



"Excellence Through Diversity"

ACADEMY UPDATE

FALL 2011

We are proud to welcome the 143 students who entered in September as the Academies@Englewood's **Class of 2015!** An Academy tradition continued this year as freshmen had the opportunity to begin their high school experience with a trip to **Frost Valley** – an environmental nature center located in Claryville, NY. From September 12-14, freshmen participated in a variety of outdoor activities during the day, including hiking, riding the zip line and climbing the rock wall. Evenings were spent attending presentations, lectures, and socializing at a dance. As in previous years, the freshmen returned with newly-formed bonds of friendship and with memories that will last beyond their years at the Academies.

The **Peer Mentoring Program**, organized by Ms. Farley, brought the freshmen together with the Academy juniors in a "Getting to Know You" session held in September and again in October with a "Make Your Academy-Inspired Costume." The Peer Mentoring Program continues to help AE freshmen develop personal relationships with upperclassmen in their program, while simultaneously fostering a stronger connection to their Academy program through interactions with Program Managers, who also take part in the Peer Mentoring activities.

On Friday, September 9th, students on the DMAE campus commemorated the **10th Anniversary of 9/11** with an assembly program initiated by junior **Jay Locquiao** and hosted by senior **Xavier Diaz**. The event was covered by TV station NY1, beginning with a Color Guard Ceremony that set the patriotic tone for the entire program. In addition to testimonials from members of Englewood's Fire Department, the program included two powerful videos: one that replayed the tragic events of 9/11 and the other that profiled an anonymous 9/11 hero whose identity was later revealed because of his trademark red bandana. The entire student body was deeply touched by assembly program, with many requesting that a similar commemorative event be held next year. Kudos to Jay for initiating this event!

Our partnership with **Englewood Library** continues this year in the form of an After-School Tutoring Program offered to Englewood youngsters and coordinated by senior **Constantina Scoullis**, with assistance from sophomore **Elizabeth Spenst**. HS students are encouraged to participate as tutors in the program, with options to select subject and grade they wish to tutor. In collaboration with the youngsters and their parents, Constantina and Elizabeth develop a weekly Monday-Thursday tutoring schedule for the volunteers who also receive community service hours for their service.

Members of **Math Connections**, under the guidance of HS Math Teacher Mr. Thomas, continue to offer mathematics tutoring to JEDMS students. Founded by junior Christopher Rim two years ago, this club/elective is intended to strengthen mathematics skills for the JEDMS students and to better prepare them to meet the rigors of high school mathematics. As an elective course, the HS students prepare mathematics lessons one day per week, and the other two days they tutor the JEDMS students, who are supervised by JEDMS Teacher Ms. Prettypaul.

The **DMAE Marching Band** received national recognition when Nia Bailey was selected to participate in Macy's Great American Marching Band. Congrats to Nia!

Lauren Bersek, Katarina Cruz, Sally Kim, Eunhae (Grace) Rhee, and Judy Wu were recognized for their exceptional writing ability by being invited to attend The Record's **Diversity in Journalism Workshop** held at Syracuse University on November 16-19. In addition to honing their writing and journalistic skills,

these students also had the opportunity to experience life on the campus of Syracuse University. Congrats to all on this outstanding accomplishment!

On Tuesday, October 18, the DMAE Campus celebrated **Mix-It-Up Day** – a national one-day event designed to encourage students (and staff) to break out of their comfort zones and meet new people, try new experiences, and open themselves up to change. Mix-It-Up Day, a creation of the Southern Poverty Law Center, encourages thousands of schools nationwide to create activities that get students to expand their social circles -- usually by getting them to merely sit at a different table in the lunchroom. At DMAE, Mix-It-Up activities included the opportunity for students to participate in a "Human Bingo" activity, to play games during lunch time, and to take part in "Mixers" led by Ms. Aronson's Diversity students and the seniors who are members of the John Grieco Scholarship Fund. The following day, students had the added treat of watching the film "Freedom Writers" in the auditorium, at no charge. Thanks to all for keeping the Mix-It-Up tradition alive!

The Executive Board of our **Health Occupations Students of America (HOSA)** chapter attended the Leadership Conference on November 18th, accompanied by advisor Ms. Kennedy. The statewide meeting was held in Cherry Hill and included information on the following topics: "Career as a Surgical Technician," "Careers in Pharmacy," and "Change/Theory Methodology." In addition, students learned about fundraising ideas and they had the opportunity to hone their leadership skills to better run the HOSA chapter on our campus.

