

# CONNECTIONS

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

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## President's Message

Happy Thanksgiving! As you read this issue of *PPO Connections*, I hope you are sitting comfortably at home, united with family members, enjoying the beginning of the holiday season. For parents, these are the moments that we especially look forward to.

Last Wednesday we had a full house for the November 14<sup>th</sup> General Meeting. I want to sincerely thank our BCA Administrators and all the staff of the Guidance Department and the College & Career Center for their informative presentations, and for staying late into the evening for extended Q & A sessions for all grade levels. Our next PPO General Meeting will be held on Tuesday, January 15<sup>th</sup>. I hope you will be able to attend.

Please note that the PPO Board is implementing a new email blast system. A test message containing a brief reminder for last week's meeting was sent to everyone on our present email blast list from [academyppomail@gmail.com](mailto:academyppomail@gmail.com). If you did not receive this email and want to be included in the future, send your current email address to Mary Wang at [mtw409@yahoo.com](mailto:mtw409@yahoo.com). Recent email blast messages have included many scholarship opportunities from the College & Career Center to senior parents.

On behalf of the PPO Board, I would like to thank all our PPO Members for their overwhelming support. More than 820 families have joined the PPO, and as a result we have reached our funding goal for this school year. Thanks also to all the wonderful parents who volunteered their time to help at various occasions and events, and special thanks to the Committee Chairs for making sure everything runs smoothly.

In closing, I would like to wish all BCA parents, faculty, staff, and students Happy Holidays and Best Wishes for the New Year!

Shiaoling Paxson

## Calendar Highlights

November 22-23	<b>No School - Happy Thanksgiving</b>
November 27	<b>Half Day</b>
November 30	<b>Last Day of Trimester 1</b>
December 1	<b>BotsIQ Robot Competition</b>
December 2	<b>BCA Open House - All Academies</b> Sophomore Class Bake Sale 11:00 a.m. or 2:00 p.m.
December 3	<b>Ensemble Prestige Concert,</b> Auditorium, 7:30 p.m.
December 4	<b>College Financial Aid Meeting</b> Auditorium, 7:00 p.m. Snow date Dec. 5 <b>Bergen County Band Auditions</b>
December 5	<b>PAPA Meeting</b> Academy Grill, 7:30 p.m.
December 6	<b>PEI Meeting - Understanding SAT/ACT</b> Academy Grill, 7:30 p.m. <b>Varsity Awards Night</b> Cotillion, Garfield, 6:30 p.m.
December 7	<b>Choir Coffee House</b> Stage, 7:30 p.m.
December 8	<b>Stony Brook University Tour</b>
December 11	<b>Half Day - Staff Development</b>
December 18	<b>Holiday Concert</b> Auditorium, 7:30 p.m. Snow date Dec. 20
December 21	<b>Senior and Alumni Breakfast</b>
December 24 - January 1	<b>No School - Winter Recess</b> <b>Happy &amp; Healthy Holidays!</b>
January 5	<b>Regional Auditions, Snow Date Jan. 6</b>
January 7	<b>PAPA Meeting</b> Academy Grill, 7:30 p.m.
January 15	<b>PPO General Meeting</b> Auditorium, 7:30 p.m. <b>Newsletter Copying, PPO, 9:00 a.m.</b>
January 16	<b>Half Day</b> <b>Print Week Exhibit, Auditorium</b> <b>Newsletter Mailing, PPO, 9:00 a.m.</b>

Our next issue will be published on January 16<sup>th</sup>. Please submit all February calendar entries and all articles to Amrita Singh at [AmritaS2@aol.com](mailto:AmritaS2@aol.com) by January 9<sup>th</sup>. Thank you.

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

## Focus on a Faculty Member: Mary Beth Brace, Culinary Arts

Mary Beth Brace, or Chef B as she is known, knows the recipe for successful teaching – and she implements it every day. As the backbone of our Culinary Arts Academy, Chef B inspires students with her passion for culinary arts, a passion that opens students up to a new world.

