

The Bronx School of Young Leaders

How I
reached
my goal...

NEW

Student Council

ALBA GETS INTO TEAK!

**ERICK MIRON
GETS A \$53,000
SCHOLARSHIP**

**Valedictorian Briana Pinales
describes her journey to
High School**

**EZEQUIEL PUJOLS SIGNS A
CONTRACT!**

JOBS for Students

Do you like gardening?

ARTS XL PROGRAM

STUDENT COUNCIL

Student Council

Chair-Person: Ms. Ferreras - School Counselor

*Do NOT
Go Where
The Path
May
Lead...
GO
Instead
Where
There Is
No Path
and
Leave a
Trail...*



2013-2014 School Year Accomplishments

- Chose 2014-2015 Student Planners Design
- Chose 2014-2015 Student Binders Design
- Fundraising Events



Student Government

Mission Statement

We the Young Leaders Student Government of MS 331 will commit ourselves and challenge each other in the following ways:

- ❖ Promote unity while respecting individuality and diversity
- ❖ Uphold a safe and positive learning environment for all students and teachers
- ❖ Build and maintain a tradition of academic excellence through innovation
- ❖ Be simultaneously aware of the community in which we thrive, as well as the world in which we live
- ❖ Encourage total involvement, with participation in academic, artistic, and athletic activities
- ❖ Ultimately, we will instill a sense of PRIDE in our identity as Green Lions.

Roles and Responsibility

PRESIDENT/ PRIDE Representative

- Act as the liaison between the Student Council and Administrators
- Designs meeting agendas
- Presides at all meetings
- Represents the council at various functions
- Votes when there is a tie
- Exemplifies good school citizenship
- Conducts him/herself with academic integrity and exemplary conduct

VICE PRESIDENT/ RECORDER

- Serves in the absence of the President
- Take notes and reports the minutes of the previous meetings
- Helps keep members engaged in meetings
- Take Attendance
- Exemplifies good school citizenship
- Conducts him/herself with academic integrity and exemplary conduct

FUNDRAISER/ TREASURER

- Coordinates fundraising projects
- Keeps detailed records of all money earned and spent by student council monthly
- Prepares a report of expenditures and transactions received monthly
- Reports at each meeting on money matters
- Exemplifies good school citizenship
- Conducts him/herself with academic integrity and exemplary conduct

Next elections will be held
November 2014

To apply
See Ms. Ferreras



TEAK FELLOWS

Hello my name is Alba Martinez! I am a sixth grader and I was elected Student President this year. I became president because I have good character traits. I am honest, confident, respectful, loyal, hardworking and determined. In addition, one of my big accomplishments this year was being admitted to the TEAK Fellowship. This program is very competitive, only 30 students are selected citywide and I was one of them. I am very proud of all my hard work. One of my favorite hobbies is scrapbooking. I love to design, be creative and "spice things up." I look forward to representing the student body and the whole school.



My academic attitude starts paying off!



- Step 1 - Apply to TEAK
- Step 2 - Take round 1 admission test
- Step 3 - Personal and Family Interview
- Step 4 - Take SSAT test
- Step 5 - Got wait listed, continue to enhance my school career to increase my chances
- Step 6 - Got accepted to TEAK, sign acceptance contract!



What about you?

See Mrs. Connell (School Counselor) to see what opportunities are available to YOU



*"There is no elevator to success
You have to take the stairs"*



Dedication and persistence sure pays off!!!

A full scholarship totaling \$53,000 per year!



Erick Mirón
2014 Salutatorian

Admission to Concord Academy

If you had told me that I was going to Concord Academy three years ago, I would've laughed at you. I would've laughed even harder if you had told me that I would've gone in with a \$53,000 scholarship. However, looking back, I cannot be any happier with my high school result. CA provides a lot of opportunities for its students. The school has many athletes, actors, singers, musicians, etc. Although everyone is different, the students all seem to bond. The teachers and the students treat each other like family. I am leaving to go to CA this August...and I can't wait to get started!

Want To Earn Money?

