

# Harbor Current

Volume 6, Issue 2

Fall 2008

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## Letter from the Principal

Dear Harbor School Community

The school year has started to pick up speed and we are doing great things at Harbor School. Our aquaculture program has begun growing fish in room 412, and our SCUBA divers have helped grow oysters in the Harbor. The Department of Education has announced that we will be moving to Governors Island in September 2010, and construction has begun on our main building on the Island. Our Program Director Murray Fisher and Community Coordinator Sharon Jacker are working feverishly to raise funds for our Marine Science and Technology (MAST) Center on the Island. We are very excited by our prospects, even in these tough economic times.

Our school Progress Report Card was released on November 12, and for the second year in a row our school received a grade of B. Our score is a reflection of strong surveys of parents, students and teachers, as well as an improved graduation rate as compared to last year. Where we must improve: Our school must still work to increase the number of students who earn a

grade of 65 on the Regents exams, as this will raise our overall score. We can be proud of our grade, but there is much room for improvement.



Another area that our school can improve is attendance. This year our attendance is 82.1%, which is one percentage point lower than last year. This means that on average 75 students are absent every day. Good attendance is everyone's responsibility, and we are asking for parents' support in our efforts to improve attendance. It is important to remember that students are expected to have at least 90% in order to be promoted. Students can only succeed when they are present. We need everyone's help to improve attendance. In addition, more than 80 students are late every day, which is severely affecting students' first period grades. As part of our

efforts to improve attendance and lateness, we will be upgrading our automated school messenger calling system, and students with excellent attendance receive certificates and movie tickets.

One particular highlight I do want to mention is our recent all school college trip day. The entire school traveled to 17 colleges and universities throughout the New York area, in one of our most successful college trip days. The day was organized by College Advisor Noah Heller. Highlights included trips to SUNY South Hampton where students took a boat ride as part of the Marine Biology, and trips to St. John's University, Pratt Institute, and Pace University among others. Thanks to all students and advisors for making this day a success.

We also thank the Parent Association for their work on their fund raising bake sale during Open School night. We appreciate all of their hard work and support for our school.

Sincerely,

Nathan Dudley, Principal



## SENIOR UPDATES

### Senior Parent Meeting

The senior parent meeting took place Saturday, October 25th. This was the first senior parent meeting held this year. Parents received information on the college application process and senior dues. If you missed the meeting, please contact Noah Heller, ext 5103, to make an appointment to receive the college information and Daniela Perez, ext 5102, to receive information on senior activities.

### Senior Photos

Senior yearbook photos took place Saturday, October 25th. Students took formal photos and had a chance to purchase them at a discounted price. Many students missed their photo because they took their ACT. Those students were re-scheduled and took them the same day as faculty picture day. If your senior son/daughter did not take their photo, please have them see Daniela Perez in room 412A to make an appointment with the photo studio.

### College Academy

The Saturday College Academy is almost coming to an end. Senior parents, please send your students to receive assistance filling out college applications, personal statements, and resumes. Every weekend a staff member is available willing to help. Every senior is encouraged to attend at least once to receive the one-on-one attention needed to review their materials before sent to universities. For more information contact college advisor, Noah Heller.

*"I am Raquel Davis."*

*- Moira Potter, 11th Grade English Teacher (in reference to her Halloween costume)*



### Homecoming Activities Promote School Spirit and Serve as Fundraiser for Seniors

#### Dress-Up Days

Harbor students dressed down from their Harbor shirts to participate in the spirit week dress-up days. Both students and staff had a good time participating. "I am Raquel Davis," said English teacher, Moira Potter, when asked about her Halloween costume. Davis is her 11th grade English student.  
 Monday- Pajamas  
 Tuesday- Professional Day  
 Wednesday- Wacky Tacky  
 Thursday- Jersey Day  
 Friday- Costume (Halloween)

#### Basketball Game: 12th & 9th Grades vs. 11th and 10th Grades

Chemistry teacher, Shawn Amisial, and US History teacher, Jeremy Lynch, coached the 12th & 9th grade and 11th & 10th grade teams, respectively. This year's basketball winners were the 12th & 9th grade team.



#### Homecoming Court

This is the second year Homecoming activities help the senior winners pay for their graduation package. King and Queen received royal status and a free a free graduation package.

