

# CONNECTIONS

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

Log on to our web site: [www.academyppo.com](http://www.academyppo.com)



## President's Greeting

Welcome back! Since July the PPO has been working hard to get organized for the new school year. From the Summer Mailing, to updating our Membership Database, pairing up Parent Buddies for incoming families, organizing the Freshman Parent Orientation Meeting, providing the Back-to-School Breakfast for all faculty and staff, and holding our first Buddy-Get-Together and PPO General Meeting, the year has gotten off to a very fast start! In addition, the 2007-08 Family Directories have already been distributed to all PPO members by the students' IGS teachers.

The PPO Meeting on September 10<sup>th</sup> was a great success. Many thanks to Mr. Robert J. Aloia, BCTSD Superintendent; Mr. Dennis Montone, Supervisor of Math and Science; Mr. Daniel Jaye, Principal; Mr. Russ Davis, Vice Principal; Dr. Raymond Bath, Dean of Academics; Dr. Todd Crane and Dr. Judith Pinto, Lead Teachers; and Dr. Robert Pergolizzi, Director of the Stem Cell Lab, for their great presentations and Q&A sessions. Don't miss our next **PPO General Meeting on Wednesday, October 10<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 p.m.** As usual, if you can, come early at 7:00 p.m. for refreshments and informal conversation.

Also upcoming is one of our most popular annual events. **The International Dinner will take place on Saturday, October 20<sup>th</sup>.** Please see the enclosed flyers for details. We all look forward to sharing great dishes celebrating the diverse cultural backgrounds of our BCA community, and we hope you will join us.

Of course, none of this would be possible without the support and hard work of our wonderful PPO volunteers. Thanks to everyone who helped, and special thanks to Sharon Pierson, Meina Ma and Dawn Liu for the Summer Packet; Rama and Lalitha Ramakrishnan for the Database; Mary Wang, Kathy Bauer and Amrita Singh for the Buddy System and Back-to-School Breakfast; and Keum Sook Chang and Alyson Cohn for Hospitality. Finally, thanks to our Newsletter Team - Barbara Borys, Amrita Singh, Fran Camisa, Josephine Cronin, Sookyung Hahn and Chu-Chin Chen - for getting our newsletters off to a great start!

All the best,  
Shiaoling Paxson

Our next issue will be published on October 24<sup>th</sup>. Please submit all November calendar entries and all articles to Amrita Singh at [AmritaS2@aol.com](mailto:AmritaS2@aol.com) by October 17th. Thank you.

## Calendar Highlights

- |            |   |
|------------|---|
| October 10 | <b>PPO General Meeting</b><br>7:30, Auditorium          |
| October 12 | <b>Homecoming Dance</b><br>Gymnasium                    |
| October 13 | <b>Homecoming Football Game</b><br>Football Field       |
| October 17 | <b>PSAT Testing</b><br>Sophomores and Juniors           |
| October 17 | <b>PAPA Meeting</b><br>Downstairs Cafeteria             |
| October 18 | <b>Brother/Sister Admission Meeting</b>                 |
| October 19 | <b>No School</b><br>Curriculum Day                      |
| October 20 | <b>PPO International Dinner</b><br>Gymnasium            |
| October 21 | <b>BCA Math Competition</b><br>Gymnasium and Auditorium |
| October 24 | <b>Half Day/PPO Newsletter Mailing</b>                  |
| October 24 | <b>Back-to-School Night</b><br>4:30 to 8:30 p.m.        |
| October 26 | <b>Halloween Dance</b><br>7:00 to 10:00 p.m.            |

Check our monthly calendar  
For more times and events!

## International Dinner 2007

**Date:** Saturday, October 20<sup>th</sup>  
**Time:** 6:30 p.m.  
**Place:** Academy Gymnasium

This annual family event, sponsored by the Academy PPO, is open and free to all PPO dues paid members and their families.

See the enclosed flyer and attendance/volunteer form for more information.

If you have any questions, contact Alyson Cohn at [alyson425@aol.com](mailto:alyson425@aol.com), Wendy Wang at [zfwf@aol.com](mailto:zfwf@aol.com), and Lalitha Ramakrishnan at [Ramakrishnan.lalitha@gmail.com](mailto:Ramakrishnan.lalitha@gmail.com).

