



# TECH PARENTS NEWS

Volume 3, Issue 9

May 2010

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## From the Desk of Mr. Williams

Marc Williams - Assistant Principal of Student and Parent Engagement



*So I was thinking about what I should address this month, and I couldn't come up with any one item. So here are just a few thoughts and points to ponder as parents and guardians in the lives of our Brooklyn Tech children:*

- A few weeks ago, we invited *FACES: The Mamonides Theater Network* to Brooklyn Tech. They performed for our students several scenes that gave a voice to the thoughts and feelings that our children are sometimes unable or unwilling to express. These are the toughest years for our children because they are dealing with some much stress academically, socially, and emotionally. Yes, they will deal with more stress as they get older, but during these developmental years, we can do so much for them by teaching them to learn how to deal with these issues and problems as they are being introduced to these issues and problems. That's why I invited the *FACES* group to the MAY PTA meeting, because we need to hear the voice that expresses the thoughts and feelings that our children are unable or unwilling to express, for whatever reason. This is a chance to open up that line of communication which is a line that I believe we all want our children to use.
- I was in the Deans' Office the other day talking about dress codes. There are concerns as the weather gets warmer that inappropriate attire becomes the preferred style of dress among our children. And often they are desensitized to how inappropriate some clothing styles may be for

a school. And be aware parents that some of our children leave home dressed one way but change upon entering the school building. I even heard about students who dress in cultural or religious garments before leaving home only two change their attire after a trip to the student bathroom. So I appeal to you to have that talk about how to dress appropriately for school. There is an official dress code for Brooklyn Tech. It is outline in the student planner and on the school website.

- Thank you to everyone who completed the Learning Environment Survey. The final response rate percentages will not be available until late May, but I do know that our parent response rate is higher this year than it has ever been since the inception of the survey. So parents, give yourselves a round of applause.

- Before you make those summer vacation plans, put this on your calendar: Friday, June 25th is a full day of school and Monday, June 28th is the last day of school during which students will pick up their report cards and, for those seniors, their diplomas.

Finally, I'm drafting a Parent Handbook. And I welcome any input on the type of information that should be available in the Parent Handbook. You can forward your suggestions to [mwilliams@bths.edu](mailto:mwilliams@bths.edu) In a nutshell, those are the thoughts of your Assistant Principal of Student and Parent Engagement. I hope you enjoy May's PTA meeting. And I look forward to the PTA Election Process in June. Good luck to those who are running!

# Q&A

## Parents Asked, Tech Answered

Roweena Singh - Columnist

**Parent, Delma Rochester:** Does BTHS offer beginners classes for students wanting to try out for the various sports team supported by Brooklyn Tech: swimming, basketball, hockey, volleyball, etc.? In my humble opinion lots of inner-city kids do not have access to these sports prior to attending high school, as most elementary schools do not offer physical education classes, and many families cannot afford private tutoring for swimming lessons, basketball camps, etc. A student wishing to try out for swimming would be at a loss to compete with the kids that parents could afford private tutoring for some of these physical activities. In the end, these kids do not even stand a chance of getting on the team because of lack of experience, or no experience whatsoever, far less getting a little experience heading before heading off to college?

**Ms. Epstein:** We offer many clubs and teams at Brooklyn Tech. Our school has Junior Varsity for boys and girls basketball, and boy's football. We also have a gymnastics club, bowling, and wrestling team as well as a soccer club. Clubs and Junior Varsity teams are for the students who are beginners to a sport. Those students who join Varsity sports are putting themselves in the limelight for possible scholarships to wonderful universities and colleges. Many of these students, who are talented athletes, would not otherwise be able to afford to attend these fabulous schools. As the excellent high school that we are at Tech, we pride ourselves on the fact that we offer all of these varsity sports to give our students the chance of going to excellent colleges.

