



Hempstead Herald

The Hempstead Union Free School District

A Message from Superintendent of Schools Dr. Patricia Garcia...

Dear Parents, Guardians, Residents and Colleagues:

As your Superintendent of Schools, I would first like to thank all of you for helping the Hempstead School District Board of Education and Administration to make many positive strides during the first half of this school year. Our district has already implemented improvements in instruction, curriculum, programs, technology, and operations, and it is imperative that we continue on this productive path as a united school community.

Educating our children is the most important issue facing this district and there are many challenges that we face in our efforts to provide "A Better Future for Every Child in Hempstead." However, with teamwork, integrity, effective leadership, patience, and a dedication to putting students first, I am confident that these challenges can become ones of the past.

With that said, it brings me great pleasure to announce that the Administration has also established a vision statement for the district: "The Hempstead Public School students will meet and exceed state and national standards, be college and workforce ready, and value diversity." This vision reflects the ideals that we all need to support and promote each day in order to guide our students to becoming successful life learners and productive citizens.

This Administration stands committed to providing each student with a nurturing, academically challenging, orderly and safe learning environment, and we will continue efforts on all levels to improve this school district and increase student achievement.

Time never stands still, so it is essential that we continue to work as partners each day to ensure that we are providing our students with the best education, as well as preparing them for a bright and successful future. I look forward to continuing our work this season to make the 2010-2011 school year another innovative, prosperous and rewarding academic year for the Hempstead Public Schools.

Sincerely,

Dr. Patricia Garcia
Superintendent of Schools



Hempstead High School's Class of 2011 Top 10



Hempstead High School recently announced the Top 10 academic achievers for the Class of 2011. Each of these honor students holds an average above 88 percent and are active in a host of extracurricular activities and leadership roles at the high school. The Hempstead Board of Education and Administration will officially recognize these outstanding scholars later this school year. Standing, from left, are Angel Baez, Daniela Rodriguez and Tyron Brown. Sitting, from left, are Marie Cali, Danaisha Adderley, Yolanda Little, Deanna Bassett, Aniq Islam, Andra Smith and Esther Botty.

- | | |
|--------------------------------|----------------------|
| 1) Andra Smith (Valedictorian) | 6) Tyron Brown |
| 2) Marie Cali (Salutatorian) | 7) Daniela Rodriguez |
| 3) Deanna Bassett | 8) Danaisha Adderley |
| 4) Esther Botty | 9) Angel Baez |
| 5) Aniq Islam | 10) Yolanda Little |

Student Achievement Corner



Hempstead High School sophomore Alba Bonilla was honored in November by state Health Commissioner Richard Daines for helping to spread awareness about HIV and AIDS in the Hempstead community through education. Bonilla, who volunteers as a youth peer educator at the Communities of Color HIV-AIDS prevention program in Hempstead, was one of two Long Island teens honored in Albany in observance of World Aids Day.



Class of 2011 valedictorian Andra Smith was selected as the third place winner in the Nassau County Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Birthday Celebration Committee's Essay Contest. Smith was honored by the committee during a special luncheon at the Marriott Hotel in Uniondale on Martin Luther King, Jr. Day.

Jackson Main Earns National Title I School Distinction

Jackson Main Elementary School can now add Title I School to its list of accolades since it was recently selected as a 2010 National Title I Distinguished School by the National Title I Association. The distinction, which includes a \$10,000 educational award, was presented to Jackson Main for its progress in promoting higher achievement among students and closing the achievement gap between student groups.



New Faces in the District

The Hempstead School District recently welcomed three more administrators to its educational team.



Carlos Ramirez, Director of Technology



Dr. Nichelle Rivers, Assistant Superintendent Funded Programs, Compliance and School Improvement



Dr. Cheryl Scheidet, Principal of Franklin School

Hempstead Union Free School District
Hempstead, NY 11550

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BOE to Rename Fulton School in Honor of David A. Paterson



The Hempstead Board of Education approved a resolution at its December 16 meeting to rename Fulton School in honor of Hempstead native and former New York State Governor David A. Paterson. The former governor, who personally accepted the honor during the Village of Hempstead's Outdoor Holiday Extravaganza on December 18, is a Fulton School and Hempstead High alumnus. The renaming will take effect in September 2011.