**Focus on a Faculty Member:  
Dr. Raymond Bath, Academic Dean**

*"Talent is only a starting point in writing a successful essay.....you have to keep improving on your work to make it your personal best." (Dr. Raymond Bath)*

This philosophy, coupled with his unabashed passion for writing, summarizes the feelings of Dr. Raymond Bath, the driving force and creator of the BCA Writing Center.

Dr. Bath, an accomplished professional actor, abandoned a promising law practice to pursue his passions of literature, creative writing, and the teaching of the gifted and talented. An extraordinary teacher, known throughout the BCA community for his dramatic classroom presentations and group activities, Dr. Bath affords students numerous opportunities to improve their work by posing provocative questions that require introspective self-assessment. This dynamic approach motivates and encourages students to keep working their talent to achieve even greater heights.

Last year, Dr. Bath worked as a Lead Teacher to look at the role of assessment in the area of Humanities, which resulted in improved learning across the board. His dedication to students, teachers and parents is evident in everything he does.

Dr. Bath is widely respected throughout the Academy and has recently been promoted to the position of Academic Dean. His dedication to excellence, coupled with his outstanding teaching abilities, makes him a wonderful addition to our administrative team. We are indeed fortunate to have such a talented educator working on behalf of your children.

Daniel Jaye, Principal and Director  
Bergen County Academies

**To BCA Teachers and Staff**

Congratulations to this year's BCA Administrative Team - Mr. Daniel Jaye, Principal; Mr. Russ Davis, Vice Principal; Dr. Raymond Bath, Dean of Academics; Dr. Todd Crane and Dr. Judith Pinto, Lead Teachers - for getting the Academies off to a great start!

Welcome back to all our teachers and staff. Many thanks to those of you who have contributed articles for this issue of the PPO newsletter. The PPO welcomes articles (generally not to exceed 250 words) of interest to the parent community from teachers and staff. For further information, please contact Mrs. Amrita Singh, Newsletter Coordinator, at [AmritaS2@aol.com](mailto:AmritaS2@aol.com).

**Brother/Sister Night - October 18<sup>th</sup>**

On the evening of Thursday, October 18<sup>th</sup>, the Academy will hold our annual Brother/Sister Night. This is a program for the siblings and parents of current or previous students. The program is designed for the eighth grade student who is thinking about applying here, although bringing a seventh grader would not be inappropriate. We will try to explain the Academy experience in a way that will be useful to people who already know the basics of our program.

We start off with everyone together in the Academy Grill. Dr. Ostfeld, Director of Admissions, will say a few words and we will then separate the parents from the prospective students. Students stay in the Grill, where they circulate and talk to current Academy students about their overall experience, as well as their particular program. Parents go to another room, where Dr. Ostfeld will talk for about 20 minutes and then answer parent questions for about 40 minutes.

The program has proved useful in the past because it allows us to address the points which are of interest only to people who already know our program. Some very interesting questions will be asked at the parent Q&A. However, this also means that the program is not appropriate for a friend or neighbor who wants a head start on the admission process (which this is really not). Every year we have parents walk away puzzled because we didn't deal with such questions as "Is there a sports program?" or "How much is the tuition?"

So please come, but don't bring your friends.

**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!  
2007 OPEN HOUSES**

Volunteers are needed to help at the 2007 Bergen Academies Open Houses on Sunday, November 4<sup>th</sup>, November 18<sup>th</sup>, and December 2nd for the morning and afternoon sessions. Please consider helping out from either 9:50 to 11:00 a.m. or from 12:50 to 2:00 p.m. on any of these Sundays. You will be signing in prospective students and their families at the Open Houses. This is a great way to meet other parents and find out what's happening at the Academies, and involves less than a 1¼ hour time commitment! Your help will be greatly appreciated. Please call Donna Walsh at 201- 944-4860 or email Susan Bromberg at [susan@tnovausa.com](mailto:susan@tnovausa.com), or Barbara Davis at [bdavis@bergen.edu](mailto:bdavis@bergen.edu) indicating the day(s) and time(s) you are available to help. Thanks again for volunteering your time!

