

Vol. 8, No. 7

PPO

April 2006

CONNECTIONS

The quick details on what's
happening at the Bergen County Academies

Log on to our web site: www.academyppo.com



President's Message

Did you ever consider where we'd be without volunteers? Or how our culture depends upon this mindset? It's all about people helping people, filling in the gaps, making ourselves useful. It's about purpose.

I remember, as a young child, showing up with my mother at PTA card parties and other volunteer events, surrounded by what seemed to be hordes of chattering women setting up tables, food (there was always food!), and fundraising items. My mother - much to my chagrin - was always the one to chaperone our grade-school class trips. At church, it was my mother who headed up the Ladies' Auxiliary; my father led the church council. I don't think there was one event in my youth that my parents didn't work at in some capacity. I always wondered why.

I don't wonder any more. Now I see how involvement in community *creates* community. Just look around the Academies to understand how volunteering enriches our lives and the lives of those around us. Think about all the academic and social activities that wouldn't be possible without volunteers. Think how few friends we'd all have without the opportunities to work together!

Most importantly, think about the message parental involvement sends to our children. Children model the behaviors that they see, and here they see how their parents have joined their school community as active participants. They see, too, how that participation is embraced by the administrators of their school. They've learned this lesson well. Our children do more for others in a school year than many do in a lifetime. So many of the extracurriculars our children belong to encourage them to exhibit community spirit and selflessness, and our children take pride in doing for others.

From one generation to another, we pay it forward. Mom and Dad, I don't wonder any more why you did what you did. Now I see the answer in my children.

Be well,
Nancy Lagomarsino

Calendar Highlights

- April 24-28 **NO SCHOOL** Spring Recess
- April 28-May 3 **DECA National Competition**
Dallas
- May 4 **College Fair**, 6:00-8:00PM,
Auditorium
- May 9 **Staff Appreciation Luncheon**,
Academy Grill
- May 10 **Instrumental Concert**, 7:30PM
- May 11 **HALF DAY**
- May 13 **PPO Picnic**, 12:00-4:00PM
- May 19 **Junior Prom**, Windsor Gardens,
Lodi
- May 19-21 **One-Act Plays**
Theatre Arts Studio
- May 23 **PPO Meeting**, 7:30PM
- May 25 **Spring Concert**, 7:30PM
- May 26 **Field Day**

**Check our monthly calendar
for more times and events!**

Our next issue will be published on May 17, 2006. Please submit all June calendar entries to Amrita Singh at AmritaS2@aol.com or at Amrita.Singh@experian.com & all articles to Barbara Borys at BBB527@optonline.net by May 8th. Thank you.

Academy College Fair

Thursday, May 4th

6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

in Bergen Academy gymnasium

Everyone is welcome. Representatives from all levels of colleges and universities will be present, and approximately 100 post-secondary institutions will be represented.

Hosted by the Guidance Department

Focus on the Faculty

What a challenging opportunity to debate and be immersed in current international issues! The Model United Nations and Academy Model United Nations are cornerstones to the Academy experience. At the recent AMUN, I witnessed firsthand the leadership, commitment and academic rigor of Academy students. Involving approximately 400 students from the Academy and other schools, this weekend conference consists of 10-12 committees of students serving as delegates from a variety of countries. Students dress in business attire and debate current international events such as the earthquake in Japan and its economic impact.

Under the supervision of history teachers Mark Kramer and Andrea Buccino, our Model UN team won Best Delegation awards at Princeton and Boston Uni-

versity/MIT for two consecutive years and this year won Outstanding Delegation at Yale University. You can depend on this team to bring home multiple trophies from these conferences. In addition to coaching the team, organizing the AMUN is a huge job. Materials, meals and services must be coordinated by a group of 40 organizers to run this event smoothly, and those organizers are directed by Mark Kramer and Andrea Buccino. They make it look effortless, although it involves hours of planning and preparation. Through their leadership and dedication, Model UN and AMUN continue to be among the most popular and successful activities on campus.

