



# Hempstead Herald

The Hempstead Union Free School District

## SELECT CHORALE WINS FIRST PLACE IN 2011 YOUNG PRAGUE FESTIVAL

Student singers earn highest honor in competition's Mixed Choirs Category

The Hempstead High School Select Chorale won first place in the Mixed Choirs Category at the 2011 Young Prague Festival in Prague, Czech Republic on April 2. The chorale, which defeated five choirs to earn the highest score in this category, was presented with a Silver Level Award for its outstanding performance. The accolade is the highest recognition in the Mixed Choirs contest.

This talented Hempstead ensemble not only earned a nearly perfect score, it was also the only choir in the competition from the United States. The festival, which ran from March 31 to April 3, is an international invitation-only singing competition for vocalists between the ages of 15 to 26.

The victory marks the second time the chorale, which currently has 24 members, has performed with high honors and distinction internationally. In 2009, the singers won a Gold Award — the highest level a choir can earn in the competition — during an International Choir Competition in Verona, Italy.



Hempstead Board of Education President Charles Renfro, left, Superintendent of Schools Dr. Patricia Garcia, bottom fourth from right, and Hempstead High School Interim Principal Chy Davidson, top right, recently congratulated Hempstead High's Select Chorale and its Director Rachel Blackburn, bottom right, for their first place win in the 2011 Young Prague Festival.

## Top of Their Class

Hempstead High School's Valedictorian Andra Smith and Salutatorian Elvian Cali earn their school's most prestigious recognition

### ANDRA SMITH

Dedicating four years of one's life to complete high school is an arduous task; it's even more challenging when it's completed in three. That is Hempstead High School senior Andra Smith's remarkable story.

By completing high school courses as an eighth-grade student at the Alverta B. Gray Schulz Middle School and attending evening classes at the high school last year, the 17-year-old finished her high school career in just three years. With a 98 percent grade point average, she has earned the Class of 2011's valedictorian honor. This is also the second time Smith has attained the prestigious title. She also served as valedictorian for ABGS Middle School's Class of 2008.

Smith, who is also a Franklin School alumna, was named in April as a Gates Millennium Scholarship Winner. The scholarship, funded by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, is only presented to 1,000 minority students each year and will provide Smith with a full scholarship for her entire college career.

Smith's list of achievements does not end with academics.

She has also represented Hempstead High with distinction as a Hempstead Tiger girls' varsity volleyball player. Her success on and off the court enabled her to be named as a Nassau County Scholar-Athlete this year and in 2010. Her extra-curricular activities also feature her work as a National Honor Society, Hempstead High School Orchestra and Student Government member, as well as president of the Village of Hempstead's Youth Advisory Council.

In the fall, she plans to attend either Emory University in Georgia or Rice University in Texas to study biochemistry. Her goal is to become a pediatric anesthesiologist in the near future.



### ELVIAN CALI

This year's salutatorian Elvian Cali is also no stranger to the top academic achiever spotlight since she served as valedictorian of ABGS Middle School's Class of 2007. Cali, who is also a Jackson Annex and Fulton School alumna, finished her high school career with a 93 percent grade point average.

Cali, 17, has taken a leadership role for the past two years in fundraising and planning events for the Class of 2011, with hopes that she can help the class have an eventful and memorable year. This year, she helped to raise money for her class's prom and several other senior activities. She also serves as secretary of the school's Student Government and editor of its Yearbook Club.

This fall she plans to attend Adelphi University in Garden City, Baruch College in New York City or Arcadia University in Pennsylvania to study business and law as a double major. She aspires to become a criminal lawyer and restaurant owner in the near future.



## STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT

Hempstead High School students Tia Smith, left, and Joanna Yanes were named as 2011 George Farber Outstanding Student Award recipients at Nassau BOCES. The students were presented with the award on April 14 in recognition of their talent, character, passion and good citizenship.



Photos courtesy of Nassau BOCES.



