26 Last Day of School Dismissal @ 9:00 a.m.

1st Day of School
September 8, 2009

Enjoy your summer!

Newsletter Team

Sandra Williams
 PTA President, *Editor-in-Chief*
 &
 PTA Executive Board
 Malcolm Robertson, V.P.
 Derek Braithwaite, Rec. Sec.
 Marion Fitzgerald, Corr. Sec.
 Patricia Lewis, Treasurer
 Zakia Shaikh, Fin. Sec.
 Carola Craig, *Editor*
 Clarence Williams, Jr., *Junior Editor*

Wendy Alleyne, *Teacher*
 Linda Allred, *Guidance*
 Officer Jones, *Safety*

Forward your ideas/questions to:
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