



# TECH PARENTS NEWS

Volume 3, Issue 5

January 2010

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## “Thank You”

**Marc Williams - Assistant Principal of Student and Parent Engagement**



*I recently said to a staff member here at Brooklyn Tech, that we don't say "thank you" enough in our building. I learned how important the words "Thank you" are nearly ten years ago when a student said that was all she needed to hear after all of the hard and extra work she had done for the school. So I want to say thank you to our staff, students, and parents for a wonderful first half of the year. We worked together to bring in a record number of lunch forms. We earned the title of America's Favorite School. We advanced to the #63 spot on the list of Top 100 schools in America. And when it comes to the PTA in particular, we have increased regular attendance from 20 parents to 200 parents. "Thank you" to those who have active participants. "Thank you" to those who haven't attended but who are still being proactive in their children's education. "Thank you" to those of you who have voiced your complaints, because we need to know the issues that need to be resolved in order to improve our learning environment.*

*Speaking of Learning Environment, that will be our next challenge, and we will overcome. "Thank you" in advance. Last year, only 12% of our parents submitted the Learning Environment Survey. We must increase that number drastically in the year 2010. I'll call you when that time comes. By the way, "Thank you" for putting up with ALL those phone calls. Back to the Survey though, I'm so glad that Brooklyn Tech earned an A on the DOE Report Card, but our Learning Environment grade of D was hard to swallow. We will improve. That's the Tech way.*

*The Tech way is also excelling at various things...and I am always happy to share the great things that our students do: The Boys Basketball team has been phenomenal, including a four game winning streak. the boys jv basketball team got off to a fine start to the 2009-2010 season. The Boys Swim Team raced undefeated throughout the first few meets of the season.*

*The Brooklyn Tech Moot Court successfully defended its championship, beating Stuyvesant in the*  
*continue on next page...*

*finals two years in a row!!*

*Several students, faculty and alumni were authors of two papers on their pioneering research on solar hydrogen electric bio-mimetic energetics and wild life veterinary forensic pathology. The posters were presented at the 2009 Annual Conference of The American Association of Zoo Veterinarians held in Tulsa, OK. Tech Wrestlers Dominated at the Paul Goddard Wrestling Tournament over the weekend with their first HISTORICAL 1st place Varsity team trophy. The team beat 9 other competitive teams including Townsend Harris, Stuyvesant and Xavarian High School. The Brooklyn Tech Wrestlers also had an incredible win against Bronx Science with a score of 73-7. The Debate Team scored an unprecedented sweep in novice policy debate at the New York Urban Debate League's tournament. The cast and crew of the fall show "Picasso" put on a phenomenal performance! in the Brooklyn Tech chorus, orchestra, or band showcased the amazing musical abilities of our students in the annual Winter Concerts. STAND pledged to end genocide in the iPledge2Protect campaign. With just over 400*

*pledges they are on the way to STANDING up for the 15 million who fell to the horror of genocide. Two Tech students, Billy and Cheuk, helped the New York City Math Team to a fifth place finish competing against the top math teams in the country. Our kids are amazing. "Thank you" to our children for dedicating so much time to achieve success. "Thank you" to our staff for dedicating their time to help our children achieve success. And most importantly, "Thank you" parents because with your support, our children participate in positive and successful activities.*

*As I said, it's been a good first half of the year. As I wish you all a Happy 2010, and of course an amazing Holiday Season! I look forward to an even better second half of the school year!*



If you're interested in receiving **Mr. Williams's Daily Announcements via e-mail**, please sign-up by contacting him at [mwilliams@bths.edu](mailto:mwilliams@bths.edu) - It is loaded with vital information of your child's ongoing concerns at Tech!