## **Class of 2008:**

**Kids Stuff Coupon Book Fundraiser:** The students received a Kids Stuff Coupon book this morning at the Senior Breakfast. The book features discounts for major chain stores, restaurants, etc. in our local area and costs \$25, payable to the Class of 2008 Student Activity Fund. Even if you use just a few of the coupons, the book will more than pay for itself. The class earns 50% profit per book and for each book that your student sells, he/she will receive \$10 off the cost of a prom ticket. If you choose not to purchase the book, please have your student return it in a bag with his/her name on it to Mrs. Anderson. For more info, see the flyer that accompanies the book, or contact Donna Gormley at 201-847-0351 or [djgorms@aol.com](mailto:djgorms@aol.com). \*\*\*

**Open House Bake Sale on Sunday, November 4<sup>th</sup> at 11:00 and 2:00 p.m.** We need baked goods, drinks, and people to help sell at this annual event. Please let us know if you're willing to help. \*\*\*

**Save the Date: Our Art Auction will be held on Friday, November 16<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m.** Please join us for this fun event. Marlin Fine Arts will provide a wide selection of artwork for auction. The more people who stay for 90 minutes or more, the more commission Marlin Art will pay to our class, so bring family and friends if you can. Hors d' oeuvres and dessert will be served. The event is scheduled for the same evening as the fall instrumental concert, which worked out very well for last year's senior class. There is no obligation to bid. Your presence alone will help the class. Are you or one of your family members an artist? In addition to artwork provided by Marlin Art, work donated by Academy students or families will also be auctioned. Marlin Art will frame it for us for free and include it in the auction. Artwork is needed by October 15<sup>th</sup>.

## **Class of 2009:**

Welcome back everyone – Wow, we're upper classmen! We're poised to help our class earn the money to make their senior year a knockout! Our ever popular black and gold plaid flannel PJ bottoms and classic "got sleep?" t-shirts are available for purchase! (see the enclosed order form.) They make great gifts! **They'll be on sale for a limited time, so don't delay!** \*\*\* **Schwan's Foods** is back to help with our busy schedules and winter gift seasons! Fix your family a truly delicious meal in minutes, or send a lovely Schwan's meal as a way to say "we're thinking of you!" This is not about ordering bulk foods at a discount price, but tasty meals, side dishes and/or desserts that will be delivered by truck to the recipient's front door. Taste and see the quality and convenience of having Schwan's Foods delivered to your door! Order forms will be available at upcoming PPO meetings. There is no charge for delivery and the Class of 2009 will earn money through your participation and generosity! \*\*\* We are still collecting old ink cartridges and toners through the Staples recycling program. Please send them in to save the environment and earn money for our class. A Staples box is located near the main office for your convenience! \*\*\* Are you interested in helping your student's class raise money for senior year? Do you have an idea or suggestion for a fundraiser? Would you like to chair an activity? Please let us know! A special thanks to all our volunteers who have already stepped forward to help out – we're looking forward to a great junior year! Thank you – Sharon Pierson [SPcreates@aol.com](mailto:SPcreates@aol.com) and Carol Blakeslee [Bbester8@optonline.net](mailto:Bbester8@optonline.net)

## **Class of 2010:**

**Welcome back ...** Hope you all had a great summer and are ready to tackle the 2007-08 school year. Thank you for returning the class of 2010 volunteer form. We will be contacting you very soon. We're off to a great start for our BIG fundraising year. We ask that you continue to support our fundraisers so that our children will have an unforgettable senior year. \*\*\* **Sally Foster Catalogs** went home with the students the first day of school and are due back on September 26<sup>th</sup>. 50% of the sales will go to our class activity funds. \*\*\* **BCA International Cookbook** – The class of 2008 has graciously asked us to continue their efforts to see this project to completion. If you have some fabulous family recipes (perhaps for a dish you'll be contributing to the International dinner) and would like to participate in this project, please submit them to the BCA cookbook committee (see enclosed flyer). \*\*\* **Cheesecake Sale** – delivery on November 13<sup>th</sup>—just in time for Thanksgiving!! Order forms are included in the PPO mailing and are due back on Friday, November 2<sup>nd</sup>. \*\*\* **Craft Vendor Show** – LOOKING FOR CRAFTERS!!! We are accepting applications for the first Annual BCA craft vendor show, which will be held in the BCA gym on Saturday, November 10<sup>th</sup>. If you are a crafter or know someone who is, please contact Sarah Lucinese at [sb0618@excite.com](mailto:sb0618@excite.com) or Angella McKenzie at [gatchair@optonline.net](mailto:gatchair@optonline.net). We are also looking for volunteers to help on the day of the fair. \*\*\* **Fleece** – brrrr!! The *chill* is in the air and it is definitely time for a *Warm* BCA fleece jacket and scarf. If you have not yet purchased yours, please complete the order form and return it to our class advisor, Mrs. Carole Zurich, in Room 204, or contact Sarah Lucinese or Angella McKenzie. Jackets are guaranteed for delivery in time for the holidays. \*\*\* **Halloween Dance** – Mark your calendars for the first Annual BCA Halloween Dance, which will take place on October 26<sup>th</sup> in the gym, from 7:00 to 10:00 pm. Costumes are recommended, but not required. \*\*\* If you have any suggestions or ideas, we would love to hear from you. We look forward to working with you -- Sarah Lucinese and Angella McKenzie.