The **American Red Cross Club** presented Halloween Safety Tips to 200 students who attend John Grieco Elementary School's After-School Program. Students prepared their presentations, provided treat bags, and enthusiastically instructed their eager learners about the Do's and Don'ts of trick-or-treating on Halloween.

Students in Dr. Hall's "**Mentoring Young Minds**" elective are currently preparing for the mentoring process with the JEDMS 8th graders. One of immediate goals is to assist interested students with the AE application process. Another goal is to promote reading skills and to inspire the 8th graders to read more and, of course, to enjoy reading. Even more important, HS students participating in the MYM are motivated to serve as role models to 8th graders and help them have a more successful transition to HS.

The following students were accepted into the **Bergen County Chorus**: **Kenny Lee, Asei Harris, Eric Roque, Kenta Watanabe, Colton Robertson, Sheanine Samson, Lisa Ryoo, Johanna Bekas, Chris Kim, Jenny Im, Rino Diamante, Joe Heo, and Rani Chacko**. The Chorus is made up of high school students from all over Bergen County. Approximately 200 students were selected through a very competitive audition process. Students had to sing scales, perform a solo selection from Bach's Magnificat and demonstrate their tonal memory skills. Thirteen of our students were accepted into the Chorus with three of them placing in the top ten in their voice category. The students will have three rehearsals together and then a performance on January 15, 2012, at 3:00 p.m., at Westwood Regional High School.

Members of the "**It Ends Today (IET) Club**" organized assembly programs to recognize New Jersey's first Week of Respect. Members of the IET Club spoke to students about actions they can take to prevent bullying; invited guests shared their own personal experiences of being bullied as youngsters, and Assemblywoman Valerie Huttie discussed the harmful effects of bullying and its consequences as a result of New Jersey's new anti-bullying legislation. Kathleen Donovan, the Bergen County Executive, recognized junior **Christopher Rim**, for his contribution to educating youngsters about the dangers of bullying through his creation of the "It Ends Today" organization.

On November 9th, Dr. Hall's students in his **Dual Enrollment Sociology Course** hosted a "**Culture Bazaar**" in the South Cafeteria. Students had to present norms, values, artifacts, and other symbols of various

cultures, including hip hop, anime, Colombian, Italian, Middle Eastern, Korean, Rastafarian, and more. Students then had to analyze what the displays told them about how people behave in each culture

On November 22nd **Daniel Pustelnik, Carmela Ambulo, Sheanine Samson, John Palad, Kenny Nam, and Rino Diamante** accompanied Mr. Calvez to the Technology Student Association (TSA) Leadership Conference held at the College of New Jersey. Students learned leadership skills and participated in a team building activity that required students to build a Rube Goldberg type machine.

The **Heroes and Cool Kids Mentoring Program** has kicked off another year with our Heroes from the DMAE campus training at Bergen Community College three times annually. Heroes are a select legion of 45 students who have pledged to live a healthy lifestyle, free from drugs, alcohol, tobacco, and bullying. After being trained by DMHS alumnus Bruce Harper's group of professional athletes, the Heroes share both the wisdom and the benefits of living and maintaining that healthy lifestyle through their mentoring of McCloud's sixth graders, known as the Cool Kids. In each of the three visits to McCloud, the Heroes are accompanied by Mr. Hanson, the advisor of the Club, and one of the professional athletes, who adds a touch of excitement to each of the classrooms he visits. It is always exciting to annually trace the completion of a cycle, when former Cool Kids evolve into Heroes as DMAE sophomores.

The weekend of November 18-20, 24 students attended the William & Mary High School Model United Nations (MUN) Conference in Williamsburg, Virginia. Using the experience and techniques gained at this conference, the **Model UN Team**, under the direction of Mr. Cirilli and Ms. Rochman, is excited about their next conference at Yale University in January 2012.

UPCOMING CAMPUS EVENTS OF PARENT INTEREST

November 22:	Blood Drive from 9:00 to 3:00 p.m. in the North Library
November 23:	Half Day
November 24:	School Closed – A Day to Give Thanks
December 1:	Fall Sports Awards Dinner
December 5:	National Honor Society Induction
December 8:	3 rd AE Open House December
December 15:	The PLAN assessment administered to all sophomores
December 16:	Honor Roll Breakfast
December 21:	Winter Concert and Tri-M Honor Society Induction at 7:30 p.m.
December 23	Half Day – Winter Recess Begins (School reopens 1/3/11)
January 11:	Financial Aid Night – 7:30 p.m.
January 16:	School Closed – Dr. Martin Luther King Day
January 26:	Englewood Idol Performance at BergenPAC
January 27:	End of 2 nd Quarter