Hempstead High School sophomore Gadd Guerra was named as the Hempstead Rotary Club's 2011 Leadership Award recipient. The 15-year-old was selected as an honoree for his success as a Hempstead Tiger student-athlete, as well as his volunteer work as a musician and youth group leader at the St. George's Episcopal Church in Hempstead.

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Hempstead Union Free School District

Hempstead, NY 11550

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

Dear Parents, Guardians, Residents and  
Colleagues:

It feels like it was just yesterday when I welcomed you to the beginning of the 2010-2011 academic year. And here we are now, approaching the end of this school year.

This district's administration has made many great accomplishments thus far and worked relentlessly to overcome the many challenges we face in our efforts to provide our students with the best education.

And although we have a long road ahead of us in bringing all of our goals to fruition, I want to take this opportunity to reassure all of you that this administration stands committed to achieving academic excellence in the Hempstead Public Schools.

Throughout this school year, our district's Board of Education, administrators, teachers, and support staff have been working collaboratively to ensure that our students are acquiring the skills, knowledge, information, resources and values that they need to succeed in life.

I'm very happy to announce that we are continuing our efforts to implement new programs, instructional methods, curriculum improvements, and technology enhancements to increase student achievement.

On behalf of the Hempstead Board of Education and administration, I would also like to thank district voters for putting our students' education first by approving the Prospect School Bond Project on March 15. We are very excited about the reopening of this landmark school building, especially because it will allow our kindergarten students to attend school in a central state-of-the-art education center during their first year as Hempstead School District students.

As we approach the final weeks of this school year, I believe it is also important for us to remember that a new school year will be here shortly and it is imperative that we continue to work as a united school community to build upon the achievements that were made this year.

There is no doubt in my mind that if we continue to forge ahead with effective leadership, integrity, teamwork and educationally and fiscally sound district plans, we will advance and achieve our mission of providing "A Better Future for Every Child in Hempstead."

Sincerely,  
Dr. Patricia Garcia  
Superintendent of Schools



*Retired Hempstead Public School teacher Valerie Barnett, the Hempstead Innovation Team's Coordinator, recently discussed the new initiative with teachers districtwide at a meeting at Hempstead High School.*

## TAKING A LEAD ROLE IN IMPROVING EDUCATION

District and Hempstead Classroom Teachers Association join forces to establish the Hempstead Innovation Design Team

Administrators and teachers in the district are currently sharing their educational expertise on a state level through their participation in the New York State United Teachers' (NYSUT) Innovation Fund. The project, which is funded through a grant from the American Federation of Teachers Innovation Fund, seeks to develop and implement bold education innovations at the teaching level in public schools.

In January, the district launched the Hempstead Innovation Design Team — a joint venture with the Hempstead Classroom Teachers Association (HCTA)— that aims to create new teaching standards, a new and more meaningful teacher evaluation system, and a peer assistance and review program. The district is currently one of only eight school districts in the state taking a lead role in this new project. The three-year grant program is currently at the planning phase and pilot projects are expected to begin in the 2011-2012 school year.

"Under the Race to the Top program, this district and other funding recipients around the country are mandated to come up with different ways to evaluate teachers and administrators," explained Dr. Nichelle Rivers, the district's Executive Director for School Improvement and Accountability. "As a part of this process, the Hempstead Innovation Team was formed in an effort to pilot the new evaluation process that is being proposed."

Superintendent of Schools Dr. Patricia Garcia, HCTA President Dawn Sherwood, Innovation Coordinator Valerie Barnett and other team members also attended a three-day conference alongside other school administrators, teachers, union leaders and education experts in Albany in February. The event gave educators the opportunity to discuss ways to improve teacher effectiveness and share information to advance this groundbreaking project.

The team members also presented a draft of the state's new Annual Professional Performance Review Model to teachers districtwide at Hempstead High School on March 30. Additional presentations will be held later this school year.