## **Class of 2011:**

**SAVE THE DATE!!** Our first fundraiser is a shopping night at **CRATE & BARREL**, 504 Route 17 North in Paramus on **Monday, NOVEMBER 19<sup>th</sup> from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m.** Wine, hors d'oeuvres and dessert will be served. Come support the CLASS OF 2011 and shop for last minute items for your Thanksgiving table or purchase great gifts for the holidays. There's something for everyone, with items at \$ 1.95 and up. They have furniture too! CRATE & BARREL will give the Class of 2011 10% of the total sales for the evening. It's a fun social event, so bring your spouse, kids, relatives, neighbors, and friends! FREE gift with purchase. RSVP to the class parent liaisons -- [rita4mom@verizon.net](mailto:rita4mom@verizon.net) or [romemonica@hotmail.com](mailto:romemonica@hotmail.com). \*\*\* We are also selling **BCA black & gold mugs** for \$8 each. Everyone should have one. They also make great pen cups! Contact class parent liaisons, Rita or Monica, to purchase.

## Diligence Results in Achievement at SkillsUSA National Conference

Never had the phrase, “He who labors diligently need never despair; for all things are accomplished by diligence and labor,” been so truly epitomized than when the BCA SkillsUSA team showcased their expertise at the 43rd NLSC in Kansas City. After distinguishing themselves with gold medals at the state-level, twenty-one students competed in leadership and career competitions against other state champions. It is an honor to recognize the eleven BCA students who garnered the highest number of medals from New Jersey, reaffirming the fact that they are some of the most talented students in the country. States SkillsUSA Advisor John Branda, “Our students performed at an extremely high level, but what equally impressed me was how they served as ambassadors for BCA and New Jersey.”

An ACAHA senior attained the coveted gold medal for culinary arts and a \$160,000 scholarship to the prestigious Culinary Institute of America, besting 42 state champions in a rigorous six-hour hot and cold food production competition. Three juniors who

presented the education acquired through Tech Prep career training won the Gold Medal for Tech Prep Education & Training Services. Two ACAHA juniors and a senior won silver in a Tech Prep competition that focused on Hospitality & Tourism. A trio of ACAHA seniors won Silver for American Sprit, a community service competition with patriotic flair. An ACAHA senior won Bronze for Food & Beverage Service as a result of his exemplary “front of the house” skills. Two ACAHA students, recently elected state president and state treasurer, fostered their leadership skills at the conference for their upcoming year of service.

In conjunction with the extraordinary efforts of the dedicated students, their success should also be attributed to the guidance of their SkillsUSA advisors: Mary Beth Brace, John Branda, Scott Lang and Elizabeth Mansfield. Brace concluded, “We are very proud of the students’ National recognition and hope that future students model their success after the achievements of the culinary arts gold medal winner.”

**So why does popcorn cost so much at the movies?  
Why doesn't the water company raise the price of water?  
Do you have the courage to be rich?  
Are you a businessman or a business, man?**

These are the questions you can answer if you go to the basement to become enlightened. The Business Department at the Academies is located in Room 7. We fondly refer to it as the subterranean castle. AP Microeconomics is a full year elective course that explains why things happen in our economy. Sure we prepare you for an AP exam, but you want to learn about money anyway. We have many contemporary discussions that will cause you to think. “So”, you ask, “like what?” Here are a few: The economics of the war on terrorism, China’s rapidly emerging economy, corporate financial and accounting misconduct, expansion of the European Union, and diverging profit paths of Wal-Mart. Recently in Economics class we demonstrated diminishing marginal utilities

by having a student try to eat 400 Tootsie Rolls and the Business Law students learned about contracts when someone burned the chicken dinner. We also have courses in Marketing, Management, Stock Market and Finance. It’s fun and interesting.