— Pat Cosgrove

And the Candidates Are...

Elections for the **PPO Executive Board** for the **2006-2007** school year will be held at the next General Meeting on Tuesday, May 23, 2006.

The Nominating Committee of the PPO has recommended the following slate of officers for one-year terms:

- President: **Shiaoling Paxson**
- 1st Vice President: **Susan Bromberg**
- 2nd Vice President: **Lalitha Ramakrishnan**
- Treasurer: **Hala Saardi**
- Corresponding Secretary: **Brian Asserson**
- Recording Secretary: **Parul Rawal**

Additional candidates may be nominated from the floor at the General Election and will be added to the slate at that time.

Project Graduation 2006

If your child would like to attend and we have not heard from you, the deadline to contact Marina or Karen is April 27, 2006. Payment in full is expected by April 27th and **No Refunds** will be issued after May 1st since contracts will be finalized by then. Please contact us with questions or concerns. Marina (201) 796-1533 MHozumi@aol.com; or Karen (201) 796-6257 KarenJrMac@aol.com.

Academy Dress Code

With spring just around the corner, students soon will be donning warm weather fashions. Please remind your children that the Academies adhere to a strict dress code for school-appropriate attire. Dress code policy states that:

Students are expected to dress appropriately at all times on campus, at school activities or on school trips. Inappropriate dress includes, but may not be limited to, anything that is considered to be underwear worn as outer clothing, beachwear, including bare midriff shirts, tank tops and halter tops, as well as any clothing with written profanity, references to illegal substances or any other clothing that is deemed unsuitable by campus administration. Coats and outerwear, as well as sunglasses, are prohibited in classrooms. Although hats are permitted to be worn in the hallways, teacher discretion determines whether or not they are allowed in the classroom. Students in labs must dress accordingly; wear safety glasses, gloves, etc. Inappropriate dress may result in parents being called to provide suitable clothing.

Let's support our administration in its efforts to maintain proper decorum on campus, and be aware of what our children are wearing as they leave for school each day. With a cooperative effort, we can help ensure that our children's daytime environment is one that is safe and appropriate.

Class of 2006:

Please mark your calendars now with all the June events.

****Senior Prom** at Seasons, Washington Township, Thursday, June 1st at 7:30 p.m. ****Senior Awards Ceremony**, BCA Auditorium, Wednesday June 14th at 7:00 p.m. ****Senior Luncheon** at the Cotillion in Garfield, Thursday, June 15th (during the school day). ****Six Flags Trip**, Friday, June 16th, leaving school after IGS and returning between 6:30 p.m. and 7:00 p.m. ****Graduation:** Thursday, June 22nd at 7:30 p.m.

Class of 2007:

Class Fundraising Update: The money earned through our class fundraisers, such as the Kid Stuff Coupon books, Pennies for Dollars, Innisbrook Wrap, BCA decals, and BCA academic planners, as well as multiple bake sales that have been done throughout the past three years, are earmarked for senior year activities. It is our hope that we will be able to defray the cost of senior prom bids, provide a senior class trip, and hold a senior class luncheon. Project Graduation, the post-ceremony party, is not a PPO-sponsored event. Students pay a total of \$200 for Project Graduation, divided between junior and senior years. Our class fundraising is not for Project Graduation. ****As** we reviewed class funds earlier this year, we decided that a larger fundraiser that would generate a significant amount of money was needed. Sabrina Ganz graciously agreed to undertake the **First Annual Academy Golf Outing** scheduled for Monday, May 1, 2006. This is a two-fold event which will allow attendees to come together and meet other Academy parents, as well as raise money for our senior class activities. Please consider joining us for all or part of the day. We **need golfers** to make this event a success. We would also welcome individual donation items that we could raffle at the dinner. All donations would be sincerely appreciated. If interested in golfing or donating, please contact Sabrina at 201- 358-6501 or email SABSTG@aol.com. ****Junior prom** scheduled for Friday, May 19th at The Windsor Gardens in Lodi. Bids are now on sale for \$55. ****2006-07 academic planners** will be on sale in May. Reserve your planner early as we sold out last year ****National Honor Society Induction** is Thursday, April 20, 2006. Please remember the Academy tradition to bring an appetizer, dessert or finger food item. ****The class** will be hosting the **College Fair** at the Academies on Thursday, May 4, 2006. Bakers are needed for this event. Please contact Mary Ann Hoogerheyde rmcj1@optonline.net 201- 848-0385 or Hope Anne LoGalbo sunlover4@aol.com