### Hempstead Innovation Design Team

Dr. Patricia Garcia,  
Superintendent of Schools

Valerie Barnett,  
Innovation Coordinator

Dawn Sherwood, HCTA President

Julius Brown

Dr. Nichelle Rivers

Regina Armstrong-Robinson

Richard Brown

Elias Mestizo

Maria Cady

Cheryl Mc Cue

Dr. Wendy Niles

## Join the Superintendent's Advisory Council

Superintendent of Schools Dr. Patricia Garcia will create a Superintendent's Advisory Council this year, 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 two high school students. If you are interested in serving as a representative, please contact Ana Lovasz at the Administration Office at (516) 292-7111 ext. 1004.

## District Launches New and Improved Website

[www.hempsteadschools.org](http://www.hempsteadschools.org)

Please remember that the Hempstead Public Schools has launched a redesigned website. The district's administration encourages you to visit the site daily for news about student achievements, district initiatives, meeting schedules, and districtwide announcements. Please send all website posting requests to [hempsteadschoolnews@gmail.com](mailto:hempsteadschoolnews@gmail.com).



*Superintendent of Schools Dr. Patricia Garcia, left, and New York State United Teachers' Director Ellen Sullivan, discussed changes in teacher evaluations with district teachers at the meeting at Hempstead High School.*

# Schools Pay Homage to Dr. King<sup>3</sup>

## *Students honor the life, work and legacy of MLK*

Valuing compassion, unity, honesty, teamwork, respect and diversity were just a few of the messages in this year's Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration throughout the district. Students made King's ideals relevant in present day through their musical and theatrical performances.

At the Jackson Main and Barack Obama elementary schools, students demonstrated their understanding of Dr. King's beliefs by reciting his most famous speeches during their school's annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Oratorical Contest. In addition to the speeches, both contests featured discussions about King's life and work during the African-American Civil Rights Movement.

After contest judges selected the recipients of the first, second and third place award in each grade, Barack Obama Principal Helisse Palmore and Jackson Main Principal Dr. Rodney Gilmore then presented each contestant with a trophy for their remarkable recitation and achievement.



*Jackson Annex School student Jacobe Winters showed his support of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s ideals through his dancing during the school's Dr. King Celebration.*



*From left are Jackson Main School third-grade winners Nelo Williams, Diana Bonilla, and Alfredo Canales and Jackson Main Principal Dr. Rodney Gilmore.*



*From left are Jackson Main School fourth-grade winners Bryan Cerna, Nayla Shorter and Bryan Nicholson-Dews, and Dr. Gilmore.*



*From left are Jackson Main School fifth-grade winners Drizzle Bey, Laila Choudry and Geraldine LaFosse, and Dr. Gilmore.*



*From left are Barack Obama School first-grade winners Shaneice Brown, Ashley Flores and Dakim Griffin, and Principal Helisse Palmore, teacher LaTisha Elliott and Assistant Principal Francisco Roca.*



*From left are Barack Obama School second-grade winners Denise Alvarez, Jamia Howard and Marlon Murcia, and Palmore, Elliott and Roca.*



*From left are Barack Obama School third-grade winners Leslie Cobb, Maly Rodriguez and Tiffany Funez, and Palmore, Elliott and Roca.*



*From left are Barack Obama School fourth-grade winners Heidi Zelaya-Almendarez, Fynisha Blue and Diana Henriquez, and Palmore, Elliott and Roca.*



*From left are Barack Obama School fifth-grade winners Shawn Eason, Emily Philbert and Stephanie Chevez, and Palmore, Elliott and Roca.*

# Prospect School Slated to Reopen in September 2013

District voters approve \$18.1 million bond project to renovate historical school building into a districtwide Kindergarten Center



The Hempstead Public Schools administration thanks district voters for approving the Prospect School Bond Project.

Thanks to voter approval on March 15, 2011, Prospect School on Peninsula Boulevard is slated to reopen as a districtwide Kindergarten Center in September 2013. Voters passed the district's proposed \$18,135,084 Prospect School Bond Project, which will completely rehabilitate the historical school building into a state-of-the-art educational center at no additional cost to taxpayers.

