



TECH PARENTS NEWS

Volume 3, Issue 7

March 2010

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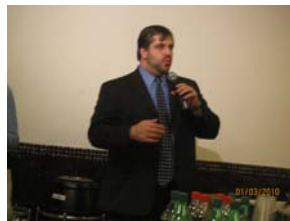
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PTA's Third Annual Chinese New Year Dinner A Roaring Success!



*The PTA held its third annual Chinese New Year Dinner on March 1st, at the Bamboo Garden Restaurant in Sunset Park Chinatown. The Tech Family gathered to celebrate the Year of the Tiger. Friends, old and new attended, one hundred strong for a delightful evening of good food and good company. The highlight of the evening was the raffle drawing of great gifts donated from the following list of generous individuals and companies:
Kaplan Test Prep, Princeton Review, Revolution Prep, NYC Ballet, Chelsea Piers, Pilos Arts Day*

Spa and Salon, The Wine Country, Gail Hines, Elizabeth Ritter, The Morano Family, Veronica Carrero, Linda Soled, Mary Ann Gales, Mary Powel-Thomas, Li Pan, La Peau Spa, Audrey Mazur, Enid Febus, Theresa Lau, Diana Tai, Polly Ng, Del Sunny Ltd., Mr. Pau, Charles King Chan M.D. Thank you all for your gracious donations!

A special thank you also goes out to Chairperson Beth DeAngelis for making the evening such a roaring success!

Mike Tang - Editor





For Your School, Use Your Voice!

Marc Williams - A.P. of Student and Parent Engagement

On February 22, 2010, Brooklyn Tech opened our doors to parents and students who were accepted to our school. It was our final opportunity to persuade them to choose Tech. What I found to be very pleasing is that many of our visitors had already decided that they would join our Tech family as the incoming freshmen and incoming parents of the Class of 2014! It's very rewarding to know that we have become an automatic choice for many parents and students. I think it's a testament to the efforts that we have made in the last few years to return Brooklyn to a level of prominence that not only earned us the title of America's Favorite School, but that also saw us rise up the rankings of the top 100 schools in the nation. But dare I say, that there is still room for improvement. I guess that's the impetus behind things like the Learning Environment Survey. Many of us are very happy with our school. Some of us are displeased by some things at our school. And the Learning Environment Survey is the tool we need to identify what we do well and what we need to improve upon in order to continue to attract parents and students who will automatically choose Tech. And it's a tool to help us work on things that will please the current crop of students, teachers, and parents.

The Learning Environment Survey consists of four areas of evaluation:

Academic Expectations: How well does Brooklyn Tech develop rigorous and meaningful academic goals to encourage our students to do their best?

Communication: How well does Brooklyn Tech provide information about the school's educational goals and how well does Brooklyn Tech offer appropriate feedback on each student's learning outcomes?

Engagement: How well does Brooklyn Tech engage all parents, teachers, and students in an

active and vibrant partnership to promote school learning?

Safety and Respect: How well does Brooklyn Tech ensure that all members of the school community feel physically and emotionally secure, allowing everyone to focus on student learning?

If you completed a Survey last year, think about how you evaluated our school. If you didn't complete last year's Survey, but you were a part of the Tech community last year, then I urge you to think about how you would have evaluated us last year. Now, I would like for all of us to think about the changes that we've seen and experienced here at Tech in the last year. How will you evaluate us this year in each area?

Here's a few things to consider:

Academic Expectations: We instituted periodic assessments in English and the Sciences to help assess student performance and to create data that teachers can use to enhance our strategies to help student students learn. In Chemistry, the department created a parallel curriculum so that all students, regardless of the teacher, will learn the same material at the same time. In Physics, the department has developed unified periodic assessment and department final exams. More teachers are demanding that students attend tutoring sessions.