201- 358-2527. ****The Junior Showcase** held on April 6th was spectacular! Thanks again to all the bakers who helped out with their desserts.

Class of 2008:

The Card Party was a great success! We would like to thank all of the parents and students who supported this fundraiser/social event. We are very pleased with how the evening went. We made over \$5,000! We would like to thank all of you who so graciously donated all of the things necessary for such a successful evening — time, enthusiasm, money, baskets, raffle prizes, refreshments and more. We had two goals for this event: to raise funds for senior year activities, and to provide an opportunity to meet and mingle with others from our school. The money raised exceeded our expectations, and from the feedback we received, it sounds like people enjoyed one another's company! For us, the best part of planning this event was having the opportunity to meet or interact with so many of you through the committee, basket coordination, emails, etc. Your support was very much appreciated.

Class of 2009:

Thanks to all the parents who contributed to the bake sale event during the incoming freshmen interviews. ****We** are planning a fundraiser with "BERGEN ACADEMIES" bumper stickers. They can be displayed on your car or any other place you choose. Look for them in the month of May! ****On April 21st**, the class of 2008 will be hosting a **Semi-Formal** and freshmen are invited. Tickets are available for purchase. ****Attention passengers of "Flight 2009!"** In May we will be hosting our final social gathering for this exciting and challenging first year at the Academies. Please look for details to follow. ****The evening of June 2nd**, our class will be hosting a **Pre-Frosh Party** for the class of 2010. A variety of social activities are planned to help the incoming freshmen get acquainted with their new high school. ****Casino Night** — next year's major fundraiser is in the early stage of planning. We will be forming committees to assist in planning this exciting event. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Diane Valladares at DVALLA1999@aol.com or Carol Blakeslee at BBESTER8@cs.com. ****Another major event** for our students is our semi-formal for sophomore year. If you have any suggestions for a location, we would appreciate your input. Let's make it special! Send your ideas to DVALLA1999@aol.com. We need to reserve the location well in advance.

Honoring Our Unsung Heroes

On March 22nd the PPO had the all-too-rare opportunity to thank some of the Academies' unsung heroes for their hard work, dedication, and ongoing assistance to the PPO. Administrative members joined the PPO in honoring our custodians, security guards, and grounds crew with a luncheon in the Academy Grill. These teams continually serve and assist the PPO, and we thank them all for their tireless efforts. We could not do our job without the wonderful work that they do!

It's a Wrap!

Join us on Tuesday, May 23rd, for the final PPO meeting of the school year. Following a General Meeting that will include election of the PPO Executive Board for 2006-2007, parents will break out into class meetings to see what's in store for their children next year. Student and parent representatives from the year ahead will speak about what academic, emotional, and social changes parents might expect to see in their children. Please join us as we say goodbye for 2005-2006!

Thank You, Staff!

On Tuesday, May 9th, the PPO will honor all who work at the Academies with our annual Staff Appreciation Luncheon in the Academy Grill. On a daily basis our children reap the benefits of the extraordinary efforts of those who work at these Academies, and though we may not always express our thanks, we so appreciate all that they do. We look forward to honoring those who make BCA the "home away from home" for our children.

Hope for Governor's School

Reportedly, the state will rely on private funding to reinstate the Governor's School for this year. Though funds for the program were cut from Governor Corzine's budget, Ruthi Byrne, wife of former Governor Brendan Byrne, will lead a fund-raising campaign to save this year's program. She's optimistic that she can raise the \$2 million needed. Acceptance letters have been sent to students stating that the program's feasibility is dependent upon sufficient funds being raised.