The total cost of the project will be completely funded through New York State Building Aid, Expanding our Children's Education and Learning (EXCEL) Aid — which is a one-time grant from the state — and \$500,000 the district already has allocated for this project in the 2010-2011 budget.

## Prospect School Project Timeline

Bond Approval: March 15, 2011

Design Development/Construction Documents: March 16, 2011 through October 3, 2011

State Education Department Submission/Estimated Review Period: October 4, 2011 through January 9, 2012

Bidding/Construction: January 30, 2012 through August 9, 2013

Occupancy: September 2013

## A Message from the Hempstead Board Education

"It is important to our children that the Prospect School is vital within the community. This project will ensure that we get a state-of-the-art building for our children. On behalf of the Hempstead Public Schools, we thank the parents, students, faculty, staff and community for their support. Your approval of the Prospect School Renovation Project will serve to change the lives of our children."

"Appreciation can make a day, even change a life. Your willingness to put it into words is all that is necessary." - Margaret Cousins

## High School Launches Mandarin Chinese Course

The district is proud to announce that there is a new foreign language being learned at Hempstead High School: Mandarin Chinese. The new course, entitled myChinese360, is an interactive 3-D virtual class that allows students to study Mandarin in a live online classroom session with a teacher in China.



College Preparatory Academy of Math and Science students Mayra Espinoza, left, and Jennifer Alvarenga, complete a video instruction session with their teacher in China.

The class's instructor, who is both a native Mandarin speaker and U.S. certified teacher, provides the students with reading materials, vocabulary tools, tests, offline assignments and more as part of the curriculum for the course. Dr. Pamela Furline, a foreign language teacher at the high school, supervises the students in the classroom while they complete their daily instruction.

The new course, administrators stated, will help students acquire another skill that they can use to become stronger competitors in the business world and global economy.



Hempstead Board of Education Trustee Gladys Rivera read "Green Eggs and Ham" by Dr. Seuss to Hempstead Pre-K School students during the school's Read Across America Celebration.

## Schools Celebrate Read Across America Day

To build on the momentum of the literacy events that took place in the first half of the school year, the Early Childhood Center and Hempstead Pre-K School also celebrated National Read Across America Day to promote the importance of reading.

With storytime sessions, Dr. Seuss-themed activities, presentations and more, students were able to participate in the national reading initiative, which is held annually on March 2 in observance of Dr. Seuss's birthday.

## ABGS STUDENTS SOAR TO *New Science Heights*

It was a field trip to remember for many Alverta B. Gray Schultz Middle School students after they visited the Cradle of Aviation Museum in Garden City to learn about tectonics. During the visit, the students were able to participate in discussions with scientists about a host of topics including rocks, rare minerals, fossils, earthquakes and volcanoes in between touring the Firefighter's Museum.

The field trip was a part of the district's participation in the 2010-2011 JASON Project's Operation: Tectonic Fury science curriculum program with the Nassau Board of Cooperative Educational Services (BOCES).



# DISTRICT TAKES A 'STRONG' STANCE AGAINST VIOLENCE AND BULLYING

*Students learn about the importance of peace, teamwork, and respect for diversity in new program*

Hempstead High School students are now completing new exercises and lessons during school hours that teach them about the importance of becoming advocates for peace, anti-bullying, tolerance, making positive decisions and excelling at their studies.

Through this new Violence Prevention and Intervention Program, the teens work weekly with representatives from Struggling To Reunite Our New Generation (S.T.R.O.N.G.) Youth, Inc., a gang prevention and intervention agency that recently became one of the district's new partners.

As a part of the program, S.T.R.O.N.G. officials work weekly with students in the ninth-grade academies during their advisory classes, and they work one-on-one with 40 students in the school's Senior College Preparatory Academy. The agency uses educational initiatives including anti-violence presentations, workshops, and field trips to promote peace and youth empowerment to the students.