Schools Chief to Establish Advisory Council

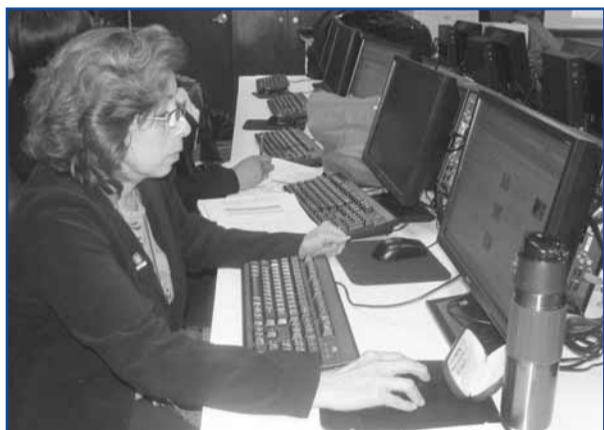
Superintendent of Schools Dr. Patricia Garcia is planning to create a Superintendent's Advisory Council, which will meet monthly to discuss and address specific interests, concerns and initiatives in the district. The group requires input from an administrator, teacher, and parent from each school in the district as well as several high school students. If you are interested in serving as a representative, please contact the Administration Office at (516) 292-7111.

Professional Development Supports District Goals

Teachers in the district this year will complete 15 hours of professional development after school during the district's new Extended Wednesdays. The professional development sessions and workshops are tied to district goals such as increasing student achievement and maintaining safe schools, and many are targeted towards specific areas of instruction and grade levels.

"The district is providing a wide-range of professional development sessions and workshops to meet the needs of teachers along their grade levels and to meet the needs of smaller groups of teachers," explained Dr. Stephanie Clagnaz, the district's Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction. "The feedback from the faculty about the sessions has been overwhelmingly positive and the teachers are able to evaluate each workshop, so that the district can continue to improve and expand its offerings."

At the administration level, directors, principals, assistant principals and deans also participate in professional development workshops every third Tuesday of the month. The workshops, which are led by Superintendent of Schools Dr. Patricia Garcia, address, among other topics, benchmark assessments, lesson plans and enhancing instruction as ways to improve the district's education.



Hempstead High School science teacher Carolyn Rodriguez is one of the many instructors who participated in an Integrating Technology into the Classroom professional development session during the district's Extended Wednesdays.



Teachers Milton Perez, left, Keldya Volpi and Beatriz Caban were all smiles while attending an Intermediate Promethean Interactive Whiteboard workshop in the Hempstead High School Media Center.



Physical education and health teachers discussed ways to improve nutrition in schools during a professional development session taught by Dr. Robert Cincotta, standing, the district's Director of Athletics.

A Thank You to the School Board



In honor of School Board Recognition Week, Superintendent of Schools Dr. Patricia Garcia, second from right, presented Hempstead Board of Education members, as well as District Clerk Patricia Wright and School Board Assistant Joyce Brown, with a Certificate of Appreciation during the board's monthly meeting on October 21. Not pictured are Vice President JoAnn Simmons and Trustee Betty Cross.

District Launches Aspiring Administrator's Academy

January marked the start of something unique in the Hempstead Public Schools as the Administration launched the first cohort of the Aspiring Administrator's Academy. The program, which is the first of its kind in the district, will provide 10 aspiring administrators in the district with the opportunity to obtain professional development and other training from Superintendent of Schools Dr. Patricia Garcia, assistant superintendents, district directors and other educators.

"Teachers, Assistant Principals and anyone in this school district with a New York State Administrative Certification who aspires to become a principal or director can apply and join this academy," explained Dr. Nichelle Rivers, the district's Assistant Superintendent for Funded Programs, Compliance and School Improvement. "This is really a great program because the training sessions will be invaluable. The program includes monthly professional development sessions, a full-day and summer half-day professional development session, and the participants will have the opportunity to shadow an in-district administrator for a full day."

Food Services Feted With Best Practices Award



Superintendent of Schools Dr. Patricia Garcia, right, presented Food Services Department Director Sharon Gardner and her staff with the department's New York State Education Department 2010 Best Practices Award during a recent Hempstead Board of Education meeting.