Communication: We started using a new phone system, as you all know, and now I call you ALL THE TIME! We're sending emails periodically and signing up more parents for the Morning Announcements. The most significant change has been the use of Daedulus that helps the school provide important data about their children, including grades, attendance, and guidance

Engagement: Teachers are incorporating more smartboards and digital technology into their lessons. More teachers are using Moodle and UTexas to upload assignments, worksheets, and presentations. Students can use this technology to participate in discussion boards.

Safety and Respect: The Physical Education Department started locking the locker rooms so that students don't have to be concerned about their property while in class. There are more deans at after school events.

The Learning Environment Survey helps Brooklyn Tech identify changes that we can make to improve student life. This year's Survey will be mailed home to all parents in your designated home language.

You will have until April 23rd to complete and submit the survey./ You can even complete the Survey on-line.

I implore you to be cognizant of the environment we try to create for our Tech children. I implore you to recognize what we do well and how well we do it. And I implore you to help identify the changes we need to make.

As the campaign poster said in the past, "It's Your Chance to Change Your School." So as this year's campaign poster implies, "For Your School, Use Your Voice."

And I look forward to what you have to say.



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

From the College Office - Upcoming Special Events



SPECIAL EVENTS TO HELP STUDENTS LEARN MORE ABOUT COLLEGE

(subject to change, see postings on BTHS.edu and to Naviance-registered e-mail addresses for updates)

March 11, 3:00PM, Room 2C3 – Panel Discussion on Technology/Engineering Schools

Invited are: Florida Institute of Technology, Polytechnic Institute of NYU, Rochester Institute of Technology, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, the U.S. Naval Academy, and Worcester Polytechnic Institute.

March 17, 6:00PM, Auditorium – “How to Select the Right College for You” Workshop

With Guest Speaker Marty O'Connell from the Colleges that Change Lives consortium of schools

March 18, 3:00PM, 2C3 – Panel Discussion on Liberal Arts Colleges

Invited are: Colgate, Juniata, Swarthmore, Trinity, and Vassar

April 15, 3:00PM, 2C3 – Panel Discussion on Public Universities

Invited are: CUNY-Macaulay Honors, U. Conn., U. Maryland, Penn State, Rutgers, and SUNY

April 29, 3:00PM, 2C3 – Panel Discussion on Women's Colleges

Invited are: Barnard, Bryn Mawr, Mount Holyoke, Wellesley, and Smith

May 1, 1:00PM, 7th Fl. Cafeteria – BTHS COLLEGE FAIR immediately AFTER the SAT

Students are URGED to sit for the May SAT at Brooklyn Technical High School.

May 6, 3:00PM, 2C3 – Panel Discussion on Research Universities-1

Invited are: SUNY Binghamton, Brandeis, Brown, Lehigh, Tufts, and the University of Texas at Austin.

May 13, 3:00PM, 2C3 – Panel Discussion on Research Universities-2

Invited are: SUNY University at Buffalo, Dartmouth, Fordham, Johns Hopkins, and Villanova.

May 20, 3:00PM, 2C3–Panel Discussion / INFO Sessions with BTHS Alumni on “The College Experience”

Recent alumni return to BTHS to share their college observations with current students. Hear about their college application experiences and their transition to college!



Parents Asked, Tech Answered

Roweena Singh - Columnist

Parent: What guidance could you give to those parents who do not know what's the first thing that they should do in helping their children choosing the right college?

Mr. Malchiodi: Speak with your child and allow them to frankly answer the questions: What are you interested in studying in college? Or, what are you **NOT** interested in studying in college? While not every child will have a solid answer at age fifteen or sixteen—and this is okay, by the way—it can at least establish a set of possibilities in terms of what the child may choose later.

Many parents have a pre-made list of the colleges they wish their children would apply to and attend. While such a "wish list" can sometimes be a useful motivational tool to inspire student achievement, these lists **MUST** be balanced with a "reality list"

of where the student has the actual best chances of gaining admission; otherwise, both the parent and student may face great disappointment. Research college admissions statistics and compare the child's performance (cumulative GPA and standardized tests scores) to those of students who were recently admitted to those schools. Statistics and the College Search feature on CollegeBoard.com (<http://apps.CollegeBoard.com/search/index.jsp>), as well as BTHS-only admission results viewable through the student's account on Naviance, can help develop well balanced lists that represent a full range of quality options. Every school a student applies to should be a school he or she would attend, regardless of the level of competition to get into the school.