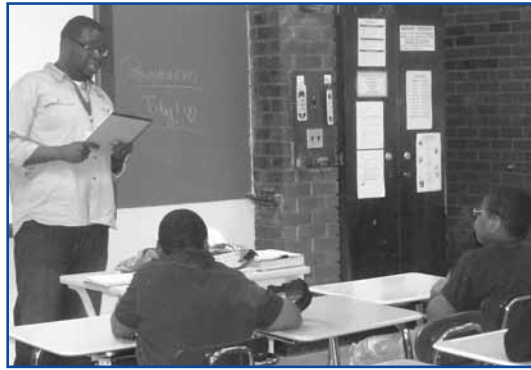
This initiative, school officials stated, is providing the teens with an opportunity to not only discuss their concerns with one another and school officials, but to also learn about conflict resolution and making positive decisions in their lives. Along with uniting the students through education, this program aims to reduce student absenteeism and the school's drop out and suspension rate.

"This partnership with STRONG Youth is important because it's giving our students another opportunity to talk openly and candidly about gangs, bullying and other issues that they are facing," stated Dr. Nichelle Rivers, the district's Executive Director for School Improvement and Accountability. "One of the goals of this program is to enable our students to have a voice at the discussion table when addressing their safety and this gives them a chance to learn about positive ways to deal with their differences and problems, so that they don't resort to violence."

The district is also currently finalizing plans to expand this program — which supports its ongoing commitment to maintain safe schools and increase student achievement — outside of the classroom in the high school and to the Alverta B. Gray Schultz Middle School.

"STRONG is organizing a lunch part to this program at the high school, where students can go to another location to play games and socialize during their lunch periods as an alternative to the traditional cafeteria setting," Rivers explained. "The agency will also offer several workshops at the Middle School in May as another way to educate students about taking a stance against bullying and gangs before they reach high school."

In March, the high school's students were also able to attend an Anti-Violence and Bullying program hosted by Howard Robertson, a retired warden from the New York City Department of Corrections who now heads Airtight Solutions Anti-Violence Program. During the presentation, Robertson discussed the perils of prison and gang life, and encouraged the teens to make intelligent choices in their lives, so that they can become successful citizens.



*Representatives from Struggling To Reunite Our New Generation (S.T.R.O.N.G.) Youth, Inc., hold anti-violence and bullying discussions and workshops each week during classes at Hempstead High School.*



*S.T.R.O.N.G. Youth, Inc.'s Program Director Rahsmia Zatar, left, and Executive Director Sergio Argueta, center, meet regularly with Dr. Nichelle Rivers, the district's Executive Director for School Improvement and Accountability, to discuss plans for the school's new Violence Prevention and Intervention Program.*



*Howard Robertson, a retired warden from the New York City Department of Corrections, also spoke to Hempstead High School students about fighting against bullying and violence.*



## STRENGTHENING PARENT PARTNERSHIPS

To contribute to the district's ongoing efforts to engage parents and the community, Superintendent of Schools Dr. Patricia Garcia, center, recently hosted a Coffee With the Superintendent at the Jackson Annex and Franklin schools. While eating a pastry and drinking coffee, parents and district residents were able to discuss building and curriculum improvements, state aid and budget concerns, and more with the district's schools chief.



*The Teamed for Success Mentoring Program at Hempstead High School features group activities where teens can discuss their school goals and career plans with Adelphi University students.*

## Music and Art Academy Kicks Off Mentoring Program

Hempstead High School College Preparatory Academy for Music and Art students can now also spend their time after school working with Adelphi University students. Through the Teamed for Success Mentoring Program, students have the opportunity to, among other things, discuss future plans with the Adelphi volunteers including college, career and life goals. In addition, the Hempstead teens and Adelphi students collaborate during group workshops, activities and community service projects.