Enhancing the district's lunch program with healthier food choices, implementing computers to monitor lunch expenditures, and working alongside business officials to adhere to reduced lunch regulations, among other initiatives, paved the way for the district's Food Services Department to be selected as a New York State Education Department 2010 Best Practices Award recipient. The department, which is led by Director Sharon Gardner and Assistant Director Melissa Garvin, was the only Excellence in Improving the Financial Status of Child Nutrition honoree in the state this year.

ABGS Middle School Uses

TECHNOLOGY TO PROMOTE LITERACY

In an effort to increase the use of instructional technology in the classroom, eighth graders at Alverta B. Gray Schultz Middle School participated in a live Read Now! with Taylor Swift webcast, which was hosted by actor and television personality Nick Cannon. The webcast, which was sponsored by Read 180 and Scholastic, gave students in teacher DeAnna Diamond's Read 180 class the opportunity to watch a live interview with the country pop singer on a Promethean Interactive WhiteBoard as well as have their own discussion with Ms. Diamond about the importance of literacy.



Students in Alverta B. Gray Schultz Middle School teacher DeAnna Diamond's Read 180 class participated in a live webcast featuring country pop singer Taylor Swift.

Israeli Delegates Visit Hempstead High

The district's Social Studies Department recently provided Hempstead High School students with a closer look at the political, social, economic and cultural life of countries outside of the United States during a UJA Federation of New York Israeli Birth to Bagrut Forum. During the program, which featured a question and answer session, four young delegates spoke to the students about their personal experiences with being first-generation Ethiopian Jews in Israel. Standing with the delegates are student William Dukes, second from left, and District Director of Social Studies Angela Maynard.



Technology Improvements Continue

Along with 128 new Promethean Interactive Whiteboards, students districtwide will now have access to 800 new Wyse Thin Client Computers. To date, the new machines have been installed in the Early Childhood Center and Marshall School classrooms, Hempstead High School and Alverta B. Gray Schultz Middle School computer labs and all Media Centers districtwide. Administrators in the district's Information Technology Department noted that the computers will help to, among other things, build a better learning environment for less cost, reduce maintenance needs, save money and improve availability to computer access for students and staff.

"We don't want to just teach children that technology can transform their lives, we want to show them by offering new capabilities that simplify their tasks," stated David Lasker, the district's Network Administrator. "Thin Clients can help deliver that vision. ...Wyse Thin Clients help us fulfill our responsibilities as an educational organization by enabling us to offer our students and staff more functionality with minimal ongoing investment."

District Celebrates 2010 Homecoming

Students, Administrators and Staff Show Their Hempstead Tiger Pride

Hempstead High School's Homecoming 2010 was filled with lots of Tiger pride as dozens of students, administrators, faculty, staff and families participated in the school's annual Homecoming Parade.

In the days leading up to the big game, schools districtwide also showed their Hempstead Tiger spirit by hosting Homecoming Pep Rallies, and other activities, which helped to build excitement and anticipation throughout the school community for the big game and parade.

The Homecoming Parade began on Washington Street just beside Hempstead Town Hall and ended on the high school's football field, with many parents and residents cheering in the bleachers. Superintendent of Schools Dr. Patricia Garcia and Hempstead High alumnus and sports legend Joe Blocker also served as the parade's grand marshals. The Tigers football team then capped off the school spirit-filled day with a 26-22 win over Herricks.



Hempstead High School varsity cheerleaders helped to lead the Homecoming Parade.



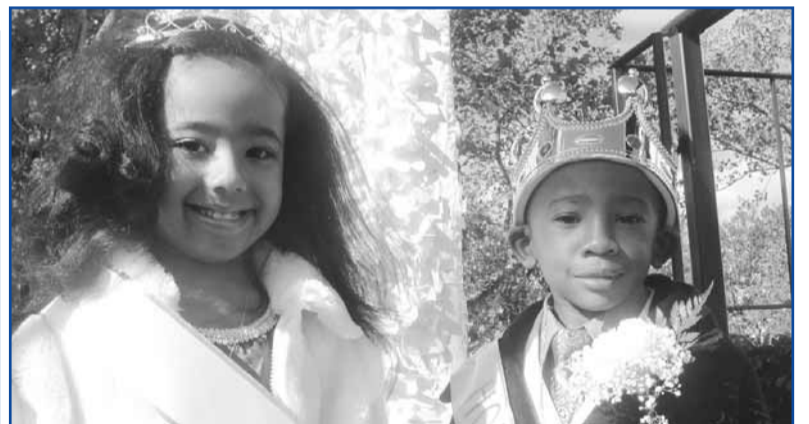
Many strong offensive plays by the Tigers helped to give the team the edge over Herricks.



