

PPO CONNECTIONS

THE QUICK DETAILS ON WHAT'S HAPPENING AT BCA
WWW.ACADEMYPPO.COM

A March Message...

The Remembering TJ Assembly and accompanying evening meeting for parents was met with sensitivity and promoted an open dialogue about teen depression. Special thanks to Andrea Sheridan for her efforts to bring the wellness initiative to our community. In addition, the Balance and Thrive workshop during the February and March PPO meetings helped provide a better understanding of the developing teen and ways to help them face contemporary challenges.

The cult classic **Bat Boy** engaged BCA audiences earlier this month with a spectacular tale that follows a half bat, half boy living in West Virginia. During the weekend, we were reminded of the collaborative efforts that allow a BCA musical to appear, in many ways, effortless. We are fortunate to have an excellent Arts curriculum and devoted, professional faculty. Special thanks to the parent organization PAPA (Parent and Patrons of the Arts) and it's Co-Presidents Karen Sacks and Gloria Chau who oversee the large volunteer parent community who work diligently behind the scenes in so many facets of the production.

Please continue to support the academy parent groups. It's a great way to meet parents and contribute to your student's high school experience at BCA. In addition, the volunteering experience is a great way to learn more about your student's educational journey.

Thank you to those who supported the opulent Gatsby Fashion Show this week. The Class Parents Nieves, Dawn and Pat and coordinators Felicia and Nvair along with their energetic team of parent volunteers, class advisors and class council all worked to make the evening a tremendous success.

We invite you to take advantage of the numerous upcoming opportunities to reconnect with the members of BCA community. The April Cabaret, the PPO Picnic in May and the BCA June Field Day promise to be fun-filled events that welcome your volunteer spirit.

Our May PPO meeting will feature parent panels representing each academy sharing their experiences with the college process. This is an incredibly worthwhile meeting that has been popular over the past few years. Shared insight provides enormous assistance navigating the college process. We hope you will attend!

Happy Spring and stay connected!

The PPO Board
Cathy, Ruth, Sasha, Susan, May and Sue



Academy Parent Partnership Organization
A New Jersey Nonprofit Corporation

Calendar Highlights

March 26 th	College Admission Success and College Sports Opportunities 7:30pm 2nd Flr. Cafeteria
March 29 th - 30 th	Catalyst Prep 9:00a.m. - 1:00p.m. Both days at BCA
April 1 st	Senior Experience Meeting for Junior Parents 6:30p.m. Auditorium
April 6 th - 8 th	Midwest College Tours
April 9 th	BCA Cabaret and Social – 7:00p.m. BCA Auditorium
April 12 th	ACT Testing – off site
April 14 th - 15 th	Spring Recess - School Closed
April 18 th	School Closed
April 22 nd	Zumba for Autism Awareness Class 6:30p.m. BCA Gym
April 23 rd	PPO Newsletter to be Sent
April 24 th	College Fair 6:00p.m. - 8:00p.m. BCA Gym
April 29 th	Ensemble Prestige 7:00p.m. Auditorium

Our next issue will be published on April 23rd. Please submit all May calendar entries and all articles to Ruth Walsh at ireny110@yahoo.com by April 17th, 2014. Thank You.



From the Principal's Desk

“There’s joy to be had...words to live by”

Recently, Steve and Wendy Sefcik along with their 16 year old son, Mathew, came to BCA to share their message of hope following the suicide of their son and brother T.J. Wendy, whose story was recently chronicled in an article in *The Record* lost her first husband in the Lockerbie tragedy at the age of 26 and following her marriage to Steve had three sons and lived what she described "As perfect a life as you could imagine". Unfortunately following a bout with depression and despite their numerous attempts to assist T.J. using a variety of therapists, T.J. took his own life. I was impressed with the way in which the Sefciks were able to share their message of hope after such overwhelming sadness. In speaking with Wendy and Steve after their fifth presentation of the day, I expressed my gratitude to them for sharing their story but still wondered how life had changed since losing their son T.J. Wendy said yes we've been through a lot and there are sad times but remember there is joy to be had in life. Her words resonated with me and I immediately wrote them down. Yes there are times when our

lives are touched by sadness, but knowing that there is joy to be had in life helps us through the tough times. Once again I thank the Sefciks for sharing their story with our students and staff and thank our Assistant Superintendent, Ms. Andrea Sheridan, for bringing them to our school.

BCA Hackathon

For the first time in our history, BCA will hold a Hackathon, a 24 hour event dedicated to computer programming. While many people may be turned off by the thought of "hacking", I've learned that it's taken on a whole new meaning within the computer field. Hats off to our students for bringing this to our attention and getting some major backers for this event. We are still putting plans together for this event but many of our teachers and Tech staff are looking forward to a successful event.