Calling all parents: Are you successful in business? Do you own a business, or manage one? Would you like to participate in the Academies Business Day in early April, 2008? You can do so as a mentor to an ABF student or as a guest speaker. We would love to have you. Call (201) 343-6000 ext. 4636 or email Mr. Noto at [alfnot@bergen.org](mailto:alfnot@bergen.org) or Ms. Van Daalen at [mabvan@bergen.org](mailto:mabvan@bergen.org).

After several years during which annual applications remained at about 1200, last year saw a small uptick. It's hard to know whether last year's applicant pool was stronger than before, but at 1302 it was larger. Along with the unexpectedly small number of students who declined our invitation to attend the Academy, this is consistent with continued improvement in our reputation.

All seven academies drew strong applicant pools. This led to a class in which 96% of the accepted students were accepted into their first choice programs.

We will continue working to improve and to publicize our program. "When you're coasting, you're going downhill." I think 2011 will prove to be a good class and 2012 may be even better.


**Titanium Knights Robotics**

This year's Robotic Design project and Radio Controlled club have just met for the first time and they are eager to get started. In the coming weeks the students will devise plans for robot repairs and new robots and also select the competitions and opportunities that they wish to pursue. A recent addition to our program includes the donation of a Remote Mobile Investigation Unit from the Bergen County Police Department. This 20-year old robot designed for hazardous duty will be rebuilt by our group and then deployed for various tele-robotic experiments on campus. Stop by to check it out in Room 166, along with our 3-time National BotsIQ Champ "E2V2."

Once students have defined their goals for the year, we will hold our first Engineering Boosters meeting. Parental help is always critical for our success. Help is not only needed for promotion and fundraising, but also for our Annual Engineering Week Luncheon, plus competition and trips coordination. Visit our engineering boosters' page at [academyppo.com](http://academyppo.com) and our homepage at [sites.bergen.org/battlebots](http://sites.bergen.org/battlebots) or email me at [jdefalco@bergen.org](mailto:jdefalco@bergen.org) for more information on how to get involved.

**Save the Date**

**Annual BCA Art Auction**  
**Friday, November 16<sup>th</sup>**  
**Previews 7:00 p.m.**  
**Auction 8:00 p.m.**



**\* \* \* \* \* BT KNIGHTS BOOSTER CLUB NEWS \* \* \* \* \***

The Fall Sports season is here and the BT Knights Booster Club is in full swing continuing to support our student athletes. The Boosters promote the pursuit of excellence in all of the athletic and scholastic endeavors of our players. Booster club members support the athletic organization by providing over \$3,500 in scholarships awarded to our athletes each year. Parental support is the key to our success. Please join the Boosters and share in the sense of pride in helping all our students have the best high school experience possible.

Our membership for the 2006–2007 school year was 230 families. With your help, we hope to surpass that number. You can join NOW by completing the 2007-08 Membership Form today, which is located at [www.bergen.org](http://www.bergen.org) (select BCTS and click on Athletics, Join the Boosters) to help us reach our goal.

Membership cards will be mailed in a few weeks, along with the fall ad journal. Your membership entitles up to four members of your immediate family to complimentary admission to all home football & basketball games. A membership list will be kept at the gate until you receive your card.

The BT Knights Booster Club Executive Committee for this year is: President – Ira Goldklang; Vice-President - Bertha Sneyer; Secretary –Lisa Abrams; Treasurer – Antoinette Wagner; Membership Coordinator– Donna Gormley; Apparel Coordinator – Jean Messner.

Meetings will be held at 7:15 p.m. at the Hackensack Campus on the following dates: September 19<sup>th</sup> (Meet the fall coaches); October 17<sup>th</sup>, November 12<sup>th</sup>, January 8<sup>th</sup> (Meet the winter coaches); March 19<sup>th</sup> (Meet the spring coaches); and May 7<sup>th</sup>.