Superintendent of Schools Dr. Patricia Garcia arrived to the Homecoming game in style on a float with Hempstead High's 2010 Royal Court.



Hempstead High seniors Khalil Watts and Tyesha Saunders were crowned this year's Homecoming King and Queen.



Hempstead Pre-K School's Homecoming Queen Kireina Irizarry and King Ahmir Chappelle were celebrities for the day while participating in the district's Homecoming festivities.



Hempstead Board of Education Trustee Brandon Ray congratulated Fulton School student Christian Yanes for being named as the school's 2010 Homecoming Fourth Grade Prince.



Members of Hempstead High School's Marching Band showed their school spirit during the school's 2010 Pep Rally.



Hempstead Board of Education Assistant Joyce Brown, left, and District Clerk Patricia Wright were two of the many district staff members cheering for the Tigers at Homecoming.



Hempstead Board of Education President Charles Renfroe shared a few words with the crowd before the game began.

District Recognizes National Hispanic Heritage Month

Students were able to learn about the geography, history and culture for a host of Spanish speaking countries in recognition of National Hispanic Heritage Month. The districtwide celebration featured musical and theatrical performances, informational presentations as well as guest speakers to help educate students about Hispanic culture and the contributions of Hispanic Americans to the United States.



Musician Basilio Georges, left, a co-founder of the Flamenco Latino dance company, taught Alverta B. Gray Schultz Middle School students Marvin Martinez, second from left, Jeffrey Handen, and Elmer Portillo, right, how to use Latin percussion instruments during the school's Roots of Salsa program.



Barack Obama Elementary School students performed a skit that told the story of Mexican American civil rights activist César Chávez during the school's Hispanic Heritage Month Celebration.



Early Childhood Center student Curtis Etheridge wore traditional Mexican clothing during the school's Que Viva Mexico program.



Marshall School students Reina Samuels, left, and Alissan Amaya were all smiles while learning how to Salsa dance during their school's Hispanic Heritage Month Celebration.

'Twas the Season to Give and Receive



Just days before families celebrated Thanksgiving Day, attendance teacher Gary Battle, left, District Security Lead Carrie Tiller and other staff members distributed frozen turkeys and stacks of canned corn and candied yams to district families at Hempstead High School. The food was given as a holiday gift from local businessman Robert Jesberger, owner of Mid Island Collision in Rockville Centre.



Members of the 100 Black Men of Long Island Inc., and Urban League of Long Island Young Professionals donated toys to Early Childhood Center students. From left are Early Childhood Center Principal Richard Brown, 100 Black Men of Long Island President Henry Holly, Hempstead Board of Education President Charles Renfroe and kindergarten students Ebony Jordan and Eduardo Islas.



Students at Franklin School sent gift-filled shoeboxes to youngsters in Haiti, El Salvador, Nigeria, China and other countries as part of the school's annual participation in Operation Shoebox. The initiative, which was coordinated by teacher Ms. Allen, aims to help children around the world who are less fortunate.

Hempstead Pre-K School Pays Tribute to Dr. King

With songs, pledges and speeches, students honor the life and legacy of MLK.

In honor of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, Hempstead Pre-K School students paid homage to the life, work and legacy of the late civil rights activist during a celebratory assembly.

As part of the tribute, the students performed songs such as "This Little Light of Mine" and "If You Miss Me From Sitting Back There," as well as shared speeches with the audience that promoted peace, kindness, respect and other principles that Dr. King advocated for during the African-American Civil Rights Movement.

Additional Dr. King Celebration coverage will be featured in the next Hempstead Herald.



Hempstead Pre-K School students performed "This Little Light of Mine," "If You Miss Me From Sitting Back There" and other songs in celebration of the life and work of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Concerts, New Courses and More in Store in Music and Fine Arts This Season

District students will continue to receive a well-rounded educational experience in Music and Fine Arts during the second half of this school year.