Alicha Coppin, Chastity Sanchez, Madelyn Rodriguez, Ariel Collado, and Alonzo Evans have all been employed at MS 331 since January. Every year Mrs. Connell (School Counselor) runs the Training Opportunity Program. In order to get hired they submitted a resume, filled out an application, and were interviewed by a student committee. Students work 1 hour Monday through Friday and earn \$7.25 per hour.



Our first paycheck!

Do You Want To Work?

In order to apply for next year you need to be an 8th grader, be 14 years old, have working papers, and receive special education services (have an IEP). Starting in October you can pick up an application from Mrs. Connell and schedule an interview. Students need to have good social skills, follow direction, and work independently

"You miss 100% of the shots you don't take" - Wayne Gretzky



Erick Miron giving tips to other students about taking chances...

High School Admission: One of my Most Difficult Journeys!

Briana Pinales

This is the story of my journey to finding the high school of my dreams. It starts in 7th grade. During 7th grade, I pressured myself to get great grades instead of following my heart. When I started 8th grade, I was pressured by my peers to apply to the most prestigious public high schools in New York City.

This was a challenging experience because I had to deal with rejection and disappointment.

For round 1 high school applications, I was torn between the arts and academics. I had convinced myself that my art talents weren't sufficient enough to go to an artistic field in the future. I applied to Beacon, specialized high schools, and a few others top schools. I really thought I had a good chance because my grades are all above 90s and I had a 4 on the New York State Test. To my surprise I was not matched to any public school and was forced to go to round two. Unfortunately round two has only left over seats in some of the worst high schools. Luckily Fashion Industries High School held on to a few seats which many people competed for.



Briana was selected Valedictorian

A collage of Pandora jewelry including a volleyball charm with the text "I will play it to the very end...", a frog charm with "Her cuteness keeps me smiling everyday...", a "Daddy's Little Girl" charm with "What I will always be...", a blue gemstone charm with "My curiosity searches for the unknown...", a book charm with "My scholarly attitude never lets me down...", and a "FAMILY" charm with "Their love pushes me on...". The background features a young girl playing a violin. The Pandora logo "PANDORA UNFORGETTABLE MOMENTS" is visible. A quote at the bottom reads "The value of things lies in the intensity with which they occur... Briana Pinales".

My Marketing Piece!

Finally, my artistic abilities were put to the test. I reached out to the school, prepared my portfolio, and designed a beautiful marketing piece. I had to choose a store and create an advertisement, take a test, and complete an interview. I chose to make an advertisement for Pandora.

Today it was one of the happiest days in my middle school years! I got my acceptance letter to Fashion Industries High School. I now feel like I can move on to the next stage in my school career. Coping with the rejection was difficult, but through hard work and determination I have been accepted to a program that incorporates arts and academics.

Getting into Talent Unlimited

By Monika Herrera

Getting into Talent Unlimited High School was probably one of the hardest things I ever did. It was not an easy task to accomplish. It took a lot of hard work and dedication. Outside of school I practiced for my audition with Ms. Iannacone whom helped me a lot and I still feel like it has not been repaid. I also take acting classes' downtown and will be having a showcase in California. The main thing that got me into TU I believe is my passion and dedication. I knew I was not the best at the audition and there were other kids in the room with me making it intimidating. However, I gave my audition my all and I sang like it was the last time I could. Next thing you knew four months later I got into Talent Unlimited for Musical Theater. My point is that in the journey of applying and being accepted into Talent Unlimited I kept my eye on the goal did not lose my focus and I stayed resilient. I made sure my grades stayed on point and I stayed dedicated. Talent Unlimited is not just focused on how talented you are but how smart you are as well.



Maryam Waggeh – Best vision board winner
 She would like to be a doctor and will be attending
 Health Opportunity High School
Our Work with Latham & Watkins

This year we worked closely with attorneys from Latham &

Watkins on improving our:

- Networking skills
- Public Speaking
- Goal setting
- Career fluency
- Interviewing skills
- Professional Etiquette
- Designing a vision board



“I kept my eye on the goal, did not lose my focus and I stayed resilient”

Educating People to enjoy and improve the world!

The Leave It Better reGeneration Program

By Dominique Bouillon

Leave it Better!