The plan for future years is to run Governor's School as a tuition-based program. Students would be selected regardless of financial status, and some could qualify for need-based scholarships.

For suggestions on how to continue to urge our legislators to reinstate this program, go to our write-up on www.academyppo.com and follow the link.

PPO Bylaw Amendments — Phase I

At our January 18, 2006 General Meeting of the PPO, Mr. Rich Askins, member of the PPO Bylaws Committee, read several proposed revisions to the existing bylaws that were ratified at our April 11, 2006 General Meeting.

The purpose of the first proposed amendment was to create new officers, designated as First Vice President and Second Vice President. These have replaced the Vice President and have effected a redistribution and reconfiguration of the duties previously discharged by the Vice President.

Additionally, a revision to Article 13 was read by Mr. Askins. The purpose of this amendment is to allow bylaw adoptions, amendments, or replacements by a two-thirds vote of the "Members of the Corporation" rather than by a two-thirds vote of the "Board of Trustees."

These amendments directly affected the nomination proceedings related to our May elections, so were presented as a first and necessary step in the bylaw-amendment process.

PPO Bylaw Amendments — Phase II

At our April 11, 2006 General Meeting of the PPO, additional changes to the bylaws were presented to the membership in preparation for another amendment vote on May 23, 2006. The PPO bylaws were last revised in January, 2000 and in their current state fail to reflect significant changes to the organization that have occurred since then. Our bylaws committee has worked tirelessly to examine and rewrite the bylaws to better serve today's PPO, and has incorporated the revisions ratified on April 11, 2006.

To see a copy of the proposed new bylaws, please contact any member of the PPO Executive Board, or log on to www.academyppo.com.

Math Team Boosters

The Mandelbrot Competition individual results have been posted. Math Team members have taken an impressive 7 spots on the National Individuals Leader Board. On the Eastern Region Individuals, 16 members are in the top 50 spots, including the top 4 positions! Going to press, team standings are not yet available, so will be reported next month.

8 students have advanced to the USAMO qualifying exam. Many thanks to Mr. Holbrook for all your coaching and encouragement.

Sure sign of spring: as one strolls in the vicinity of Room 138, one hears the buzz of the Math Team preparing for the American Regions Math League competition. Please speak to Mr. Holbrook if you would like to chaperone the ARML trip to Penn State on June 2-3.

— Sharon Drucker

PPO Picnic on May 13

The annual PPO Picnic will be held, rain or shine, on Saturday, May 13, 2006 from 12:00 noon until 4:00 p.m. We'd like to thank all those parents who have already signed up to help out at this wonderful event. The picnic is a great time to enjoy the afternoon, catch up with other parents, students, teachers and administrators, and find out what's going on at the Academies. It's also a wonderful opportunity to welcome the incoming freshman class and their families. Entertainment will be provided throughout the afternoon by our professional DJ and the Academy's Concert Band and Jazz Band. Many Academy clubs will also be represented at the picnic.

It is not too late to volunteer to help out at the picnic. We still need help with the following responsibilities: Set-up, Cooks (11:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m., 1:00 p.m.-3:00 p.m., and 3:00 p.m.-4:00 p.m.); Servers (1:00 p.m.-3:00 p.m. and 3:00 p.m.-4:00 p.m.); Kitchen duty beginning at 9:00 a.m.; and cleanup at 3:45 p.m. If you would like to help out prior to the picnic, we are also in need of phone volunteers.

To volunteer, please email susan@tnovausa.com as soon as possible and let us know what you'd like to help out with. We hope you will join us on May 13th. Thanks again for volunteering – we look forward to seeing you at the picnic!