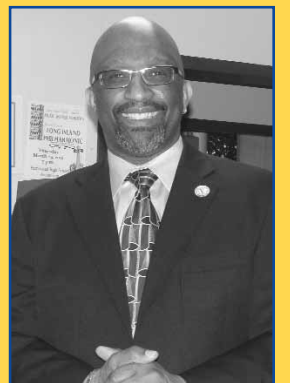


*Hempstead High School ninth-grader William Satchell-Stamps was all smiles while participating in an icebreaker exercise during one of the program's meetings.*

The program, which is coordinated by College Preparatory Academy for Music and Art guidance counselor Jessica Sabia, aims to increase students' academic achievement and college readiness as well as strengthen their self-esteem, social skills, and character. It meets bi-weekly at the high school. For more information, please contact Ms. Sabia at (516) 292-7111 ext. 2337 or jsabia@hempsteadschools.org.

## Thanks for All of Your Help

Hempstead High School Interim Principal Chy Davidson was honored as a 2011 Hempstead for Hofstra Unispan Award recipient in March for his service to the Hempstead Public Schools and Village of Hempstead community.



Davidson, who has served as an administrator in the district for 12 years, was recognized for his efforts to establish educational partnerships in the district and obtain college scholarships for district students, as well as his volunteer work as a sports coach in the village.

## Coach Torch Passed to Former Player

This spring sports season has become a special one for Hempstead High School alumna and physical education teacher Ms. Lopez. The 2004 graduate recently took the helm as coach of the school's girls' badminton team from her former coach Ms. Jones. Lopez played on the badminton team under Jones — who retired last season as the team's coach after more than three decades of leadership — during her career as a Hempstead Tiger athlete, and was one of Jones's physical education students.



*Hempstead High School's new girls' badminton team Coach Ms. Lopez, left, showed junior player Jocelyn Solis-Moreira how to improve her serve. Lopez also played for the team's former coach Ms. Jones.*

## 2011 Hempstead Tiger Spring Sports Teams

<b>Hempstead High School Teams</b>	Badminton (V) Coach Lopez
<b>Boys</b>	Track (V) Coach Raffington
Baseball (V) Coach Wisz	
Lacrosse (V) Coach Hough	<b>Alverta B. Gray Schultz Middle School Teams</b>
Tennis (V) Coach Gauthier	<b>Boys</b>
Track (V) Coach Lyons	Lacrosse Coach Cherry
<b>Girls</b>	Baseball Coach Marolli
Softball (V) Coach Vila	<b>Girls</b>
Lacrosse (V) Coach Kelly	Lacrosse Coach Graziosi
	Softball Coach Harrison

## ABGS Boys' Basketball Team Celebrates Undefeated Season

### PTSA honors Middle School's players and coaches for their perfect finish

The Alverta B. Gray Schultz Middle School PTSA hosted a Congratulations Dinner in March for the school's boys' basketball team to recognize the Tigers for remaining undefeated during the 2010-2011 season.

During the celebration, Head Coach Nicholas Wisz, Assistant Coach Steven Hodish, and the players were presented with plaques for their remarkable achievement. In addition, Village of Hempstead Mayor Wayne Hall and Village Trustee Don Ryan presented each player, Wisz and Hodish with a citation.

The district congratulates players Christopher Atkinson, David Aquí, Donnell Crosby, Jerome Cunningham, Markuis Fludd, Ishmael Goodwine, Patrick Houston, Jordan Lewis, Lex Llyod, Jonathan Mingo, Andre Morse, Krystofer Ringgold, Shaka Shomari, Malik Spleen, Otha Ward, Kevin Williams, Brandy Zavala and Brian Zavala for having such a successful season.



*The Alverta B. Gray Schultz Middle School PTSA recently hosted a Congratulations Dinner to honor the school's boys' basketball team.*

## Hempstead High Boys' Varsity Basketball Team Competes in Semi-Finals

The district also congratulates the Hempstead High School boys' varsity basketball team and Head Coach Ted Adams for advancing to the 2011 Nassau County Conference AA-I Semi-Finals this season.