In addition to inspiring students in the kitchen, Chef B takes learning outside the classroom with endeavors such as SkillsUSA, where Chef B leads a team of students to first place each year. She is so successful as a SkillsUSA advisor that recently she was named Advisor of the Year, an honor she accepted at the Kansas City finals. This comes on top of her 2005 nomination as ProStart Teacher of the Year.

But more than winning awards, Chef B's greatest asset is her relationship with her students. Academy graduates come back to visit her often to tell her that she is missed and to tell her how much she affected their lives in many positive ways. Ask Chef B about her family life and she'll probably tell you about her husband and her 10 year old son, Harrison. Ask our students and they'll tell you that her family extends beyond that to the hundreds of students whose lives she has touched.

Daniel Jaye, Principal and Director,  
Bergen County Academies

*This holiday season,  
treat yourself to*

### **Bergen Academies Winter Choral Concert**

featuring a Guest Harpist playing J. S. Bach and selections from Benjamin Britten's *Ceremony of Carols*

Also featured will be works by Palestrina, Thomas Morley, Patrick Finley and P.D.Q. Bach

**Tuesday December 18<sup>th</sup>  
7:30 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.**

## **BUSINESS BUZZ**

The Director and staff of the Foundation for Free Enterprise (FFE) are currently working with our business students in conducting an educational learning experience called "**The World of Free Enterprise**" as part of the Introduction to Business core curriculum for ABF/IB freshmen.

The FFE staff works with Mr. Noto, one of our business teachers, in creating a number of student prepared business plans. The goal is to encourage understanding of the operations and complexities of running a business enterprise in a free market economic system. FFE provides lectures, challenges and assignments geared toward the cooperative creation of business plans which will be presented to bankers and venture capitalists.

FFE is the educational arm of the Commerce & Industry Association of New Jersey, a highly respected business group of corporate executives and entrepreneurs. Founded in 1975, *FFE* is a not-for-profit educational foundation specializing in teaching free market economics. Their credo is that self-reliance, decision-making, risk-taking and entrepreneurial skills are invaluable in developing leadership skills for tomorrow's business leaders.

Alfred Noto, Business Academy

Save the Date

**Annual**

**BCA Fashion Show**

Thursday, March 27, 2008

At the Venetian in Garfield



**BCA goes Hollywood!**

**Watch future mailings for your invitation!**

## College and Career Corner



The College and Career Center has been very busy processing college applications for our students to meet the recent deadlines, hosting the last of the fall college visits, and launching new initiatives. We are pleased and excited to introduce Naviance software, two new instant decision days, a sponsored college tour to Stony Brook University, and a new opportunity for New Jersey students to apply to the Teacher Academy.

The entire staff at the Bergen County Academies is very excited to announce the school-wide launch of Naviance, a tool for personalized college and scholarship research, planning, and application tracking. This internet application allows you to compare your son or daughter's GPA and test scores to those of BCA graduates who previously applied to your targeted colleges. We are pleased to offer this additional service to our students. Naviance IDs were emailed to all students on November 15<sup>th</sup>. Log in today at: <https://connection.naviance.com>.

Instant decisions reduce the pressure of the college admission process. Students can confidently open all other college application responses with confidence knowing they are already accepted at one or more schools through instant decision. We have two new instant decision days coming up at the Bergen Academies with Fairleigh Dickinson University and Ramapo College. Now BCA students can bring a copy of their completed application including essays, interview with a college representative, and receive an admission decision the same day. **FDU will be here on Monday, November 26<sup>th</sup> and Ramapo College on Friday, December 14<sup>th</sup>.** These are great opportunities and all interested seniors are encouraged to sign up with Ms. Forne-Neves in the College and Career Center, Room 116.

**On Saturday, December 8<sup>th</sup>** there will be a **free bus trip** to Stony Brook University from the Bergen Academies. The bus leaves at 8 a.m. and returns around 4 p.m. The specialized research laboratories will be toured, as well as robotics displays and demonstrations, computer science demonstrations, and presentations from undergraduate students who constructed an off-road vehicle for the Society of Automotive Engineers Challenge. This informative trip is open to all current BCA students. We hope to bring a diverse group of students from all Academies and grades. Interested students should obtain and return a permission slip from Ms. Forne-Neves in the College and Career Center, Room 116.