The Leave It Better reGeneration Program is a common core aligned, interdisciplinary gardening program. It has been serving MS 331 seventh graders since September 2010. The curriculum is made up of a series of classes on filming, composting, nutrition, planting and harvesting. The Leave It Better reGeneration Program commences every September with students learning the basics of filming. Students use their filming skills to document their gardening activities throughout the school year so that they can share the story of their learning with others. As fall progresses, students build an indoor worm bin and take a class on nutrition and garden planning. Students loosen the soil, sow seeds and water their crops in the spring. The Leave It Better reGeneration Program culminates every June at MS 331 with a harvest day and salad party. Students harvest lettuce and other vegetables, prepare a salad and share a celebratory meal. Gardening footage shot by the students throughout the year is edited into short film and is screened for the students in June. MS 331 student gardening documentaries from previous years can be found at www.leaveitbetter.com. MS 331's 2014 reGeneration documentary will be posted on the new Leave It Better web site www.leaveitbetter.org by the end of June 2014.





Super Scholar Camping Trip 2014

Young Leaders!

“To improve is to change,
to be perfect change often...”
Winston Churchill

By Jeanette Alvarado

The Bronx School of Young Leaders is a school that provides many opportunities to students of all backgrounds! As an 8th grader I have taken the time to reflect on my performance during the last three years. I realized that I would not be graduating this June if it wasn't because of the behavioral and academic changes I have made. In the beginning of 7th grade I wasn't the best student, I was what you would call a “trouble maker”. I was very disrespectful, disliked by many, and suffering academically. I didn't care about school. I would always get suspended, start problems, instigate and not mind my business. My report card didn't look so good, but by February of my 7th grade year my class was changed. Since then I took it upon myself to demonstrate to everyone that I can take responsibility for my behavior and make better choices. At this point I realized that I am bright, have leadership potential, and that I have to set goals for myself. My number one goal was becoming a super Scholar.



In 7th Grade I didn't get to be a super scholar, but I did improve. In 8th grade I set up the same goals for the four marking periods. Each marking period I tried and tried, I wanted so bad to prove to people I am smart and can make a change. The 1st and 2nd Marking Periods I didn't make it. I figured out why, I let my laziness and friends distract me from reaching that Goal. So the 3rd marking period I didn't let those two things get in between and I finally made it! This year I made sure to not play around and do my classwork and homework and I got better grades. I was known as the Trouble Maker, I was unwanted, known as not smart but now I proved all 3 wrong! I made a huge improvement from 7th to 8th grade. I have no dramatic friends and have not been a frequent flyer at the ISS room. I was on the Honor Roll 3 times! I made a big change and it honestly helped me out very much. It made me realize how many people would be proud and how it can help me out in the long run. I've come a very long way and I'm proud to say I will continue to succeed!!

Melanie Diaz
Before
And
After



Guess what guys!?

I cut my hair! For what? For cancer! :) It all started in 3rd grade, when my best friend Franchesca Duran gave me the idea of cutting my hair. So I cut it and donated it to kids with cancer. Now I do it every couple of years when my hair grows back long. This literally warms my heart and now that I think about it, making somebody else happy is the best feeling ever.

MS. Iannacone



The Raised the Bar!

By Audrey Alvarado and Yazmin Perez

Ms. Iannacone is the most inspirational and phenomenal teacher we know. As a first year teacher, she has really raised the bar! Her loving nature is apparent in the ways she has worked with all her students (the difficult and easy to manage). We first met her as a Social Studies teacher in the 8th grade, but she turned out to be more than what we expected. She has made a tremendous change in all of her students' lives since we entered 8th grade. Ms. Iannacone sacrificed her time to help her students in all areas (academically, socially, and career-wise). She has been a great mentor and guide in choosing high schools and getting into them by working with us after school and on Saturday. She was instrumental in preparing us for auditions, selecting the acting piece and singing the right musicals. Yazmin, Monika and I really enjoyed watching how passionate and dedicated she has been. My classmate, Miguel Serrano has depended on her in many ways, academically and personally. She assisted Yazmin editing her coronation speech. Yazmin had trouble knowing how to present the speech, so she helped her practice. At MS331 we have a dance showcase and she supported a group of us as we practiced a salsa and merengue routine. The performance was great and everyone loved it. For our prom she gave a few dancing lessons to help those who needed it. Thanks Ms. Iannacone for all you did for us!