— Fay Chang, Janet Nemeč and Susan Bromberg

Field Day Volunteers Needed

The Academy Field Day will be May 26th with a rain date of May 30th. The tradition of a community event is back. Parent volunteers, faculty, and students join together to plan a fun day for our hard-working students. We need assistance with the BBQ, which will take place in our lower parking lot. As you can imagine, it requires a large amount of volunteers, so your help will be greatly appreciated. There will be three shifts — an early group to assist with preparing the salad, cutting watermelons and table set-up from 8:00 a.m. to 10:00a.m.; a middle shift for grilling and serving from 10:00a.m. to 12:00 noon; and a third shift for clean-up and relief from 12:00 noon to 2:00p.m. No one will have to work too hard if we all work together. Monetary donations are vital as well, since the BBQ expenses exceed \$5,000. We also need non-carbonated beverages, water, and paper products. These items can be brought to school anytime during the week of Field Day. It is a great day and we are counting on our parents to help. To volunteer, please email me at marcar@bergen.org. Thank you so much for your anticipated support.

— Maria Careri

Meals on Wheels

The Bergen County Chapter of the Meals On Wheels Association is a non-profit organization partially funded by private donations. The organization delivers meals to approximately 1,200 persons each weekday and 500 on weekends. To answer the need for donations, BCA has established a Meals On Wheels club with approximately 20 members, who raise funds to support the Bergen County organization through bake sales and other efforts.

This year, the club is organizing a car wash during the PPO picnic on May 13, 2006. All proceeds and donations will be going to the Bergen County Meals On Wheels Association. Future plans include the preparation of winter emergency care packages and holiday toiletry packages, which will include items donated by students and families and will be distributed during the meal deliveries. Other plans include preparing small gift packages for the drivers and delivery personnel to thank them for their tireless efforts to bring hot meals to the elderly and homebound in all kinds of weather.

Cultural Connections...

Theatre Arts News



Spring finds students, faculty, and parents busily engaged in a multitude of theatre arts activities both familiar and new. On Friday evening, March 31st, the new theatre arts studio was used for the first time as a performance space for Improv Night, a new BCA event. The activity, initiated by Theatre Council, was entirely student-conceived, developed and run. Twelve students from grades 9-12 performed a variety of inventive and hilarious "Whose Line Is It Anyway?" skits, aided by suggestions and participation from the audience. The enthusiastic audience enjoyed refreshments donated by PAPA before and after the show. Proceeds will be donated to a theatre-related cause yet to be determined.

Ten AVPA:Theatre seniors are in rehearsal with a total of 70 students (enrolled in the One-Act Play elective) from all grades and all Academies. These seniors, having studied directing for the first two trimesters,

and having chosen and cast a play, are directing their peers in ten one-act plays which will be presented **May 19th, 20th and 21st** in the new theatre arts studio.

The cast of the BCA main-stage production, Moliere's *The Miser*, is hard at work with director **Bill Hathaway**, and students in the stagecraft elective are working with **Bill Pavlu** to prepare for June 9th and 10th performances of this comedy classic.

New theatre instructor, **Victoria Pero**, is introducing students to the arts of stage make-up, stage combat and Commedia dell'Arte (17th Century Italian physical comedy) in a new Wednesday Project.

AVPA:Theatre students attended the Paper Mill Playhouse production of the 1961 musical *Carnival* ("Love Makes the World Go Round"). Life-size puppets, inventive use of lighting, and a talk-back with Paper Mill's manager of Outreach programs were highlights of this final trip of the school year.

New Summer Theatre Arts Program for Middle School Students

Last year's successful Academy After Hours musical theatre program is expanding. Bringing together the strengths of two established programs under one roof, the Academies offer a comprehensive training "camp" in Shakespeare studies, dance, voice, movement, stage combat, design and improvisational techniques to **rising 5th-8th graders this July 5th-July 25th**.

For the past 6 years Victoria Pero, new BCA theatre arts teacher, has run the highly successful **Shakespeare Summer Arts Institute**. The institute gave students the opportunity to immerse themselves in a Shakespeare play; creating their own 1-hour "wacky" version of the play and performing it at Bergen County libraries.