#### Senior King & Queen

Kyle Williams & Tasha Sinanan

#### Junior Prince & Princess

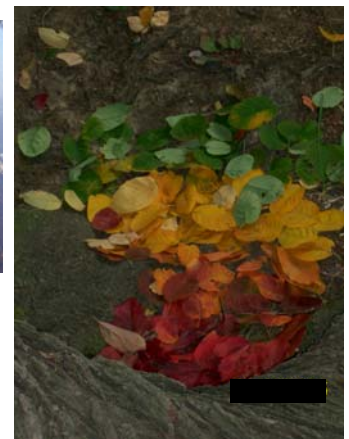
Sean Soto & Debbie Cruz

#### Sophomore Prince & Princess

Anthony Poit & Rhaxel Alfred

## FEATURED CLASS

Recently, Harbor Arts students spent class at the pool in Central Park. Students worked to create their own "ephemeral art" after learning about artist Andy Goldsworthy. Using only the natural materials found in the park, students used their prior knowledge of the principles of art to build beautiful, interesting sculptures of their own. Each piece was photographed, and left to be reclaimed by nature.



Design using leaves, flowers and berries by Harbor Art students Davian Reynolds and Widelyne Laporte

## PARENT TRIP TO GOVERNORS ISLAND: UPDATE



Parents, student, and staff went to Governors Island to see first hand the construction on building 134, the main Harbor School building. After a tour of the island by founder, Murray Fisher, guests enjoyed a picnic as they looked over the floor plans and asked questions. Special thanks to the Parent Association and Harbor staff members for participating especially: Marybelle Colon, Shawn Amisial, Sharon Jacker, and Aida Grullon. There will be another trip to the island in the spring. Information will be sent as time approaches.



## PA UPDATES

**Fundraisers-** The Parent Association is currently fundraising for a school-wide field trip to help improve the quality of life for the general student body. Thus far, a Bake Sale and an Avon fundraiser have taken place. If you would like to learn how to help contact members from the PA (*info on back*).

**GI Petition-**The petition to support the move to GI was mailed out to the chancellor. Thank you to all the parents that signed it during Parent Teacher Conferences.

## PARENT SAIL: UPDATE



The parent sail was a success despite the unfortunate weather. The 25 guests that attended had an opportunity to sail the New York Harbor and catch a glimpse of the new building in Governors Island. The parents had an opportunity

to witness first hand the type of curriculum the students learn on the boat. They also had an opportunity to learn the ropes and tie knots as demonstrated by the Pioneer's volunteers.



*Photo: Quanisha Overby, sophomore student, Lynette Bailey, parent of freshmen Measha Bailey, Quetzly Munoz, parent of freshmen Michael Munoz, and Jennifer Ostrow, Assistant Principal.*

## LETTER FROM PARENT ASSOCIATION— BY KIRSTEN JOHN

Welcome New York Harbor School families to another year. As in years past, this year is ripe with opportunities for great successes. Unfortunately, our successes will be bridled by many challenges. We, as a family and community, should acknowledge our successes in a spirit of sober celebration and engage our challenges in the spirit of unyielding persistence and faith. In this historic year we must seek to do our part to affect positive change, inspire our students to achieve higher

heights, and be rigorous in the defense of their best interests. As a family and community we continue to be supportive of the phenomenal work of the teachers and administrators, and we must continue to demand excellence. However, along with professional excellence we must drive our students to achieve academic and civic excellence. In order NYHS to continue to grow and prosper there is another group critical to its success: The parents. With budget cuts threatening

the fiscal health of our schools it is time for parents to stand. With increasing pressure being placed on our children, teachers and administrators to perform at higher levels, and with fewer resources; it is time for parents to stand. This year the Parent Association will build on our strong foundation of love and commitment to our children. We will expand our outreach efforts, our interactivity with the students, faculty and the community at large. The Parent Association has, in the



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## 2008-09 Parent Association (PA)

President– Aida Grullon  
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Vice Pres- Sherrand Hawker  
Secretary- Doreen De Leon  
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We're on the web!  
[www.nyharborschool.org](http://www.nyharborschool.org)

## Harbor Current

past, focused on the quality of life of our students. We continue to be concerned about their overall high school experience; however we have begun a new era which requires us to broaden our scope and assume greater responsibility for the scholastic and fiscal integrity of NYHS. Together, students, parents, teachers and administrators can confront and overcome any obstacles challenges or pitfalls that may lie ahead, and I am confident that we will. Please join us in the next Parent Association meeting to find out how you can help.

Sincerely,  
Kirten John Foy, Parent Association Member

### Save the Dates! Upcoming Parent-Student Events:

#### End of Marking Period 2

Wednesday, November 26

#### Legal Services

Tuesday, December 2  
9am-12pm– Rm 138

#### Winter Break Recess

Wednesday, December 24–  
Friday, January 2, 2009

#### No School (Thanksgiving)

November 27-28

#### SLT

Thursday, December 18  
6pm– 410

#### Parent Association

**Meeting**  
Saturday, December 20