The Teacher Academy of the City College of New York has announced that they are now accepting applications from BCA seniors. This is a **tuition-free** college education for prospective teachers of math or science. Over four years, enrolled students will complete the required curriculum, and may also take additional classes, as desired, tuition-free. For more information, please call 212-650-5974 and ask to speak to Dr. Lorraine Whitman, Director, or Joan Newman, Deputy Director. Visit their website at <http://teacheracademy.ccny.cuny.edu>

Finally, remember that all college applications with a deadline of **January 15<sup>th</sup>** are due in to the College and Career Center by **December 14<sup>th</sup>!**



**DID YOU KNOW...that for the fall 2007 freshman class, Harvard accepted only 9% of their applicants?**

**Class of 2008:** Many thanks to all the parents who generously baked or donated drinks for the Open House Bake Sale and for the help and support received for the annual Senior Art Auction! We've been asking for a lot of help recently, and we are truly grateful for all that you do. We couldn't do our job as class parents without your support! \*\*\* **Save the date!** The annual **Fashion Show**, a highlight of senior year, will take place on **Thursday March 27<sup>th</sup>**. The students have chosen a "Hollywood" theme, and are already having a great time planning this gala event with one of our class advisors, Mrs. Buccino. If you are connected with any clothing companies/stores, we will be looking to borrow new clothes for the show, particularly formal wear. We also need prize or basket donations for our tricky tray raffle. If you receive a holiday gift that you'll never use, it might make a wonderful prize! Also, if you frequent businesses that you are comfortable soliciting for a donation, we have a letter that you can present when making a request. Lastly, please consider placing an ad in the advertisement section in the Fashion Show program. \*\*\* The annual **Alumni Breakfast**, traditionally hosted by the senior class will be held on Friday December 21<sup>st</sup> from 10:30 a.m. – 12:00 noon. We need parents from 9:00 a.m. to noon to help us set up, slice bagels and serve food. If you are available, please let us know.  
Donna Gormley: [djgorms@aol.com](mailto:djgorms@aol.com), (201) 847-0351  
Mary Wright: [malky@optonline.net](mailto:malky@optonline.net), (201) 848-8982

**Class of 2009:** Greetings Fellow Parents! Our wonderful volunteers, bakers, and contributors have been working hard for our class! November 18<sup>th</sup> was our big Bake Sale during the BCA Open House. We would like to thank Toni Wagner, who chaired the Bake Sale effort, and all our volunteers, bakers, and contributors. Thank you!! It was a wonderfully busy day. Proceeds go directly to reducing expenses for our senior year. Remember that our goal is to earn \$45,000, which will keep things like our Senior Prom and Year Book from being prohibitively expensive. We hope all our students will be able to enjoy the full, wonderful experiences of senior year! \*\*\* Also, we are almost at the end of our **Schwan's Food Fundraiser**. We only have a few more days. Because we are able to get a report of every sale, your child can directly reap the benefits of the sales he/she "inspired." Please go to [www.schwansfundraising.com](http://www.schwansfundraising.com) and place your order today, if you haven't done so already. And don't forget that Schwan's delivers anywhere in the US. What a great way to remind college students that you're thinking of them or send an elderly relative a delicious treat! We would love to have everyone's support. Please jump on this opportunity now – The campaign ends November 28<sup>th</sup>. Once you're at the website, enter Campaign #1004525. Please don't hesitate to contact us with any questions or suggestions!!  
Sharon Pierson: [SPcreates@aol.com](mailto:SPcreates@aol.com)  
Carol Blakeslee: [Bbester8@optonline.net](mailto:Bbester8@optonline.net).