Audrey Alvarado
will be attending
Talent Unlimited



Networking at MS 331

I Now Have a Manager!

It all started in school at a networking event. I was meeting lawyers and doctors. Until I met Jody Prusan, a manager in her company "Connecting Talent Company" (CTC). I was talking to her and Ms. Connell came up with the great idea of me singing for her. BEST CHOICE I EVER MADE!! Jody was impressed and she said she would call me. I signed a contract and she is now my manager. She has lined up a few gigs for me, my networking skills paid off!

Ezequiel Pujols



Youth talent show displays best of the BX

News 12 Bronx
Submitted Video Submit Photo



Ezequiel Pujols won 1st place when he sang "Someone Like You" on the Youth Talent show



The MS 331 Student VIP Spring Networking Event

Tips on how to network at these events:

- ✓ Introduce yourself
- ✓ Ask them to tell you about their career
- ✓ Find a way to connect by sharing something interesting about yourself
- ✓ Mingle / socialize
- ✓ Manage your time effectively so that you have a chance to talk to as many people as possible
- ✓ ASK for their BUSINESS card
- ✓ Give them your business card
- ✓ Speak and behave professionally
- ✓ Make a good impression



Arts and Sports



Arts XL

The Arts XL after school program gives students the opportunity to express their creativity through acting, visual art, technology, and dance. Students in this program work for a few hours after school three days a week to create scenes, dance routines, slide shows, videos, and pieces of art to represent themselves and demonstrate their creative and critical thinking skills. Many students and the teachers involved in the program this past year can all honestly say it was a transformative and amazing experience that allowed them to build their self-esteem, passion for the arts, and provide them with an outlet to express who they truly are as a person and an artist.



Mayor Di Blasio and Chancellor Farina came to see our Arts XL program

Sports Awards



MS 331 is not only proud of academic achievement, but we also celebrate the athletic skills! WE ARE SUPER STARS ALL AROUND...GO LIONS!!!





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Educating people to enjoy & improve the world

Hello my name is Alba Martinez. I am a sixth grader and I was elected Student president this year. I became president because I have good character traits. I am honest, confident, respectful, loyal, hardworking and determined.



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As most of you may know, I'm Marlon Diaz. I'm the 7th grade Student Government President. Ever since I was a young boy, I wanted to be the first Hispanic president. This election is definitely pointing me in the right direction. As your grade president, it is my goal to be a positive role model and effective representative for you for the remainder of this year and next year.



Welcome to
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Hello my name is Armanis Constanzo and I'm the 8 grade Student Government President. Even though I'm not one of the smartest or most athletic kid in the school (certainly not in the world), I'm not your average Joe. I've made a whole 180 in the other direction. I am now a super scholar and have cut-down my visits to lunch detention (which is a drag). I am proud to say that I am a Young Leader. During my time in this extraordinary school, I have discovered and accomplished many great things. Before I leave MS 331, there is one last thing I want to do... and that's to thank my teachers. You are the best in the world!



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Hello, my name is Skylar Mckennon and I'm the Vice President of Sixth grade. A lot of people in Seventh and Eighth grade don't know me. My fellow peers in Sixth grade know me. But, that needs to change. I like being a part of the Student Government in MS 331. I like changing things to become even better. But, enough about politics, I want you to know about me as a person. I love Math, I'm funny, I like to have fun, I'm kind, and care about others. I'm also hard working. I love being a good example towards my fellow peers. Once again, I'm Skylar Mckennon, the Vice President of 6th grade, and that's it.



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Hi, my name is Emely Liz. I'm in the 8th grade going to high school. I've been a student at 331 for all three years and it's been a great journey. 6th grade wasn't the best year for me, but look where I'm now! I'm really going to miss this school. Many good things have happened. I've had the opportunity to participate in great programs like citizen school (we went to Google). I've also been a super scholar. But the most special experience has been meeting friends that I will always be close with. I only have a few weeks left here at 331. My goal is to be the vice president I can be. I wish that your experience at 331 is as great as mine. Good Luck!