## Upcoming PTA Events of Interest



- *January PTA Meeting (Thursday, 1/7 –Auditorium) – Teen health. Speakers will present on a variety of topics including financial health, internet, networking and computer “addiction”, depression, anxiety and suicide, and more*
- *Financial Aid Information Night— sponsored by PolyTech (Wednesday 1/13—Auditorium)*
- *Monday, 3/1 will be the date of the Third Annual PTA Chinese Dinner. It is one of the highlight events of the PTA's calendar.*

*This year promises to be even more exciting. Tickets will be available at the PTA meetings and through the G.O. Store.*

- *Colleges that Change Lives Info Night (Wednesday, 3/17) – there is an option to the Ivies, SUNY/CUNY systems and “hot colleges that “everyone” applies to. Give your student some real choices.*

*If you have any other ideas for future PTA events, please contact any of the PTA board members via the parents link at the school's web-site at: [www.bths.edu](http://www.bths.edu). We look forward to hearing from you!*

# New Year / New Plans

by Judith Hertzberg / PTA Co-President

*Happy New Year! I spent the last week in December reconnecting with my kids and family, in a more relaxed way, without the pressure of school. I hope that many of you were able to do so as well. Social contact with family is so important. And so is social contact with our larger school community. Hundreds of us came together as a community in December, supporting our students by attending the winter Choral and Instrumental Concerts, school play and many athletic events. For those of you who did not attend, there will be spring concerts in May, as well as a musical play – Sweeney Todd. Many clubs also hold spring programs and performance. I urge you to talk with your student and find out what programming is planned. Even though they may say that you don't need to attend, they really are happy to have the support. And you will get such joy from seeing them participate beyond the academics.*

*And our students also reach out to the larger community. For example, the BTHS Chamber Choir has*

*long been active in performing in community events, last year at the memorial for the great folk singer, Odetta, and at the BTHS 85<sup>th</sup> anniversary gala. This year they will sing at hospitals and senior residences. Many other clubs also support the larger Brooklyn and NYC community.*

*You, too, have an opportunity to participate in our larger Tech community. The PTA annual Chinese New Year's dinner is Monday, March 1. It is a purely social evening and great for the whole family. An all-you-care-to-eat buffet of fabulous Chinese food in a Sunset Park restaurant provides the backdrop for an evening free of school topics. We sit at tables for 10 or 12 and get to know one another. Tickets, at \$25 each, will be on sale in early January, available at PTA meetings and through the SGO store. Mark your calendar now, and please join us on March 1.*

*Judith Hertzberg  
PTA co-President*

新年快樂！在沒有學校課業的壓力下，上個星期我與孩子們和家人輕鬆愉快的互相溝通。也希望各位家長趁此假日機會能與家人再次交流。同樣地，與學校保持密切聯繫對您的子弟也是十分重要的。在十二月中，數百名家長參與了冬季歌唱及樂器音樂會，話劇，以及其他多項體育活動。假使您錯過了，希望您踴躍參加今年五月中的春季音樂會及 'Sweeney Todd' 歌舞劇。學校各社團也同時安排多種活動和表演。我熱切地希望您問您的子弟參加了那些節目。儘管他們可能會說您不用去，事實上會非常高興您的關心與支持。同時您也可以分享到他們課堂之外活動的成果。



我們學生的活動也擴大到社區。例如布碌侖科技高中合唱團向來在社區就非常活躍：其中包括去年的民俗聲樂家 Odetta 的追思會及布碌侖科技高中八十五週年校慶。今年他們安排了在醫院及耆老公寓再展歌喉。其他的社團也在大布碌侖區及紐約市有許多類似的社區活動。



歡迎您來參加布碌侖科技高中家長會舉辦的各項活動。其中今年的春節聚會預定在三月一日，周一的晚上舉行，由日落公園(Sunset Park)的一家餐館提供豐富中式自助餐。這個完全不討論學校問題，一桌十至十二人以便互相認識，非常適合全家參加的社交晚宴。餐券將在一月上旬發售，每張二十五元。您可在家長會會議中或學生自治會(SGO)購買。務必請您記下日期，希望在三月一日的晚上能夠見到您與家人。

Judith Hertzberg  
家長會聯席會長

# Trials of a Freshman Parent

by Carol Ying - VP PTA / Freshmen

My son was excited about the prospect of attending Brooklyn Technical School. He accepted the challenge of taking an admissions examination and did very well. He was proud and excited when he received his acceptance letter. I, on the hand, had a very different experience. My son had attended a very small neighborhood junior high school with only four classes on each grade level and less than twenty students in each class. Going from this environment to a school with 5, 000 children was nerve racking for me.