Hempstead High School's first Theatre Program is slated to begin in February with Children's Theater and Theater Arts I as its two inception course offerings. Both classes, which will be taught by new Theater Arts teacher Ms. Mazo, aim to educate students about, among other topics, acting, playwriting, costuming and stage production. The program will present its first production, "Once on This Island" on May 13 and 14 at the high school.

The high school's Select Chorale is rehearsing to compete in an International Choral Competition in Prague, Czech Republic from March 30 to April 3. The chorale also performed in a Voices of Virtue Benefit Concert at the Christ and St. Stephen's Church in New York City to help raise funds for the upcoming trip and showcase its musical talents to the metropolitan area.

As part of the district's continuing partnership work with the Long Island Philharmonic, the high school's Concert Band will also host a joint concert with the group on March 24 at 7 p.m.

Students districtwide will also have the opportunity to display their artistic work in the Nassau All-County Art Exhibition on March 20 at Adelphi University's Ruth S. Hartley University Center in Garden City.



Led by Director Rachel Blackburn, left, the Hempstead High School Select Chorale recently performed in a Voices of Virtue Benefit Concert at the Christ and St. Stephen's Church in New York City.

Hempstead Students Showcase Their Talents on the Holiday Stage

Parents, guardians, administrators, teachers and more were given a real musical treat throughout December as schools in the district hosted their annual Holiday and Winter concerts. Students districtwide hit the stage to sing, play instruments, act and dance for members of the Hempstead school community in celebration of the 2010 holiday season.



Marshall School students Sean Daniel Maxis, left, and Shantel Ariana Onofre, entertained concertgoers during the school's annual Holiday Concert.



Franklin School student Henry Alvarez performed a solo selection during the school's Winter Concert.



Early Childhood Center students performed dance numbers to the beat of holiday songs during the school's annual Winter Concert.



With teacher Mr. Winther playing the piano, Jackson Main School student Natalia A. Valle performed "Joy to the World" as a soloist during the school's 2010 Winter Concert.

Tiger Fall Sports Honors

2010 Homecoming Award Recipients

Albert Dodson - Best Defense

Malik Howard and Elijah Rustin - Most Valuable Player

Jeffrey Morales and Richard Young - Sportsmanship Award

Rahmik Perry - Best Offense



Hempstead High School seniors and football players Richard Young, left, and Rahmik Perry were selected for the Nassau County Senior Bowl All-Star Team this season. Perry was also named to the High School All-Conference Team and as a National Football Association Scholar-Athlete while Young was the recipient of the Long Island Football Officials Association's Unsung Hero Award.

After this year's Hempstead Tiger Homecoming victory, administrators presented student William Dukes with the Homecoming Student-Athlete Award. Standing with Dukes are Hempstead High School Interim Principal Chy Davidson, left, Coach Antoine Moore, and Director of Athletics Dr. Robert Cincotta.

Meet the Middle School's *American Idol*

Alverta B. Gray Schultz Middle School student Cassandra Scott was named as a finalist in the 2010 Nassau Youth Singing Contest. The competition, which held its final round at the Cultural Arts Theatre in Hempstead, was sponsored by Healthfirst and the NuHealth System. Scott competed against more than 300

contestants to earn a spot in the semi-finals and then her singing talents helped her to advance to the finals as one of seven contestants in the Youth Group category. Standing with Scott is ABGS chorus teacher Mr. Shawn Devito, who also volunteered as a judge in the singing competition.



The Tiger Winter Sports Season at a Glance

Hempstead High School Teams

Bowling
Coach Mule'

Boys

Basketball
Coach Adams (V)
Coach Harrison (JV)

Winter Track (V)
Coach Raffington

Alverta B. Gray Schultz Middle School Teams

Boys

Basketball
Coach Wisz

Bowling
Coach Mule'

Swimming
Coach Polcha (V)