This summer the Shakespeare Institute will be in residence at BCA. **Current AVPA: Theatre students** will assist Ms. Pero and Dr. Strum in planning for and facilitating this wonderful introduction to theatre arts at Bergen Academies. Middle

school students who might be interested in AVPA: Theatre for high school will get a real taste of life as a theatre student. The participants (not to exceed 20 actors) will divide their days (**9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m., Monday through Friday**) between master classes in voice, dance, speech, stage combat and text breakdown, and the rehearsing of their one-hour version of Shakespeare's *A Comedy of Errors*. They will enjoy day trips and down-time in between for just hanging out with new friends. The final week, the actors will turn into a traveling troupe, taking their show to 8 local libraries. Visiting professional combatants, directors, designers, and actors will augment the highly accredited staff of Ms. Pero and guest/teaching-artist Mr. William Ullman.

For tuition and details, please phone Ms. Pero at **201-343-6000 x 2239** or email her at **vicper@bergen.org**. Include your name, address and phone number to receive a brochure.

Music News

The next month will be busy with many spring activities. On May 10th we will hold our annual Spring (instrumental) Concert at 7:30 p.m. Selected seniors will be featured throughout the performance. This is our lightest concert of the year. On May 13th, the Concert Band will headline the annual PPO Picnic with the Jazz Band and Percussion Ensemble. The music starts at 12:30 p.m. and goes until 2:00 p.m. On May 31st, BCA musicians and members of the North Jersey Philharmonic will present a performance to an auditorium packed with 1,000

elementary students. This partnership allows BCA students to participate with the professionals, helping young people to appreciate classical music. On June 4th, the Jazz Band will perform at Trumpets Jazz Club (jazz brunch). Tickets are only available in advance for this special event! Also on June 4th, the Guitar & Mandolin Orchestra will perform a guest concert with the Bloomfield Mandolin Orchestra, which has been a mainstay in NJ for over 65 years! We hope to see you at these events and, as always, thank you for your interest and support.

Brava, Bravo!

Congratulations to Dr. Patrick Finley and all members of the Chamber and Competition Choirs for their sweep of awards at the North American Music Festival held at Felician College on April 7th. Their breathtaking performances earned first place honors for Best Choral Ensemble, Best Mixed Chorus, and the coveted Best Overall, which included all instrumental and choral competitors from as far away as Ohio and North Carolina. Stella Kim was also specifically honored for her extraordinary accompaniment. It was thrilling to applaud Dr. Finley and his students as they arrived at BCA with their trophies!

PAPA was privileged to sponsor Joshua Greene for the master class he gave the day before the competition. Mr. Greene's many accomplishments include being a guest conductor at the Sarasota and Augusta Opera houses, music director of the New York City Opera National Company as well as coach with the Metropolitan Opera.

Please remember to mark your calendars for Thursday, May 25th at 7:30 p.m. to hear both choirs at their Spring Concert – and treat yourselves to the Instrumental Concert on **Wednesday, May 10th, at 7:30 p.m.** as well. You will be happy you did!

Student-Directed One-Act Plays: May 19th-21st

The ten seniors in AVPA-Theatre's first graduating class will each direct One-Act Plays being performed on Friday, May 19th at 7:30 p.m., Saturday, May 20th at both 2:30 p.m. and 7:30 p.m., and Sunday, May 21st at a 2:30 p.m. matinee. Performances will be held in the new Theatre Arts Studio.

Refreshments provided by the Performing Arts Parents Association will be available in the upstairs cafeteria before the show and during intermission. PAPA was instrumental in having the One-Acts return to BCA this year, and your much appreciated patronage helps us continue to support the music, choir and theatre programs at the Academies.

PAPA wishes to remind parents of all students involved in the One-Acts to consider donating food for the Thursday, May 18th Rehearsal Dinner. For further information, please contact Kathie Ventura at kav23@optonline.net. *Thank you!*