National Intel Finalists

I am writing this month's column aboard a train bound for Washington D.C. to attend the Intel Awards Gala along with Mrs. Donna Leonardi and Dr. Robert Pergolizzi. We are proud to have two of the forty National Finalists in the Intel competition for the first time in our school's history. But before the awards are even announced, it is worthwhile to pause and reflect on what it takes just to make it to the finals of this prestigious competition. While BCA is fortunate to have impressive equipment in our research labs, it is important to recognize the real reason our school continues to garner such impressive accolades - our talented and dedicated teachers who continue to steer their students to new heights. Donna and Bob are indicative of teachers who go above and beyond the call of duty on a daily basis and serve as an inspiration to their students as well as their colleagues. Kudos to them for all their

hard work and efforts on behalf of our students!

BCA Signs Additional Articulation Agreements with NJIT

Our relationship with NJIT dates back to the early days of the Academies which led to the formation of similar Academy type programs in several counties throughout New Jersey based on our early success. Recently, Rich Panicucci, our Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction, and I met with Dr. Fadi Deek, Provost and Senior Executive Vice President, to renew our existing articulation agreements for AAST and AEDT as well as discuss the possibility of signing additional agreements to serve students in ABF, AMST and ATCS. I am happy to report that NJIT continues to be impressed with our programs and is pleased to enter into these additional articulations which allow BCA students to enter NJIT with the possibility of a full year of college credit based on courses taken at BCA at no additional cost. (Please see additional information from our Guidance Department in this issue)

Bat Boy

I must admit I wasn't sure what to expect as I took my seat at the recent performance of *Bat Boy*. A story about a bat boy found in the caves of West Virginia had made its way to the stage and I'm glad it did! While not the traditional offering, many have come to expect from a Broadway production, it certainly was an enjoyable evening. Kudos to Mr. Stephen Kaplan and the entire cast and crew for bringing the story of *Bat Boy* to life.

Best wishes to our Spring Athletes and enjoy the Spring!

Russell Davis
Principal

Please view our Superintendent Dr. Howard Lerner's Message by using this link:
http://www.academyppo.com/uploads/1/1/1/7/11170958/superintendent_letter_3-2014.pdf

Please join us at the
Junior Parent Senior Experience Meeting

This meeting is for all BCA junior parents and BCA juniors. The Senior Experience Coordinator will speak on preparing for Senior Experience. A group of seniors and current mentors will speak and answer questions about internships in breakout sessions. This is a great chance to network. Confirmed speakers include mentors from Eisai Pharmaceuticals, Mercedes Benz USA, Merrill Lynch, United Water, Englewood Hospital and Medical Center, and Robertet Fragrance Corporation. There will be many more as well.

Junior Parent Senior Experience Meeting
Bergen County Academies Auditorium
Tuesday, April 1, 2014
6:30p.m. - 8:00p.m.

Heather Lawler
Senior Experience Coordinator

An Added Note:
One goal of our monthly PPO meetings is to feature presentations from relevant outside resources available to the community. It is not, however, a PPO practice to endorse them for your own use. We hope you will use your best judgment deciding whether you choose to utilize their services.

NJIT. . . Opportunity for College Credit

We are excited to announce a renewed agreement with **The New Jersey Institute of Technology (NJIT)** that will enable our students the unique opportunity to enter college with significant college credit and, at times, even Sophomore standing.

By entering into the NJIT Joint Admissions program here at BCA, students will work with their School Counselor closely as they complete the requirements at BCA for NJIT credit. Many of the classes that students are expected to take are already courses embedded into each student's individual academy focus. Additional IB and AP classes round out the program and ensure that the student is maximizing BCA challenges and is ready to enter a competitive collegiate environment. While the goal is for students to complete the entire parallel course list, it is understood that, for some, that may not be possible and flexibility will be granted on a case by case situation.

We believe that enrollment in this program is an excellent opportunity for our students and will provide students with more flexibility in course choices and a significant cost reduction at NJIT. Please note that enrollment in this Joint Admissions Program at BCA does not require a student to matriculate at NJIT. It simply expects that students will consider NJIT as a viable option during their college search process.

During the college process, we know that families have many options and choices to make. We hope that this attractive opportunity will encourage you to consider NJIT as an appealing college prospect. If you have any questions, please contact Ms. Redlitz for further clarification.

Alyce B. Cusano
Guidance Department



BCA Summer Writing Program

REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN For The BCA SUMMER WRITING PROGRAM!