Students should also be encouraged to attend our various panel presentations and other special events being offered this spring (**schedule can be found on page 3 in this issue**). List of scheduled activities, subject to change, appears below and updated notices will be sent to Naviance-registered e-mail ac-

counts:

Parent: my son is a junior, his locker was broken into twice, and all of his things were stolen. I wonder what kind of actions the school is taking to take care of this problem?

Mr. Williams: It's unfortunate when this happens. Nevertheless, we ask that all students file an Incident Report so that the Deans' staff can return the stolen items if those items are found. The staff has also been encouraged to never leave a room unsupervised, so that no one can walk into a room, break into a locker and leave with stolen property.

We would like to remind everyone as well, that we do have surveillance cameras. While those cameras are not in the classrooms, they are used to observe behavior in the hallway. Therefore, if necessary, we can review the tapes and investigate complaints about locker theft.

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 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





Summer on the Horizon

Judith Hertzberg - PTA Co-President

As I sit here at the beginning of the new semester, looking at the snow falling, summer seems very far away. Yet, from experience I know that the next few months will pass very quickly. So I am encouraging my daughter to start making her summer plans now. My child has decided that she wants to work this summer and make money. Given the economy, she is going to have to be creative in generating work. She loves animals and hopes to study animal behavior in college, so she is exploring ways to marry her passion with her desire to earn money – perhaps an entrepreneurial dog walking business.

Things for her to think about

- *Importance of earning \$*
- *Importance of academic opportunities*
- *Importance of having fun*
- *Stay home or go away for experience of independent living.*
- *If work and under 18, must have working papers*

This will be an interesting summer indeed!



這個新學期開始的時候，正是雪花紛飛，總不會去想一個遙遠的夏天吧！

但憑我的經驗，隨後的幾個月，時間將會如風飛逝。所以我鼓勵我的女兒，儘早籌備她的暑期計劃。然而，她打算做暑期工去賺一點零用錢。但是，現今的經濟景況，她需要額外的想像力和創造力，才会有商機。她熱愛小動物，並且希望在大學裏，選修動物行為學科。所以她正在努力地，尋找一份可以滿足自己興趣的工作…或是大企業裏的業務，或是動物美容服務。

當你安排你們子女暑期活動的時候，希望各位家長注意以下事宜：

- 1) 一定要做暑期工賺錢嗎？及甚麼去運用賺來的工錢？
 - 祇是用作暑期的消費？
 - 或是用作下學年之使費？
 - 又或是用作大學基金？
- 2) 一定要享受一個無拘無束的悠長假期，徹底放下求學的包袱嗎？
- 3) 留子女在家中？或是讓子女外出，鍛鍊獨立自主的生活嗎？

假如…你已決定讓你們未滿 18 歲的子女，在即將來臨的暑假當暑期工。即使他們會在這年六月畢業，仍然須要經由 Parent Coordinator Office 申請 BTHS 簽發的工作證明文件。

除了暑期工之外，也有很多選擇的。例如…義工、實習生、暑期進修班、CUNY 的 City community colleges 及其它大學和學院舉辦的課程。請參閱 www.BTHS.edu 學校網站裏的學生指引 (under GUIDANCE and FOR STUDENTS tabs)。紐約公園部 (The NYC Parks Department) 及公眾圖書館 (The Public Libraries) 都有各自的資源、招聘和暑期活動。現在正是時候，從眾多活動中，為自己選擇及打造一個多姿多采的、有意義的、繽紛夏日了。



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*Consider placing an ad in the Newsletter!***Per Issue Rates:**

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

Contact: Mike Tang 917-687-4803 / e-mail: stratm3@yahoo.com



PRACTICE MAKES PERFECT

Attention **sophomores and juniors!** Join your peers across the country to see how you would score on the SAT on **MARCH 20TH**. Take a free full-length practice test under actual testing conditions and get comfortable with the exam's format.