**Class of 2010:** On October 26<sup>th</sup> the class of 2010 sponsored its 1<sup>st</sup> annual Halloween dance. It was a huge success due to the outstanding job done by the Class Council, which worked very hard to promote and organize the dance. Special thanks to the parents who donated to our bake sale table and to all the faculty advisors, teachers and parents who chaperoned. \*\*\* **Craft and Vendor show:** Sincere thanks to class advisors, parents and student volunteers. Special thanks to our Student Council for assisting with the concession stand and extra special thanks to our Class President. \*\*\* **Fleece** – If you have not yet purchased yours, please print and complete the order form at <http://www.academypgo.com/class2010/index.shtml>, and return to our class advisor, Mr. Gene Walsh, in room MC04 by Monday, November 26<sup>th</sup>. Jackets are guaranteed for delivery in time for the holidays. \*\*\* Our class has been assigned to host the **Bake Sale** for the **December 2<sup>nd</sup> Open House**. Please contact us if you are interested in baking something or donating water or drinks. \*\*\* We will be hosting a **Card Party/Tricky Tray** on April 11<sup>th</sup>. We are in the planning phase for this event and need volunteers and donations. \*\*\* We ask that you continue to support our fundraisers or make a contribution to the "Class of 2010 Student Activity Fund" so that our children will have an unforgettable senior year. We look forward to working with you and would love to any suggestions or ideas you might have.

Angella McKenzie: [gatchair@optonline.net](mailto:gatchair@optonline.net) or  
Sarah Lucinese: [sb0618@excite.com](mailto:sb0618@excite.com).

**Class of 2011:** A huge **THANK YOU** to all who shopped for the Class of 2011! Without your support, the night would not have been the success it was. A fabulous time was had by all and special thanks to Crate & Barrel for their generosity. We can't wait to start planning for next year! \*\*\* Although it is a way off, ladies, please mark your calendars for **Wednesday April 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2008**. A very special evening at **Macaluso's Restaurant** in Hawthorne will be dedicated just for you. Enjoy great food, meet new friends, relax and enjoy! Details to follow soon! \*\*\* We thought shopping at Crate & Barrel was so much fun that we are already planning an entire day for you and your family at **Barnes & Noble Bookstore**. Set to take place next spring, this is a wonderful opportunity to support your school. We will announce the date after the New Year. Thanks again for your help and support. We know everyone has very busy lives both within and outside the BCA community. We truly appreciate all you do now and in the future as well. Have a very happy and safe holiday!  
Rita Wollner: [Rita4mom@verizon.net](mailto:Rita4mom@verizon.net) or  
Monica Rome: [romemonica@hotmail.com](mailto:romemonica@hotmail.com).

## Finding Fulfillment in the Stem Cell Lab

It has now been almost a year since the Stem Cell Lab opened its doors. Some students have done remarkable projects in this lab, two of which have been already been submitted to Intel for scholarship consideration, with many more in the pipeline. One of our research students was recently named "Student of the Month" for the state of NJ, and received her award in Trenton from the NJ Board of Education. Mrs. Leonardi and I ran a very successful research program last summer, and sixty students took part in it. We are now beginning to develop projects with students that include aspects of nanotechnology, the next major technology initiative underway at BCA.

I now consider myself to be a biology teacher. It is a subject I have loved all my life, but the richness and complexity of biology, which has always been the subject matter of this discipline, has recently been enormously enlarged and made more complex by the completion of the human (and other) genomes and by the ability to transfer genes easily between organisms. This has given great power to the discipline, but has also created problems for teaching biology. Textbooks are obsolete before they leave the presses, and traditional teachers out of school for even a few years have no idea what is going on in modern biology. How can this problem be reconciled with the impor-

tance of introducing these new concepts to students? One solution to this problem, the one we are attempting at BCA, is to teach concepts through research. By doing a research project the student not only learns skills, through which ideas are retained better than by rote memorization, but they also learn how to access the scientific literature, where the recent concepts make their first public appearance, and they learn to think critically. They learn what makes something an experiment. They learn how to handle data. The importance of these skills transcends biology; they are useful to everyone.

I am thrilled to be a teacher. Teaching students about research with course material that has always excited me has provided me with a rich and full career experience. This has given me new insights into learning and the skills that a good teacher must either be born with or develop. These were things I had always taken for granted, but no longer do. The ability to teach gifted students in comfortable, well-equipped surroundings in the company of the talented and caring staff and administration of BCA has been a remarkable experience for which I will always be grateful. Thanks to all of you for being part of this journey.