# Cultural Connections...

## Theatre Arts News — September 2007



There are exciting things happening, old and new, as we begin the 2007-08 BCA Theatre season. I am most happy to direct your attention to the new Theatre Department website. To find it, go to the Bergen County Academies home page, then click on the Theatre Department link on the left side of the page. There you will find everything you ever wanted to know about the Theatre Department -- a general description of the work of the department, a photo gallery of past productions, ticket information, guest artists, faculty contacts, two short articles which will change periodically and more. If you have friends interested in applying to AVPA: Theatre, you can direct them to admissions information and admissions monologues on the website.

Our seniors are immersed in college applications and auditions. For families of juniors and sophomores, I recommend The Performing & Visual Arts College Fair which will take place this year on October 22<sup>nd</sup> at the Manhattan School of Music beginning at 7:00 p.m.

Our AVPA: Theatre beginning of school traditions, the sophomore-freshman breakfast and the pairing of each freshman

with a sophomore have both taken place. The class of 2011 got a new special treat -- a breakfast hosted by the seniors!

We are all having a great time with this year's fall play, Shakespeare's hysterical comedy of mistaken identity and 'yellow stockings,' *Twelfth Night*. Our production is set in 1920's Hollywood, the silent film era, and will include music of the period under the direction of two student musical directors and original silent film clips created by two student cinematographers! Once again I am thrilled to report that our students have the opportunity to work with five guest teaching artists on this production: Anita La Scala (set design) and Matthew Gordon (lighting design) are two young graduates of the SUNY Purchase program in design. When Matt is not with us he spends his time programming lights for Rachel Ray's show on NBC! And we are so happy to welcome back Stephanie Shultz (scenic painter), Eva Omiljaniuk (costume design) and Jennifer Carr (production supervisor). *Twelfth Night* will run Friday and Saturday, November 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup>. You can use the enclosed ticket form to reserve tickets for this hilarious production.

### **\*\* AAST, ABF, ACAHA, AEDT, AMST, ATCS and AVPA \*\***

*A majority of students from all seven Academies take advantage of the wide-ranging arts opportunities at BCA.*

One of the many attributes of the unique education our children receive at Bergen Academies is the recognition that they flourish overall when both their academic and creative sides are nourished. Across all seven Academies, students are involved in the arts through choir, orchestra, instrumental ensembles, visual arts and theatre, both on and off stage.

As Parents And Patrons of the Arts (PAPA), we invite you to join us in supporting our children in these endeavors! PAPA champions the arts at BCA with hands-on organizational assistance, heartfelt advocacy, and effective fundraising that has helped pay for instruments, choir robes, stage equipment, costumes, master classes and guest artists.

If you are already a member of PAPA, please make sure that you have joined our Yahoo group. This will enable you to receive PAPA e-mails and have access to our schedule of meeting dates and up-to-date arts calendar. **Please bring your ideas and enthusiasm to our next meeting on Wednesday, October 17<sup>th</sup>**, from 7:30 to 9:00 p.m. in the lower cafeteria. We have many exciting plans for this year and welcome your active participation in support of BCA students and faculty.

For further information, please contact Leila Moore at [moorepsych70@aol.com](mailto:moorepsych70@aol.com).

The music program is off to a great start! We are running several ensembles -- from orchestra to flute. Our string quartet is already busy and performed on September 9<sup>th</sup> for the Bergen County 9/11 Remembrance Ceremony. We have many performances throughout the year and I invite you to peruse our webpage and calendar at [www.bergen.org](http://www.bergen.org). I welcome the new and returning families to BCA-- please remember to use me as a resource should you have any ideas or questions. Mark your calendars for the **Autumn Concert**, which will be held on **Friday, November 16<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 p.m.** in the auditorium. This will be the first major concert of the year and will feature the current BCA instrumental ensembles. Looking forward to a great year!