**Parent, G Gomez:** My son is a sophomore; I would like advice/opinion of all the prep services for the SATs.

**Mr. Malchiodi:** The decision whether or not to enroll a student in a test prep program, and which one is best, is a personal one. At the end of the day, the goals of all the programs are to increase a student's score. How they do it, what they emphasize, and what kind of sup-

port is provided to the student outside of the classroom instruction are important factors that any household should consider. I do believe, however, that there is little need to enroll a sophomore into a test prep program. If a family decides to enroll a student, doing so between the pre-junior summer and January of junior year should be sufficient.

**Parent, Jael Lee:** My son is currently a sophomore student; I haven't seen him attend any volunteer work in school, when I ask him he always said that he has to finish the club work first. I DON'T UNDERSTAND THIS. Can you please give me more information? When he reach 16 years, can he attend any community volunteer work near our area (NOT IN SCHOOL)? Does it count?

**Mr. Williams:** When it comes to volunteer work, many students do their own outreach to find places where they can volunteer and accumulate their required 50 hours of community service. In the Office of Student Activities, we do have information about volunteer opportunities. All community service projects should be done outside of the school.

The PTA is committed to assist all parents by simplifying their Brooklyn Tech experience and providing need-to-know information. Thanks to all of the parents who have submitted questions for the panel.

Submit your questions to [pta.asktech@gmail.com](mailto:pta.asktech@gmail.com) and the PTA will publish the answers in this Q&A Column.

Thanks to the faculty members for their answers to the parents' questions and support of this column:  
Mr. David Belmont, English Teacher  
Mrs. Harriet Epstein, Guidance Counselor  
Mr. Giancarlo Malchiodi, College Advisor / English Teacher  
Mr. Marc Williams, Assistant Principal of Student and Parent Engagement

## Upcoming Events of Interest from The College Office



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

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

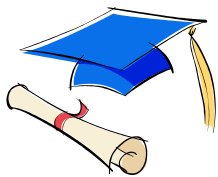
Invited are: SUNY Binghamton, Brandeis, Brown, Lehigh, Tufts, and the University of Texas at Austin.

### 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



# Senior Parent Exhales!

Judith Hertzberg - PTA Co-President

*Two months till graduation! The college decision has been made and the last AP tests will be taken next week. We're going prom dress shopping and looking forward to all the special senior events. It seems like just yesterday my daughter was starting at Tech. We attended the admitted students open house at her college of choice, and now the transition begins – for both of us.*

*As your outgoing co-President, SLT chair and former Treasurer, I thank you for all the support you've given me during my years of service to Tech. I have learned much from my experience on the Executive Committee. I am proud of all the programming the PTA has supported – all the college office work and presentations, and support of teachers through grants. Most of all I am proud of the translation support that has been put in place – translation of PTA notices, this news article, translators at PTA meetings and programs. We are one PTA with many voices, and now more of our voices can be heard more easily.*

*I wish you all the best for a successful end to the school year, and a happy and healthy summer.*

Judith Hertzberg  
Co- President

還有二個月, 女兒就畢業了! 下星期就是最後的大學先修課 (AP) 考試, 而大學已經放榜! 我們正準備為女兒購買舞會禮服, 當然更期待的是為應屆十二年級安排節目。回想女兒開始就讀Brooklyn Technical High School之到現在, 彷彿是昨天發生的事情。我們已經選擇好被錄取的大学, 並且我與女兒開始進入這個過渡期。

我曾在學校家長會擔任過財務長, 學校領導小組 (SLT) 主席 和現任的家長會聯合主席, 在此我多謝您們多年來給我的支持! 從行政委員會 (Executive Committee) 的經驗中, 我實在獲益良多。我對所有家長會曾舉辦的項目, 感到非常滿意及自豪。當下包括了大學部的學生和家長的演講和對老師支持 (Teacher Grants)。而最令我感到驕傲的是我們的翻譯服務, 例如PTA通告, 本篇文章, 家長會 (PTA) 會議和節目等等。是我們是來自不同語言的家長會, 現在可以更容易聽到不同的聲音了。