Now in its third year, the BCA Summer Writing Program has proven valuable and enlightening to young writers eager to develop their craft. Students in the program have already gone on to publish their work and win national recognition in contests such as the Scholastic Art & Writing Awards!

The dates for the 2014 Program are as follows:

Poetry: June 30 – July 10

Fiction: July 14 – July 24

Visiting artists will include National Endowment for the Arts fellowship winners Catherine Doty and Robbie Clipper, Binghamton University Creative Writing faculty Joseph Weil and Allen Ginsberg Award winner Svea Barrett. Details at www.bergen.org/summerwriting.

Space is limited—classes are kept small to provide individual attention to each student's work. If you think you might be interested in another section of the Fiction course in August, please email the director of the program, Richard K. Weems, at ricwee@bergen.org.

Richard Weems
English Department

Accolades for BCA Writers Continue to Roll in!

Here are the latest accolades for the fine writers in the BCA community:

~~An AAST junior won Best of Issue in JUST POETRY!'s 16th Annual National High School Winter Poetry Contest with her poem "The Medicinal Properties of Sunflower Seeds." She wins \$500 and will now compete for their Easterday Poetry Award. This contest receives over 15,000 entries every year.

~~An AAST senior won 3rd place in the String-of-10 SIX Flash Fiction Contest from Flash Fiction Chronicles. Her winning piece, "Foreigner," wins a cash prize and will be published, along with an interview, by the magazine. This is a national contest for all age groups, where entrants had one week to compose a short fiction piece using required words selected by the editors.

~~An ABF senior and an AAST senior took 1st AND 2nd place, respectively, in the Lake Effect National High School Poetry Contest, sponsored by the bachelor of fine arts in creative writing program at Penn State Erie, TheBehrend College.

~~And FIVE BCA writers won national medals in the Alliance for Young Artists & Writers Scholastic Awards for their work. They will be honored in a ceremony at Carnegie Hall to receive their medals:

--An AVPA senior won a Silver Medal in Dramatic Script

--An ABF senior won a Silver Medal in Poetry

--An ATCS senior, an AAST junior and an AAST senior each won a Gold Medal in Personal Essay/Memoir

Amazing work from all involved, and thanks to their teachers for all the encouragement and guidance.

Richard Weems
English Department



Save the Date

Thursday, April 24th, 2014

6:00 PM—8:00 PM

Bergen County Academies'



**Don't miss out on this great opportunity
to visit with over 140 colleges and
universities from all over the country!**



For more information about this event,
please contact Ms. Redlitz at jenred@bergen.org



HOSA Club Holding Organic Food Drive

BCA's HOSA club is holding its annual school-wide Organic Food Drive **March 17th to April 11th**. Since one of this year's national HOSA service projects focuses on the eradication of childhood hunger in America, the club hopes to not only make a great contribution to the community's food banks but also raise awareness of this ongoing issue throughout the community.

Items such as shelf stable milk, canned soups, toiletries, etc. are being collected in IGS. All donations will go to the Helping Hand Food Bank and other food banks in the Hackensack area. We hope you will support this worthy effort. Thank you.

Mrs. Donna Leonardi

HOSA Club Advisor

REMINDER: Attention Class of 2015

Senior Portraits must be taken by March 28th in order to sign up for a retake date.

See Mrs. Rios to sign up for retakes as soon as possible. Thank you.

Mrs. Evelyn Rios
Yearbook Advisor

PPO BOARD CANDIDATES AND COMMITTEE CHAIRS WANTED

The PPO Nominating Committee is seeking candidates to fill positions for the 2014-2015 school year. If you are interested in a Board position or a Committee Liaison position or would like more information, please contact any of the members of the Nominating Committee **by April 16, 2014**. Please note that serving on the board would require some daytime flexibility.

Nominating Committee

Kathleen Keating kbk539@aol.com
Angella McKenzie gatchair@gmail.com
Monica Rome romemonica@hotmail.com



The Class of 2015
presents...



April 9, 2014

6:30 pm

BCA Auditorium

Students/Faculty: \$10

General Admission: \$12

***Join us for an evening of fabulous entertainment provided by
our incredibly talented students & staff, light desserts, &
amazing raffle baskets!!!!***

Pre-Order Tricky Tray

Raffle Tickets Today

Pre-printed labels included for ease!

\$20 Value Package (\$24 in tickets... 15 white & 3 red!)

\$40 Super Value Package (\$50 in tickets...25 white, 5 red & 1 gold!)