Mr. Robert Pergolizzi, Director, Stem Cell Lab

## SkillsUSA

Recently, BCA's SkillsUSA chapter and state President attended SkillsUSA's Washington Leadership Training Institute in Washington D.C., which was founded to foster leadership abilities, emphasize the importance of citizenship, and enhance employability skills. The student body at the conference, comprised of SkillsUSA student leaders from the entire United States, learned how to develop influence among peers and communicate as leaders, make decisions, effect change and serve their communities as citizens, and become catalysts for growth as employees. The state President felt that, as a result of the essential training, she will make an even greater impact upon both the success of her SkillsUSA chapter and the productivity of the SkillsUSA state team. More importantly, she will apply the skills and concepts she attained from the conference to create significant

leadership roles in many facets of her life, especially her academic and general communities. In fact, she even utilized concepts of citizenship that she learned during the leadership conference by meeting with highly influential members of Congress, New Jersey Senators Frank Lautenberg and Robert Menendez. While on Capitol Hill, she lobbied for continued support for career and technical education by illustrating its immense effect on her personal life and for the New Jersey SkillsUSA organization. The leadership training institute clearly had an immediate positive effect on her because her ability to attain influence from her peers was evident, as the senators were very interested and promised to continue their support for technical education programs, especially SkillsUSA.

John Branda, Culinary Academy

## Titanium Knights Robotics

Competition teams have formed and we have just registered four robots for the “Rumble at the Rock” Regional BotsIQ Competition coming up on December 1<sup>st</sup> in Plymouth, Massachusetts. Our teams are eagerly repairing and updating their robotic designs in hopes of some good action at the event. Also, the kits for the Panasonic Challenge are here and several groups will need to compete in-house to decide the two final teams that will represent BCA at the Preliminary Challenge on January 23<sup>rd</sup>. Other students are working toward the Dimension Redesign Competition, the Team America Rocketry Challenge, Motorama Robot Conflict, the ReMI project and the BotsIQ National Competition.

Our Laser Engraving fundraiser is underway and we are putting together a new website to help make the engraving process go smoother. Parents are encouraged to have their child’s name permanently branded on ipods, cell phones, calculators, and even laptops! Also our corporate sponsorship drive continues. If you know of any possible sponsors for our program, please help us by sending the information to our group or by passing the company one of our promotional packs (available in room 166 or from any project or club member).

For the most recent information, visit us at: <http://sites.bergen.org/battlebots>.

Joe DeFalco, Technology Department

### INSIGHTS ON HISTORY’S LESSONS

In the later part of the U.S. Civil War, Union and Confederate leaders were engaged in peace negotiations. One of the key goals for the Confederates was to secure a “secret” deal that would provide better terms for them once the war ended. Lincoln refused these requests. The Confederate negotiators cited the example of King Charles I during the English Civil War and noted that he had been willing to make such a deal with his adversaries. Lincoln’s response was “The one thing I remember distinctly about Charles I is he lost his head.”

Clearly, President Lincoln was a student of history, who had learned its lessons well. We’re all familiar with the cliché “Those who don’t learn the mistakes of the past are doomed to repeat them.” One of the values I see in the study of history is an alternative to that old maxim. It has to do with presenting significant historical figures as role models to our students.

Last year I let students listen to audiotapes of President Lyndon Johnson speaking with members of the Senate to get support for various initiatives. One of LBJ’s great strengths was his ability to deal with people in a way that allowed him to achieve his goals. If intimidation worked with one person, LBJ would intimidate. If charm

worked with another person, he would be charming. If he knew somebody was set in stone against his position, he would work on that person to at least soften the level of opposition. After listening to student insights on the audiotapes, I told them when they’re in a position of leadership in their chosen field; they would do well to emulate his example. Learning how to deal with people effectively and how to be persuasive is a key ingredient in leadership.

The example of LBJ is only one of numerous examples I will use throughout a school year. As history teachers, we are in a unique position of being able to use our discipline to prepare students for leadership. In recent years the Academy has expanded the role of history (through the IB) and the end result will be students who are better prepared for leadership in various fields. Over the years I have heard similar insights from parents and my whole department is grateful for the support we receive from the parents of our students. As always, I appreciate the insights I receive through conversations with parents and I look forward to continuing this dialogue about the importance of the study of history.