Track
Coach Lopez

Winter Track (V)
Coach Lyons

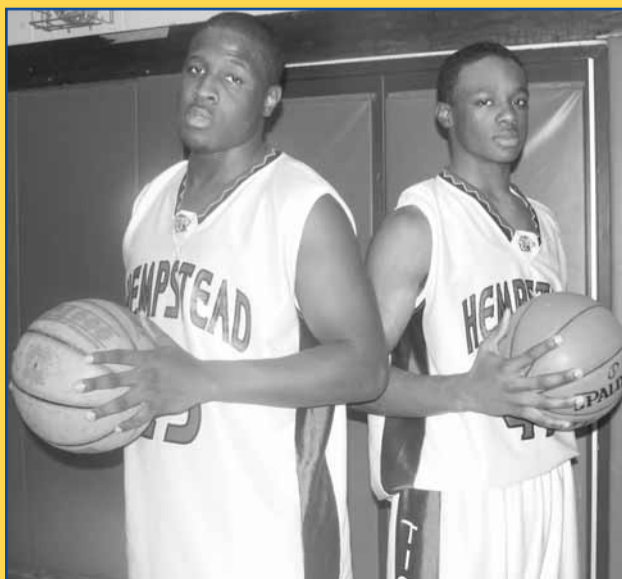
Wrestling
Coach: TBA

Wrestling
Coach Kelly (V)

Girls
Basketball
Coach Bacon

Girls
Basketball
Coach Higgins (V)

Track
Coach Vila



Hempstead High School boys' varsity basketball team players Ismael Pierre, left, and Mical Boyd are two Tiger players to watch this season.

21st Century Community Learning Centers Keeping Students Active

Through the district's Hempstead Promise and Fostering Recreational, Intellectual, Educational, Needed Youth Development Skills (F.R.I.E.N.D.S.) programs, students are participating in a host of academic, recreational and music activities during non-school hours, which aim to provide them with child-centered educational enrichment. Both initiatives, which feature partnerships with many local community organizations, colleges, law enforcement and government offices, are funded through a federal 21st Century Community Learning Centers Grant Program.

"We're currently in our third year with the 21st Century after-school program and it has been very successful because the programs are serving the needs of our students outside of school hours," stated Ronald Simpkins, the district's Director Liaison for School/Community Partnership. "Our program enrollment has grown to about 300 kids and the partners here will continue to implement and promote activities that help our students to learn and stay active."

F.R.I.E.N.D.S.

- Project Tech Connect TEEN C.H.A.M.P.S. with the Hempstead Boys and Girls Club

- Tutoring with Circulo de la Hispanidad
- Community Service with the Nassau County Youth Board
- After-School Services with the Hispanic Counseling Center
- Out of School Time with the Hempstead Community Action Program
- Peacemakers with the Nassau County District Attorney's Office
- Forensics with the Hempstead Police Activity League
- Life Prep with Long Island Educational Opportunity Center at Farmingdale State College

HEMPSTEAD PROMISE

- E-Project with Hispanic Counseling Center
- Summer Day Camp with OASIS Children's Services
- Louis "Satchmo" Armstrong After-School Instrumental Music Education Program
- Project Guard: Make-A-Splash with Adelphi University and Red Cross
- Family Development with Hempstead CAP



Hamilton Reed, a counselor at the Hempstead Boys and Girls Club, painted a face of a youngster during a 21st Century Learning Centers Fall Festival for students.



Durwood Cox III, a seventh-grader at Alverta B. Gray Schultz Middle School, is one of the students participating in the Louis "Satchmo" Armstrong After-School Music Education Program, which meets every Thursday from 3:15 to 5 p.m. until June 16.

Dates to Remember

Prospect School Bond Project Vote
Tuesday, March 15

Polls Open from 7 a.m. to 9 p.m. at the
Alverta B. Gray Schultz Middle School

2011-2012 Budget Meeting Schedule

Budget Workshop Meeting
Thursday, March 10 at 7 p.m.

* Public is invited to observe only

Budget Workshop Meeting
Wednesday, March 23 at 7 p.m.

* Public participation permitted

Budget Adoption Meeting
Monday, April 7 at 7 p.m.

Budget Hearing
Superintendent's Budget Presentation
Thursday, May 5 at 7 p.m.

2011-2012 Budget Vote
Tuesday, May 17
Polls Open from 7 a.m. to 9 p.m. at the
Alverta B. Gray Schultz Middle School

Parents Have *Coffee and Conversation* with the Schools Chief

To help the district attain its goals of increasing student achievement and engaging parents and the community, Superintendent of Schools Dr. Patricia Garcia hosted a Coffee with the Superintendent at five schools during the first half of the school year. The event, which was held in the Media Center at each school, provides parents and guardians with the opportunity to discuss instruction, programs, funding, capital improvement plans and other school-related topics with the schools chief and her staff. Additional schools and dates will be scheduled in 2011.