WHEN: Saturday, March 20th
TIME: 11am-3pm (time subject to slight change)
WHERE: Brooklyn Tech High School
COST: FREE!

SCORES: You can choose to attend a free 'Scores Back' session and learn more about the test, or you can simply receive your 5-page score report in the mail. It's up to you!

To Register, Call **718-375-5591**
 or 1-800-2REVIEW

SPACE IS LIMITED. RESERVE YOUR SEAT TODAY!

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TEST PREP AND ADMISSIONS

Attention Brooklyn Tech High School Students:
 The Kaplan SAT Complete Prep course preparing for the June 2010 exam will begin soon! You can enroll for the price of \$499 by calling 1-800-KAP-TEST or 718-336-5300. You can also try our new College Prep Advantage Course for \$999 and get unlimited prep from your time of enrollment until you graduate senior year!

**Class Schedule
 SABY10031**

Sa 03/20/2010	10:00 am-2:30 pm	Test 1 - Diagnostic
W 03/24/2010	3:30 pm-6:00 pm	Lesson 2
W 04/07/2010	3:30 pm-6:00 pm	Lesson 3
W 04/14/2010	3:30 pm-6:00 pm	Lesson 4
Sa 04/17/2010	10:00 am-2:00 pm	Test 2
W 04/21/2010	3:30 pm-6:00 pm	Lesson 6
W 04/28/2010	3:30 pm-6:00 pm	Lesson 7
Sa 05/08/2010	10:00 am-2:00 pm	Test 3
W 05/12/2010	3:30 pm-6:00 pm	Lesson 9
W 05/19/2010	3:30 pm-6:00 pm	Lesson 10
Sa 05/22/2010	10:00 am-2:00 pm	Test 4
W 05/26/2010	3:30 pm-6:00 pm	Lesson 12

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SLT Mike Tang / SLT Liz Moreno
SLT David Gold

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Teacher Grants - Elizabeth DeAngelis
Fundraising - Randy Gresl
Communications - Mike Tang
Teacher Appreciation Dinner - Stephen Gales
Chinese New Year Dinner - Elizabeth DeAngelis / Li Pan

March Calendar

March 3, 2010

- **5:30 PM - 7:00 PM:** Gateway Information Night

March 4, 2010

- Black History Show
- The Challenge - Round 2
- **7:00 PM - 9:00 PM:** PTA Meeting

March 5, 2010

- Senior Pride Fridays

March 8, 2010

- Common Time

March 9, 2010

- **9:00 AM - 3:00 PM:** PTLW Conference

March 10, 2010

- Prefect
- **6:00 PM - 8:30 PM:** Major Selection Conferences

March 11, 2010

- **3:00 PM - 5:00 PM:** Major Selection Conferences

March 12, 2010

- Senior Pride Fridays
- **4:00 PM - 8:00 PM:** Blast From the Past Dance

March 13, 2010

- SAT

March 15, 2010

- End of 4th Marking Period

March 16, 2010

- **1:00 PM - 6:00 PM:** BLOOD DRIVE

March 17, 2010

- Colleges that Change Lives Info Night

March 19, 2010

- Culture Day
- Grades Due

March 22, 2010

- Faculty Meeting

March 24, 2010

- Prefect
- Report Card Distributed

March 25, 2010

- Parent Teacher Conferences
- **5:00 PM - 6:00 PM:** College Process Information night

March 26, 2010

- Parent Teacher Conferences

March 26 – April 1, 2010

- School Senior Trip - Florida

March 29 – April 6, 2010

- Spring Recess - School Closed

April 8, 2010

- **7:00 PM - 9:00 PM:** PTA Meeting