Student Leaders



Hey guys, my name is Ritchelly Valdez. I am 12 years old. My birthday is in June 12 2001. I'm your 7th grade vice president. I enjoy drawing and I consider myself somewhat of a sneaker head. I want to be a forensic scientist, or an attorney. I would also like to go to the military, to be more specific the Marines. I'm a gamer, meaning I love to play video game and I'm talkative. I can go days talking to a person it's just the way I am. Thanks Young Leaders! I can't wait to see you next year.



My name is Jadie De Leon and I am part of the Student Counsel. I specifically work as the treasurer. As the treasurer I deal with the schools financial problem and making sure we have enough money to host planned events. My jobs carries a lot of responsibility in making events that will raise money for the school. I just don't raise money for the school I also raise money for charity along with Ms. Ferreras. My fellow Council members are always working hard to improve the school and plan events that will benefit you, so if you pass one in the hallway thank them for the hard work!



Hi I'm Marquez Turner and I'm the 6th grade Fundraiser coordinator. I'm 11 years old and I am a perfect role model. I try my best in class, and I am a great friend. I help people in need. I am going to continue sharing my good ideas like school dances and sports events. I wish you all a great summer and see you next year.



Hello, Young Leaders my name is Kaila Rodriguez and I'm here to tell you about myself. I consider myself social and unique. I enjoy hobbies such as singing, photography, and acting. I also love food, and music it's life. Music helps me express myself and I believe for others it's the same. I do the K&S show in the morning if you don't already know. Sade is my best friend and I love her, and she pushes me forward. As an 8th grader I will be moving on to High School so I would like to say a final Goodbye to all of MS 331. Good luck Young Leaders.

BAH-BAM!!



The Gentlemen's Club



This year I had the opportunity to run the first Young Gentlemen's Club at MS 331, for males in class 801 and 802. This group turned out to be a wonderful learning experience for both myself and the "young gentlemen" that attended faithfully throughout the school year. The first group met in the last week of October 2013, with defining rules to be adhered to during the meeting. The most important rule, "what is said here, stays here" was reminded consistently in the beginning. As the months went on, I had on average 7-9 participants during enrichment (1st period). The guys gave up the enrichment classes such as computers, art, health and even sometimes gym, to come and discuss topics that addressed personal health and safety, sports, and girls to name a few.

My closing with the guys on June 4th, 2014, was a sad moment for me. I watched a group of guys who at first were not very talkative and had a hard time expressing themselves in a group, to a mature refined group of what the club title is—"Young Gentlemen". I want to thank Christian, Damien, Joifel, Christopher, Kelvin, Mark, Justin, Jeffrey, and Jeuris for your honesty, the participation and respect for me as the group leader. The guys shared the same sentiment as me, that they enjoyed the group and were glad join. I enjoyed running the group and wish all the 8th grade males in the group much success in their new schools! Ms. Fuller will miss you.



Carolyn Cabreja / GEAR Up
Lehman College Counseling Intern



Mia Muratore
Mercy College Counseling Intern



Maria Ortiz / Mercy Intern
Monroe College Academic Advisor

ACADEMIC
SOCIAL/ EMOTIONAL
CAREER
COUNSELING



Rhonda Fuller / VNS Manager
Mercy College Counseling Intern

Student Leaders take part in planning and improving the school culture !



Dance sponsored by the Student Council



June 17, 2014

Dear Mrs. Cruz,

This Newsletter/magazine would not be complete without our special thanks to you for giving your staff the flexibility to plan and implement the different programs across the school. Without your unwavering support and motivation it would have been impossible to bring to life the personalized learning experiences we were able to provide to our students. Your leadership has sustained a school culture conducive to learning through collaboration, trust, and respect. May this collection of memories serve as a reminder of your school vision “Educating people to enjoy and improve the world.”

Sincerely,

Fiordalixa Connell

Bilingual School Counselor