Superintendent of Schools Dr. Patricia Garcia, second from left, Alverta B. Gray Schultz Principal Carlos Perez, second from right, and Assistant Principal Henry Williams, third from left, recently discussed ABGS coursework that will help prepare eighth graders for high school and other topics with parents during a Coffee with the Superintendent.



Parents of students in Hempstead High School's Senior College Preparatory Academy were able to have a chat session about the 2010-2011 school year during a Coffee with the Superintendent with Dr. Patricia Garcia.

2011-2012 Hempstead Pre-Kindergarten Registration

The Hempstead School District will accept Pre-Kindergarten applications from Tuesday, February 1, 2011 to Thursday, March 3, 2011 at Central Registration, 436A Front Street, Hempstead, NY 11550. All students must be 4 years old by December 1, 2011. The lottery acceptance of students will be held on Tuesday, March 8, 2011 at 5 p.m. in the Hagedorn Pre-K Auditorium, 120 Greenwich Street, Hempstead, NY 11550. For more information, call (516) 292-7113 or (516) 292-7111 ext. 3141 or 3142.

Partnerships Aim to Increase Student Success

S.T.R.O.N.G. Youth, Inc.

As a part of the district's ongoing efforts to maintain safe schools and increase student achievement, it is now partnering with Struggling To Reunite Our New Generation (S.T.R.O.N.G.) Youth, Inc. In February, directors and staff from the agency launched a new Violence Prevention and Intervention Program at Hempstead High School. This initiative, led by S.T.R.O.N.G.'s Executive Director and Founder Sergio Argueta, will feature anti-violence presentations, workshops, field trips and other educational initiatives.

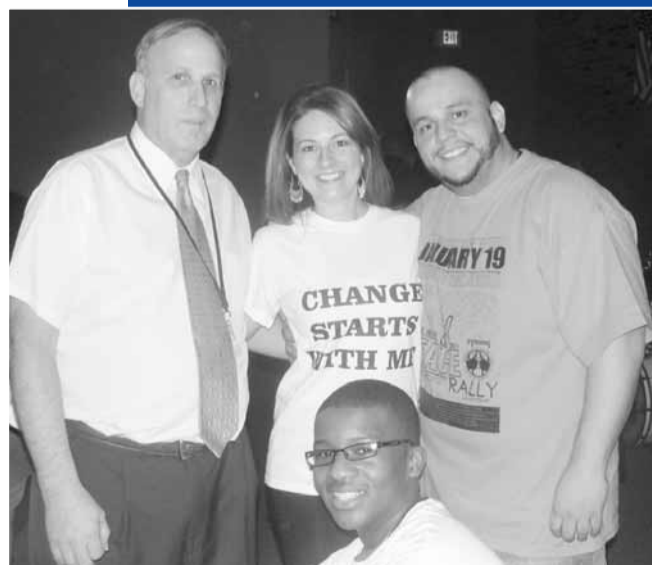
Panasonic Program

This school year includes the continuation of the district's participation in the Panasonic Partnership Program, which aims to provide expert assistance to the school district for implementing systematic improvements that will enhance the academic and social success of all students. The initiative is led by the Panasonic Foundation, a corporate organization that aims to improve public education in the United States through education reform.

Nassau Community College

Administrators are also finalizing dates to begin a Connect to College Program at Hempstead High School, which will provide students with the opportunity to learn through courses taught by Nassau Community College professors. The collaborative effort, administrators stated, aims to prepare students for college level work.

Hempstead High School's College Preparatory Academy of Music and Art and Struggling To Reunite Our New Generation (S.T.R.O.N.G.) Youth, Inc. hosted a Peace Rally to promote youth empowerment and celebrate Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day. The agency is one of the district's new partners. From left are College Preparatory Academy of Music and Art Principal David Evans, guidance counselor Jessica Sabia, student Daniel Narcisse and S.T.R.O.N.G. Executive Director and Founder Sergio Argueta.



Transportation Request Reminder

Transportation applications for the 2011-2012 school year for private and parochial schools are currently available in the district's Transportation Department. The deadline for all application submissions is April 1, 2011. Applications should be returned to: Hempstead Public Schools, 185 Peninsula Boulevard, Hempstead, NY 11550, Attention: Annette Greer, Transportation Department.



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