Victor Lynch, Social Studies

## Jeopardy Night

This January, the Junior Class and the Quiz Bowl Team will co-sponsor Jeopardy Night. Be on the lookout for more details!

# Happy

# Thanksgiving!

## Cultural Connections...

Theatre Arts News — November 2007



Heartfelt thanks from cast, crew and everyone connected with our fall production of William Shakespeare's *Twelfth Night* for the terrific support from our audience. With the help of Peggy Mauro, who headed our promotional activities getting our press releases and promotional photos in more and more publications throughout the county, and the wonderful PPO volunteers who stuffed our ticket form in September and our promotional flyer in October into their mailing envelopes, our audiences for straight plays have increased with each production over the last two years. We had our largest houses for a straight play yet both Friday and Saturday night. Among the audience was a cadre of senior citizens who have become fans and order tickets for every production and more and more students and parents from our own BCA community. A tremendous round of applause must go out to our invaluable parent support group PAPA (Parents and Patrons of the Arts), who prepared a delicious hot rehearsal dinner before the final dress technical rehearsal, painted scenery, manned the ticket booth, organized and sold flowers, 'kisses for the cast', and refreshments before the show and during intermission. Special thanks to the Schwitter family for arranging for a beautiful professionally shot DVD of the show and kudos to Walter Czolacz, our amazing PAPA photographer; check out his latest display of stunning photographs from the 2007 spring production of *Romeo and Juliet*.

Of course, time never stops at BCA and we are currently in the process of auditioning for this year's musical, *The Secret*

*Garden*, based on the Frances Hodgson Burnett novel of the same name, with book and lyrics by Marsha Norman and music by Lucy Simon. Set simultaneously in Colonial India and Edwardian England, this heartwarming family musical tells of Mary, a young English orphan, whose wounded spirit is healed by the elements of the earth, ghosts of the past and local Highland animals and children.

*The Secret Garden* won the 1991 Tony Awards for Best Book of a Musical, Best Featured Actress in a Musical and Best Scenic Design. This week students from all grades and all academies have auditioned by singing a prepared selection from the score for Director Victoria Pero and Vocal Musical Director Patrick Finley. They have demonstrated their ability to reproduce a dance combination given to them by our choreographer, guest-artist Laurie Crochet and her student associate. Finally, those students who are 'called back' will read from the script and cast lists will be posted by Thanksgiving break. Students are already working hard, assisting with the audition process as stage managers, assistant directors and videographers. Our orchestra, under the direction of Mr. Michael has been rehearsing the exquisite score since October. We are excited to welcome back, in addition to guest-artist Laurie Crochet, Anita la Scala (set designer for *Twelfth Night*) and Ryan Trupp (lighting designer for *The Grapes of Wrath*). Because of the overwhelming audience response we will, for the first time, do THREE performances of the musical: Friday, February 29<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 p.m. and Saturday, March 1<sup>st</sup> at 2:30 p.m. and 7:30 p.m., with a snow date of Sunday March 2<sup>nd</sup> at 2:30 p.m. Tickets will go on sale one month before the performances.

### \*Thanksgiving\*

**As Parents and Patrons of the Arts, we are sincerely grateful for ...**

**... the students and faculty who collaborated on the production of *Twelfth Night*** for two evenings of entertainment, in the truest sense of the word! We are so fortunate to have such a dedicated pool of talent and creativity as an inspiration to all of us. *If you would like to purchase a DVD of the performance, please e-mail [kav23@optonline.net](mailto:kav23@optonline.net) for details.*

**... everyone who supports the arts at BCA!** We greatly appreciate the bountiful donations of refreshments for our lobby sales and sumptuous food for the Dress Rehearsal Dinner. Your generous patronage at our Floral, Cast Kisses, and Refreshment stands enables us to contribute to the myriad choral, instrumental, visual and theatre programs available to all students at BCA.