## Tiger JV Hoopsters Visit Our Heroes

*The Hempstead boys' junior varsity basketball team and Head Coach Randi Harrison visited the St. Albans Community Living Center in Queens to eat ice cream, discuss sports and spend time with the veterans in the area.*





Alverta B. Gray Schultz Middle School sixth-grader Jevin Wicks learned how to play "Little Sunflower" by Freddie Hubbard during a Louis Armstrong After-School Program session with piano instructor Bevin Turnbull.

## Louis Armstrong Jazz Program Teaches Next Generation of Hempstead Musicians

Weekly after-school initiative to feature a free jazz concert on May 21 at the African-American Museum of Nassau County

Jazz music enrichment has continued to flourish this season through the Louis Armstrong After-School Music Education Program. The initiative is a part of the district's partnership with the Louis Armstrong Educational Foundation, which began last summer.

The partnership, which will continue this summer with the second Louis "Satchmo" Armstrong Summer Music Jazz Camp, is funded through the New York State Education Department's federal 21<sup>st</sup> Century Learning Centers Grant.

Through the program, Alverta B. Gray Schultz Middle School and Hempstead High School students undergo instrument training from professional musicians from New Orleans and New York City every Thursday, as well as learn about the cultural and historical significance of jazz music.

The after-school program, which runs until June 16, will feature a free Jazz Night Concert for the community on May 21 at the African-American Museum of Nassau County in Hempstead at 7 p.m. Prior to the show, students will attend an afternoon Enrichment Program that will feature jazz workshops and presentations as well as guest music speakers.

With increased student enrollment and ongoing community support, program officials contend that this music initiative is not only helping the Hempstead teens to improve their musicianship, but it is also advancing their academic and personal growth.

"In 2010, we had an enrollment of eight students, but this year there are forty registrants and twenty plus students who are seriously committed to learning about Jazz— America's cultural contribution to the world," explained Jackie Harris, the foundation's Executive Director. "This program is a character building effort created to not just educate musicians, but to also develop the whole child. Presenting world-class Jazz musicians to a community that contributed to the early development and growth of the music is truly a great honor and the Louis Armstrong Educational Foundation appreciates the opportunity to work with the Hempstead School District youth."



Students Stanford Levy, left, and Nia Sargeant, performed Coldplay's "Viva la Vida" with international violinist Mark Wood during the Electrify Your Strings Concert.

## Hempstead High Orchestra Rocks Out With International Violinist Mark Wood

Students perform alongside the Emmy-winning composer and recording artist during the Electrify Your Strings Concert

Hempstead High School's auditorium was transformed into a rock stage on April 5, during the district's Electrify Your Strings Concert featuring international recording artist and electric violinist Mark Wood. The Hempstead High School Orchestra joined Wood to perform rock hits including Steppenwolf's "Born to Be Wild" and Coldplay's "Viva la Vida," as well as several of the electric violinist's original songs.

The concert, which also featured a performance by the school's newly formed rock band Undefined, was a part of Wood's ongoing efforts to bring alternative teaching methods to music education across the United States.

The performance marked the second time Hempstead High students performed alongside well-known industry musicians. In March, the school's Concert Band also hit the stage with the Long Island Philharmonic for a joint concert. The district was one of only five school districts in the county selected to perform side-by-side with the orchestra this year as a participating partner in the organization's MusicLivz Arts-In-Education Program.



The Hempstead High School Concert Band also performed with the Long Island Philharmonic in March.

## Students Showcase Talents in All-County Art Exhibit

Students districtwide displayed their artwork and creativity in the annual Nassau All-County Art Exhibition at Adelphi University's Ruth S. Hartley University Center in Garden City.

The exhibit, which was hosted by the Art Supervisors Association, honored 1,128 kindergarten through 12th grade students — including Hempstead High School Class of 2011 valedictorian

Andra Smith — who have demonstrated excellence in drawing, painting, printmaking, computer graphics, photography and other two-dimensional visual art forms.