I was proud of him but very concerned about him. I worried about him traveling from one end of Brooklyn to the next in the wee hours of the morning and late evening, making friends since none of his friends from JHS were attending the school, and not having the attention that he received in his small junior high school. As a matter of fact, everything related to him adjusting to this new environment was worrisome for me.

His first few weeks were challenging. He missed his first prefect class and consequently, did not get any of the information provided during that time. He had no metrocard or ID card, which are very important items to get on the first day of school. Did I mention that he is also not an assertive child? Well, I quickly discovered that Brooklyn Tech has this wonderful website that I was able to get a ton of information from to assist him with his transition.

I took his program card and got his guidance counselor's name and was able to get in contact with her from the website. I also attended any meetings that the school offered where I was given information about who to contact for different issues. Although I didn't realize it at the time, that information proved to be most useful. Later on when there was an issue with his 504 accommodation, I knew exactly who to contact for help and got an immediate response.

At these meetings I also met other freshmen parents, and we shared our concerns. One parent told me that her daughter was failing miserably in the Medical Science Program but was comforted when the principal spoke and said that this is normal. He offered suggestions to the parents about what to do to help their children. There were all types of tutoring sessions being offered at different times in all subject areas. I also got information about the various types of diplomas that are offered at Brooklyn Technical High School and was able to have discussions with my son about what he could do to get service credits so that he can start working towards getting the top diploma. His first response was, "Please Mom, can you just give me some time to get adjusted to the schedule and the requirements of my classes first?" I thought back to my own experience trying to figure out North, South, East and West in the building and decided to give him a week before I revisited the conversation of service credits and top diplomas.

So what do I know now?

1. My son and high achieving high schoolers in general don't talk much to their parents about what's going on in school.
2. Brooklyn Tech has solved that problem by creating a comprehensive website and having a team of staff members that make sure that the parents have all of the information that we need to support our children at home.
3. Although my son is becoming more assertive and learning how to handle his business without much input from me, he still needs me to ask him how things are going because he never needed to ask for help.
4. Even though he acts like my husband and I are annoying because we care about him doing well, he loves that we are interested in his achievement and his future.

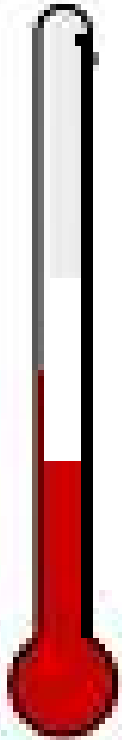
# Treasurer's Report

Barry Ritter

PTA  
Fundmometer

Goal:

**\$125,000**



Current  
Contributions:

**\$38,500**

*As I write this, we are just days away from the new year. I am pleased to report that so far this year 239 families have made contributions to the PTA, totaling almost \$38,500. We are approaching the mid-year of the school and are lagging in terms of having each family participate. Our **GOAL** is 100% participation. We have also received a number of employer matching grants; nearly \$2,000 in total.*

*We have two convenient means of making a donation, we accept checks and money orders in any amount (payable to the "PTA of Brooklyn Technical High School"), and if you have access to a computer and a credit card, you can go onto the Tech website and make a secure donation through PayPal. As a 501(c)(3) organization your donation is fully deductible as prescribed by law.*

*Please send me an email through the website if you have any questions.*

*Barry Ritter, Treasurer*



The PTA would like to thank the following families for contributing to this year's annual drive since our last report:

M. Alacha, J. Alvarez, E. Atuanya, J. Aziz, C. Barile, Y. Boyko, A. Brea, X. Cao, C. Cardieri, S. Chappell, B. Chen, M. Chen, Sandy Cheung, Stephen Cheung, F. Chin, M. Chin, M. Corcoram, S. Danau, L. Dang, I. Deonarie, S. Din, E. Doroger, E. Flicker, M. Flores, P. Harvey, J. Horowitz, S. Jeong, K. Johnson, K. Jung, K. Kang, W. Khan, D. Lall, A. Landau, S. Lee, V. Loong, J. Luna, K. Malik, F. Mei, N. Messam, A. Mirichnik, K. Modeste, R. Mohamed, S. Mohr, M. Muftic, W. Naranjo, A. Nemetz, J. Ng, M. Ng, S. Nyzio, S. Olds, L. Pang, N. Pazycheva, F. Pyatetskaya, V. Salazar, K. Seidenwurm, E. Shaban, M. Shah, R. Singh, K. Tang, S. Tang, L. Thompson, C. Tilakos, M. Tran, A. Vaitoonkiat, M. Vigilance, Y. Villena, C. Walker, M. Wong, S. Wong, Y. Wong, Y. Xie, Y. Zheng, and R. Zhu.

The PTA would also like to thank the following companies for receipt of their matching grants:

ING Re



## Parents Asked, Tech Answered

Roweena Singh - Columnist

**Parent:** *Recently the board of education published the 2008-2009 progress report cards?. BTHS was given an overall grade of A with an environment grade of D. What does these grade means and what effect they will have on BTHS?*

**Mr. Williams:** Getting an A grade is excellent. That means that according to City and State standards, we are providing a proficient learning experience for our school community. However, we barely reached the A grade, so we have some improvement to make, mostly with the internal perception of our school. On the Learning Environment Survey, the response rate was low and many of those responded, did not respond favorably. We are working on fixing our in-house perception.

**Parent:** *Is the Daedulus system available? If so, how can parents get access to the system to view their child's report card?*

**Mr. Williams:** Daedulus is now available to all Brooklyn Tech parents with a password. A notice with login instructions was sent home in early December. A copy of the letter can be made available upon request to Assistant Principal Alan Palmer, [apalmer@bths.edu](mailto:apalmer@bths.edu).

**Parent:** *How can a parent get a password to get access the NYC Department of Education ARIS Parent Link?*

**Mr. Williams:** Go to <http://schools.nyc.gov> for details about how to register for ARIS.

**Parent:** *Does BTHS mandate that all teachers use Moodle to post their class assignments or homework? If so, how does BTHS enforce this mandate?*

**Mr. Williams:** Brooklyn Tech encourages the entire teaching staff to use some form of electronic tool to post class assignments and/or homework, but it is not a mandate for the teaching staff.

**Parent:** *Is there any outreach directly to parents when a student is performing below expectation at Brooklyn Tech?*

**Ms. Epstein:** Parents are expected to call their child's guidance counselor when they received their child's first report card. Many times parents are surprised to learn of their child's failures since their child does not take home his/her report card. When a child received an unsatisfactory grade, it may be due to low grades on exams, cutting class, not doing homework, or coming to school late. Parents should visit their child's teacher during open school to find out why their child is failing. Parents may also write the teacher by e-mail or make an appointment to speak with them. Parent should supervise the time their child does homework. Does the child work too many hours per week? Is your child responsible for other children in the family, preventing him or her from doing his homework at a decent hour. Does the child have a quiet place to do his homework? Many times family problems impact greatly on the child's grades. I knew of a case where a family had so many people sleeping in the house, the child did not have his own room, and the house was too noisy for him to do his homework or get a good night's sleep. Many times parents are very critical of their child, and the child is reticent about opening up to the parent. Allow for communication with your children.