**> Please note the revised date of our next PAPA meeting – and join us in the Grill:**

Wednesday December 5<sup>th</sup>, 2007, featuring "A Day in the Life" of BCA Music students

Monday January 7<sup>th</sup>, 2008, with AVPA alumni sharing their college experiences

***Best Wishes to All for Healthy, Happy Holidays!***

To receive further information about PAPA, please contact Leila Moore at [moorepsych70@aol.com](mailto:moorepsych70@aol.com).

## Ensemble Prestige

As December approaches, there are many events happening in the Music Department. Please come out to support the newest aspect of our music program, the student run Ensemble Prestige. This is where advanced soloists, duos, trios and quartets perform chamber music, and proceeds from the performance go to UNICEF. The Ensemble Prestige concert will take place in the auditorium on December 3<sup>rd</sup> at 7:30 p.m. On December 4<sup>th</sup> students who have applied to Bergen County Band will audition -- good luck to the 32 applicants! Bergen County Band is an honors ensemble that accepts only the most talented musicians from Bergen County! Join Dr. Finley and his choir students for the annual Holiday Concert on December 18<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 p.m.

Michael Lemma, CCA

## Bonjours!

The French Honor Society offers an opportunity for students currently learning French to enhance their knowledge of French and Francophone culture while having fun. We celebrate the language and culture through numerous events held for or sponsored by its members. Each year, the society accepts new members who have reached certain grade requirements and who have completed the second year of French at our Academy.

The 2007-2008 year is off to a great start! For Halloween, we hosted a "bal masque" (masked ball) in which members dressed up, ate French food, and watched a French movie. The following week, we hosted a "table ronde" (round table) for the members as part of the National French Week celebration. During lunch, members were welcome to come, sample French foods, chat "en francais", and play French board games while listening to current French and Francophone music. In the middle of November, FHS sponsored a trip for its members and all advanced students of French in order to see the play "Oh les Beaux Jours!" (Happy Days) by Samuel Beckett at the Garage Theater at Fairleigh Dickinson University; after the play, we participated in a talk-back session in which the actors and director of the play were available for questions or comments about the play itself and the theater of the absurd. Currently, we are planning a trip to New York City to see the new Impressionist wing at the Metropolitan Museum of Art and to have lunch at a French restaurant. Do not forget to join us for our annual Mardi Gras celebration for more French fun and foods.

FHS has a lot in store for its members, and this year promises to be a great one!

The Officers of the French Honor Society

## Junior Statesmen Bring Home 13 Awards

This year's BCA Junior Statesmen had an outstanding performance at this year's Fall State competition on November 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup>. BCA brought home 13 "Best Speaker" awards, far surpassing any of the other schools attending. In fact, one student single-handedly won five awards! We also came in first in the quiz bowl tournament, with our second team tying for second place. As, advisor of the club I would once again like to commend the students for their hard work and dedication, as well as their exemplary conduct throughout the weekend. I would also like to thank Mary Rooney for all of her hard work and for volunteering what could have been a nice long four day weekend to help us out as chaperone.

Any students interested in learning more about the Junior State of America and how to become a part of this organization should contact Mr. Scott Demeter at [scodem@bergen.org](mailto:scodem@bergen.org).

Scott Demeter, Social Studies Teacher

### *Advice from Professional Speaker Adam Redfield -- Premier Tutor and Master Trainer for The Princeton Review*

The Parent Education Institute is pleased to sponsor an evening with Adam Redfield, Premier Tutor, one of four in NJ, and Master Trainer for *The Princeton Review*, with fourteen years experience teaching test preparation.

He will address the following questions:

- \* What is on the SAT?
- \* Who are the test writers and what do they (and the College Board) claim the SAT measures?
- \* What does the SAT actually measure?
- \* How thinking like a test taker is different from thinking like a high school student.
- \* How is the SAT scored?
- \* What's the deal on the essay and the rest of the writing section?
- \* What are the differences between the ACT and the SAT?
- \* What ARE subject tests anyway?
- \* Should one take Subject tests and when?

*Mark your calendar & bring your notebooks.*

**Thursday, December 6<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 p.m.**

*The Academy Grill located on the Second floor*