Hempstead High School valedictorian Andra Smith, center, was one of the art award recipients at the Nassau All-County Art Exhibition. Standing with her is Hempstead High School Interim Principal Chy Davidson, left, and her father, Lanzel Smith.

## Dates to Remember

### Budget Vote

Tuesday, May 17, 2011  
Polls open from 7 a.m. to 9 p.m.  
at the Alverta B. Gray Schultz  
Middle School

### Board of Education Meeting

#### Regular Meeting

Thursday, May 19, 2011  
Hempstead High School  
Little Theater at 7 p.m.

## Spring Concert Dates

Barack Obama School

Friday, May 27, 2011 at 1:30 p.m.

Fulton School

Thursday, June 2, 2011

Time: TBA

Jackson Annex School

Tuesday, June 7, 2011

at Jackson Main School at  
9:15 and 10:15 a.m.

Alverta B. Gray

Schultz Middle School

Thursday, June 9, 2011

at Hempstead High School at 7 p.m.



Marshall School kindergartner Malekki Wilson learned how to make a dessert from Aruba as part of the school's *The South Meets the Caribbean* black cuisine-tasting event, which was held in recognition of Black History Month.



Early Childhood Center students Emanuel Martinez, left, Moses Villeda, and Justin Beresford, right, were all smiles before hitting the stage to perform a tribute at the school's Black History Month Celebration.



To give recognition to legendary dancer, singer and actress Josephine Baker, Barack Obama School students Jeimy Maravilla, left, and Heidi Zavala Almendarez, performed Baker's famous Banana Dance during the school's African-American History Month Celebration.

## Schools Celebrate Black History Month With Poetry, Songs, Dance and Cuisine

There is without a doubt that musicians, literary artists, dancers, actors and even chefs would be proud of the district's students this year after they showcased their knowledge, understanding and appreciation of Black History Month with such distinction. Through songs, dance, poetry and more, students paid tribute to Louis Armstrong, Maya Angelou, President Barack Obama and a host of other prominent African-American figures.



Franklin School students Terrence Wilson, left, Hector Juelsella, and Kevin Ruelas, right, recited a tribute poem at their school's celebration.

## ABGS MIDDLE SCHOOL'S 2011 NATIONAL JUNIOR HONOR SOCIETY INDUCTEES



Alverta B. Gray Schultz Middle School Principal Carlos Perez, left, teacher Mrs. Lutz, and Assistant Principal Gary Rush congratulated this year's National Junior Honor Society honorees at the school's Induction Ceremony.

Victoria Ajimavo  
Amber Baez  
Tatiana Bailey  
Asly Bonilla  
Nataly Chevez-Escobar  
(President)  
Jerome Cunningham  
Kanisa Davidson  
Kerani Davidson  
Kenan Edwards  
Samson Fashakin  
Jean Fleuriscar  
David Fong-Yee  
Justin Fuentes  
Alex Garcia

Natalie Garcia  
Joselyn Gonzalez (Recording  
Secretary)  
Kayla Green  
Jayro Guerra  
Ivan Herrera  
Arabia Holden  
Aiseosa Irowa  
Fahim Islam  
Katherine Jean-Charles (Vice  
President)  
Nasheed Jeremiah  
Xzavier J. Medina  
Mario Mejia  
Michelle Moore

Clarivania Morgan  
Sade Morgan  
Steffany Acevedo-Perez  
Alana Peterson  
Catherine Polanco (Treasurer)  
Angelica Prudencio  
Frida Rivera (Corresponding  
Secretary)  
Lauren Salcedo  
Karla Santos  
Edwin Solis  
Malik Spleen  
Otha Ward  
Jorri Young

**2011-2012**  
**BUDGET VOTE REMINDER**

**Tuesday, May 17, 2011**  
Polls open from 7 a.m. to 9 p.m. at the Alverta B. Gray Schultz Middle School



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