# The Research Beat

After being host to a very popular summer bioresearch program attended by more than 60 students, the BCA research labs are once again in full swing. Students are investigating many hot topics with our cutting edge technology. One student is attempting to differentiate pluripotent mouse cells (cells which have the potential to develop into any adult cell type except placenta) into cardiac like cells. These cells will beat in a Petri dish and hopefully can be used to do mechanical work. Another student is looking at the effects of bromelain on the inflammatory process. Bromelain is an enzyme found in pineapples that functions in the digestion of protein. Using chemicals that will block efflux pumps, an attempt is being made to reverse antibiotic cross-resistance in E.coli

caused by the use of the antimicrobial agent, Trimethoprim. Efflux pumps are used by cells to rid themselves of unwanted molecules, such as antibiotics, which could be lethal to them. Antibiotic cross-resistance is a potential environmental problem which can be caused by the use of common household antibacterial products. Yet another student is investigating the effects of Chinese herbs on cell cycle control. The rate at which a cell divides can be perturbed in many ways, and learning more about controlling the cycle can help us understand such diseases as cancer. This is only a small sampling of our exciting projects, and we will report back to you throughout the year on our young scientists' progress.

## Math Booster Club

The Math Booster Club is running the Fifth Annual BCA Math Competition for 4<sup>th</sup> through 8<sup>th</sup> graders on Sunday, October 21<sup>st</sup>. The competition website is "sites.bergen.org/mathcompetition". The registration will close soon. If you would like to join the Math Booster Club, there is no membership fee. We have our competition planning meeting scheduled for October 7<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 p.m. in Room 149. If you would like to volunteer for the day of the competition, please contact Lalitha Ramakrishnan at:

(201) 939-0018  
[Ramakrishnan.lalitha@gmail.com](mailto:Ramakrishnan.lalitha@gmail.com)

Special thanks to Mr. Jaye, Mr. Davis, Dr. Bath, Guidance Department and College & Career Advancement Office for their helpful and informative presentations at the September 18<sup>th</sup> Senior Parents Guidance Meeting.

## PROJECT GRADUATION 2008

We are currently finalizing our plans for Project Graduation 2008, and we need an accurate count of who will be attending. Please take a moment to locate your statement, included in this mailing. Please make sure to return this form promptly, whether or not your child will be participating, with the requested information included. Please also note that final payments are due now. An addressed envelope has been included for your convenience. We're excited about our plans for our graduating seniors' post-graduation party, and thank you in advance for your help.

— Nancy and Susan

## College Advisement Meeting Follow-up and Survey

To: All Senior Class Parents  
From: Mr. Daniel Jaye

It is important for the school to receive your feedback on the quality of the Senior Parents Guidance Meeting presentation. Would you kindly spend a few minutes completing this anonymous, online survey, so that we may better serve you in the future? The link is:

<http://www.zoomerang.com/survey.zgi?p=WEB226WQFNEGZJ>

Thank you for taking the time to complete the survey.

\*\*\*\*\*

As promised, we have researched some of the questions that were posed during the Q & A that followed the meeting. Here are some of the questions and responses:

**Q:** When students request “official” SAT scores from the College Board to be sent to the colleges, will AP scores automatically be sent as well?

**A:** No, in order for students to send AP scores they must make a separate request of the College Board.

**Q:** What is the Academy’s policy on sending unofficial test scores (PSAT, SAT, SAT II, ACT, etc.) to colleges along with the “official” BCA transcript?

**A:** We will NO LONGER include unofficial test scores with transcripts that are sent to colleges. Parents and students should carefully consider which test scores you feel will best enhance your child’s application to college. We are confident that this decision is in the best interests of students. If you have any questions about which test scores to forward to colleges, please feel free to contact the College Office or your guidance counselor.

**Q:** When will the school’s profile be updated?

**A:** We have already begun work on revising and updating the school profiles in an effort to best represent the rigor and superior quality of the instructional programs provided at the Academies. We have made this a priority and anticipate that they will be completed in the near future.

**Q:** How can I assist the teacher who has volunteered to write my letter of recommendation?

**A:** It is recommended to provide the teacher with a large manila envelope which contains ALL of the addressed stamped envelopes to the individual admissions offices as well as provide a list of the colleges and their deadlines on the outside of the envelope. Additionally, it would be helpful (and appreciated) if you would provide the teacher with a bulleted list of very specific academic accomplishments that you achieved in their class. The teacher recommendation should focus on your child’s work in that class. All outside activities should be included in the guidance counselor’s recommendation.

**Q:** My child is in AVPA and has an audition date which is earlier than the deadline for the “normal” application deadline. Should we ask for early processing of transcripts so that the college has this information in advance of the audition?

**A:** While it is not required by the colleges, we recommend that you make this request. We will make every effort to accommodate your request.