The PTA is committed to assist all parents by simplifying their Brooklyn Tech experience and providing need-to-know information. If you have questions or comments, please submit them to: [pta.asktech@gmail.com](mailto:pta.asktech@gmail.com) and the PTA will make sure that they are answered and make available to all parents through this column.

Thanks to the faculty contributors for taking the time to answer the parents' questions:

Mr. David Belmont, English Teacher  
 Mrs. Harriet Epstein, Guidance Counselor  
 Mr. Giancarlo Malchiodi, College Advisor /Teacher of English  
 Mr. Marc Williams, Assistant Principal of Student and Parent Engagement

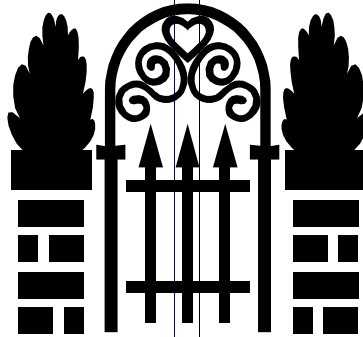
## A Parent's Perspective

### *That Championship Season (Almost...)*

*This past semester I had the privilege of being the team parent photographer for the Tech football team. It was a terrific 10 game season. I got to work up close with 43 varsity players, including 22 seniors, and an excellent group of volunteer coaches and support staff all working with the new Head Coach, Kyle McKenna.*

*This season, like those before it, started in mid-August, weeks before school officially opened. The PSAL has strict requirements regarding how much time a player must prepare before donning a uniform and pads to step onto the field of play. During the heat of mid-August, the team spent a week at the Tech field in Brooklyn, then a few days at a camp in Pennsylvania; for some, their only time out of City. All team parents are allowed to come and observe, so I drove up and spent a day with the team. The camp isn't about fun; it's about preparing for the upcoming gridiron season. Back in the City, while most students were making the most of their last days of summer, these student athletes were preparing for their first game, the Saturday before classes began.*

*An opening win against Midwood; a second win against Bayside. Though the team is playing well, the weeks ahead are tough. Week three, a loss against Fort Hamilton (ranked #1 in the City); a homecoming win against Lehman; then a second loss against Erasmus (ranked #2 in the City). Tech is the only team to have faced them both. With subsequent wins against Canarsie and Madison, the team is guaranteed a winning season. Week eight: a loss to Sheepshead Bay.*



*The regular season ends with a strong win against Boys & Girls. Nine weeks: an impressive 6-3 record. Last year the team went 3-6. Ranked 8<sup>th</sup> overall in the City, Tech gets home field advantage and to play ninth-ranked Lincoln in the opening round of the City Championship. In a physical game, the team goes down in defeat; the season is over.*

*But more than that, for many of the 22 seniors it is an end to their careers as student athletes. While some may go on to play college ball, for many, high school athletics was the impetus they needed to learn about time management, mental and physical conditioning, team work, dedication and friendship. As the team photographer, I spent time with these players: on the field, pacing the sidelines in the heat, the cold, the rain, and in the locker room; seeing and capturing on film the raw emotions of victory and defeat. They took all that Tech has to offer. These seniors are prepared for their futures.*

*While most of you will never have the opportunity that I was afforded this past season, you can come to any of the many football, basketball, baseball, wrestling, soccer, tennis, fencing, swimming events... there are endless opportunities to see our Tech student athletes – your children – perform. I encourage to come out and be part of the excitement. Oh, and afterwards, at the team's Annual Scholarship Dinner in January, I'll be selling diskettes of my photos as a fundraiser for the football team.*

*Drop me a line at [bthsparent@gmail.com](mailto:bthsparent@gmail.com) and let me know what you think.*



## ADVERTISEMENT

## *Consider placing an ad in the Newsletter!*

**Per Issue Rates:**

<b>1/8 page - business card size</b>	<b>\$25</b>
<b>1/4 page</b>	<b>\$50</b>
<b>1/2 page</b>	<b>\$100</b>
<b>Full page</b>	<b>\$200</b>