我祝願您們有一個最好的成功學期和和一個開心健康的暑假。

Judith Hertzberg  
家長會聯合主席



# To Our Senior Parents



**Dear Senior Parents:**

***This is a special time in your child and your lives. You both are closing a chapter and about to open a new one. You BTHS Executive Committee congratulates you both. This is a great time to reflect and recognize what you have accomplished and how BTHS has partnered with you in that accomplishment. This is also a great time to honor that partnership with a gift to the PTA so we can continue meeting our goals of supporting the teachers who helped your child, the clubs and teams that fostered your child's non-academic skills, and your children themselves through our senior scholarship awards.***

***Please go to the "For Parents" tab of school website ( [www.bths.edu](http://www.bths.edu) ), where you can use PayPal and charge the donation to a convenient credit card. Since the PTA is a 501(c)(3) non-profit, your contributions are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law. Many employers, possibly yours, will match their employees' donations. Please check with your Human Resources department for eligibility and matching gift forms (see website for more details).***

***It is not too late. Please give, and give generously.***

***Thank you from the senior parents on your Executive Committee:***

***Judith Hertzberg, Co-President  
Stephen Gales, Senior Class Vice-President  
Theresa Law, SLT member***

亲爱的應屆十二年級家長：

這是您孩子和您的生活中一个特別時刻。你們倆即將結束一個介段而走向新的介段。布碌倫高中全体执行委员会恭喜您。此刻是回憶以往成績的好时候，並請記得布碌倫高中是您孩子邁向成功的好夥伴。這一刻也是向合作無間的家長會捐助的时候，讓我們通過募款得以持續實現和支持給予十二年級學生獎學金、各個俱樂部、和各種球隊等等，未促進您孩子學術以外的技能，幫助您孩子達到老師要求的教育目標。

請瀏覽學校網站 ([www.bths.edu](http://www.bths.edu)) 之「為家長」選項，在網頁上您能使用PayPal信用卡作出捐贈，非常方便。因為PTA是501 (c) (3)非牟利團體，您的捐助法律上是允許用未減稅。或許你的僱主，還有與員工賠捐的方式。請查詢您公司的人力資源部門 (詳情請參看網站)。

現在還不太遲。請慷慨捐助。

家長會執委會快將畢業的家長向您致謝：

家長會共同會長: Judith Hertzberg  
十二年級家長會副會長: Stephen Gales  
學校領導小組成員: Theresa Law



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



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**CLASSIFIED ADS**

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



**BROOKLYN TECH PARENTS ASSOCIATION**

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

## **May Calendar**

**May 1 -21, 2010**

- **AP Exams Scheduled**

**May 5, 2010**

- **Grades Due**

**May 6, 2010**

- **3:00 PM - 4:30 PM: DISCUSSION ON RESEARCH UNIVERSITIES-1**

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

**May 7, 2010**

- **4:00 PM - 8:00 PM: You Got Served**

**May 10, 2010**

- **3:00 PM - 5:00 PM: Class of 2013 SGO Debates**

**May 12, 2010**

- **Report Card Distributed**

- **3:00 PM - 5:00 PM: Class of 2012 SGO Debates**

**May 13, 2010**

- **3:00 PM - 5:00 PM: Class of 2011 SGO Debates**

**May 14, 2010**

- **3:00 PM - 7:30 PM: Band Showcase**

**May 17, 2010**

- **The Challenge Round 4**

**May 20, 2010**

- **3:00 PM - 6:00 PM: DISCUSSION / INFO SESSIONS WITH BTHS ALUMNI ON "THE COLLEGE EXPERIENCE"**

**May 21, 2010**

- **3:00 PM - 7:00 PM: NSBE End of Term Party**

**May 22, 2010**

- **7:00 PM - 11:00 PM: Junior Semi-Formal**

**May 25, 2010**

- **7:00 PM - 10:00 PM: Spring Choral Concert**

**May 27, 2010**

- **4:00 PM - 6:00 PM: Chamber Chorus Concert**

- **7:00 PM - 10:00 PM: Spring Instrumental Concert**

**May 28, 2010**

- **NHS Installation Dinner**

**May 31, 2010**

- **Memorial Day - School Closed**