**Contact: Mike Tang 917-687-4803 / e-mail: [stratm3@yahoo.com](mailto:stratm3@yahoo.com)**

**CLASSIFIED ADS**

Tech parents, faculty and administration members may submit classified ads at free of charge to [stratm3@yahoo.com](mailto:stratm3@yahoo.com)

## *Join the PTA for an Evening of Fun!*

*Chinese New Year Dinner  
Monday, March 1st - 6:00 PM  
Buffet Dinner, Soda & Dessert*

*\$25 per person  
Tickets will available at the PTA  
meetings and the G.O. Store  
Contact: Beth DeAngelis  
E-mail: [elizawd@aol.com](mailto:elizawd@aol.com)*



*Golden Bay Seafood Restaurant  
6409 8th Avenue  
Brooklyn, NY*

*Take N Train to 8th Ave / 62 St. Walk two blocks to 64 St.*

## BROOKLYN TECH PARENTS ASSOCIATION

Co-Presidents: - Enid Febus / Judith Hertzberg  
Principal - Randy Asher  
A.P. of Student and Parent Engagement - Marc Williams  
Parent Coordinator - S. Mei Chan  
Newsletter Editor - Mike Tang

Senior VP - Stephen Gales / Junior VP - Li Pan  
Sophomore VP - Jean-Louis Motolo / Freshman VP - Carol Ying  
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Assistant Recording Secretary - Carrie Ho  
Corresponding Secretary - Jason Horowitz  
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SLT Mike Tang / SLT Liz Moreno  
SLT David Gold

Committee Chairs  
College Process - Carrie Ho / Jean-Louis Motolo  
Teacher Grants - Elizabeth DeAngelis  
Fundraising - Randy Gresl  
Communications - Mike Tang  
Teacher Appreciation Dinner - Stephen Gales  
Chinese New Year Dinner - Elizabeth DeAngelis / Li Pan

## January Calendar

### January 5-8, 2010

- 3:00 PM - 5:00 PM: Spring Musical Auditions

### January 7, 2010

- 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM: PTA Meeting (Auditorium)

### January 11, 2010

- Common Time

### January 13, 2010

- Prefect
- 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM: Financial Aid Info Night  
Sponsored by PolyTech (Auditorium)

### January 15, 2010

- 4:00 PM - 7:00 PM: S.A.D.D. Dance

### January 18, 2010

- Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day - School Closed

### January 20-22, 2010

- Final Exams

### January 25, 2010

- End of 3rd Marking Period
- Faculty Meeting

### January 26-29, 2010

- Regents Exams

### January 27, 2010

- Grades Due
- Prefect

### January 29-31, 2010

- Senior Winter Trip

### February 1, 2010

- CSI Forensics Challenge
- Fall Term Ends
- No School - Professional Development

### February 2, 2010

- Spring Term Begins

### February 3, 2010

- Prefect
- Report Card Distributed
- 6:00 PM - 9:00 PM: College Process Information  
night (Auditorium)

### February 4, 2010

- 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM: PTA Meeting (Auditorium)

# The Nation's Best SAT Preparation is on Campus!

\$475\*

## Brooklyn Technical HS

*\*Price reflects a significant discount on our full-course tuition.*

<u>Course</u>	<u>Test Date</u>	<u>Course Start</u>	<u>Course Days</u>
0039-26	March SAT	January 21	Mon/Thu 3:30pm
0059-87	May SAT	January 30	Saturdays 9am
0059-88	May SAT	February 27	Tues 3:30pm (tests Sat 9am)

### The Princeton Review's SAT prep course at Brooklyn Tech offers:

#### Small Classes

We know that students learn better in small classes. For that reason we guarantee that there will never be more than 20 students in your class.

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You receive 21 hours of live instruction, 4 full-length proctored practice tests with detailed score reports, free Extra Help, The Princeton Review SAT course manual, 11 Practice Tests for the SAT and access to our 24-hour Online Student Center for even more practice.

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