Questions: Contact Lisa Caron @ lisa.caron3@verizon.net

www
www

Name of Purchaser: _____

Cell Phone #: _____ Email: _____

Student/faculty Tickets: _____ Gen. Admission Tickets: _____

\$20 Value Package(s): _____ \$40 Value Package(s): _____

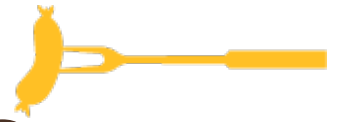
Total enclosed: _____ Checks : Class of 2015 Student Activity Fund

Mail to: Lisa Caron, 145 West Ridgewood Ave., Ridgewood, NJ 07450

**All preordered Value Packages will be available for pick-up the day of the event!
Orders must be received by 4/4/14.**

You're invited to the 21st

Annual PPO Picnic



Bergen County Academies

Help us welcome the Class of 2018



Saturday, May 17th, 2014

12:00 - 4:00pm

**Admission is free to all
paid PPO families
& families of the
Class of 2018**

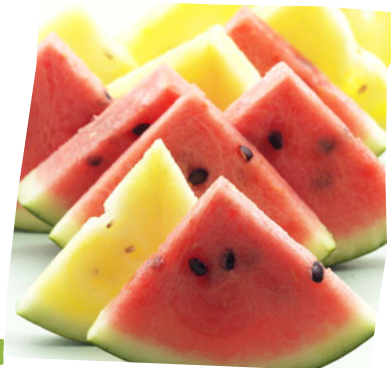
**On the Athletic Field
Behind the School
(Rain or Shine)***

*In the event of rain, picnic will be in the Gym

RSVP Online at <http://bit.ly/1gwja57>
or go to www.academyppo.com and
click on the Picnic RSVP Form

Questions? Contact us at
bcappopicnic@gmail.com

**Each family MUST bring a
two-liter beverage and a one
gallon bottle of water**



We hope you can join us!

Lots of fun activities and LIVE Music!!



Class News Updates....

Class of 2014

Once again our amazing class came together and pulled off a Gatsby-worthy fashion show. Our class moms and the fashion show committee chaired by Felicia Angus and Nvair Beylerian thank all who contributed time, energy, and money to make it happen. Proceeds will go towards prom and the final push to the end! Or is it a push to a new beginning? **Dawn, Nieves, and Pat**
bcaclass2014@gmail.com

Class of 2015

Class Parents Report Good-bye snow, hello Spring (I hope!) **So first up is:**

Cabaret Night hosted by Class of 2015, the major fundraiser for our class this year is on April 9th, 2014...The auditions are over, fifty performers have been selected and are now frantically perfecting their acts. Fabulous, gorgeous baskets are being put together for your delight and tickets are on sale. So please, buy your cabaret tickets, buy your raffle tickets, encourage anyone you've ever met to buy theirs and come along for a great evening's entertainment. Basket winners will be drawn during the interval and you will receive a text on the evening if you're one of the lucky ones. A flyer with order forms for tickets is in this very newsletter. We also need your help on the day, to sell tickets, help with food and provide desserts etc so please respond to our plaintive email cries for help!

BCA College Fair: April 24, 2014 a fine opportunity to chat with college representatives from around the country.

Class of 2015 Junior Prom: Friday, April 25th at the Old Tappan Manor Tickets are now on sale! So encourage your kids to put on their glad rags, buy a ticket, organize their friends into a happy party table on google docs and encourage them to have great night out, dancing and dining with their peers.

AAST Career Day: May 29, 2014 *** The class dues continue to come in, many thanks to all of you who have paid (you only need to do it once) and to those who have yet to do it, please consider paying soon, just so that we know how many kids will be attending the various fun activities and events planned for senior year. *** Regular readers of this column will know how attached I became to the Pathfinder College Maps; I find myself bereft that they have (finally) sold out. But this Spring Break I'm heading off map in hand, to explore the wonders of the US college system! Wish me luck....

Lizzie Trimm, Donna Tiffensor and Lisa Caron - Class parents 2015 bcaclass2015@gmail.com.

Class of 2016

Hello Class of 2016! March has been a quiet month for our class. We are now preparing for our next two events: **College Fair** on Thursday, April 24th and the **New Student/PPO Picnic** on Saturday, May 17th. The Sophomore Class is responsible for providing a reception for the College Representatives. We will need volunteers to help set-up, serve and cleanup. An email will be sent out shortly. *** We are currently working with the class council on designing t-shirts as a fundraiser. All proceeds will go toward Junior Prom. We will set-up a table at the PPO picnic to sell the shirts. We are still attempting to collect class dues. Letters were recently sent out to those families who have not paid. Thank you for your continued support. If you have any questions, comments or concerns reach out to us. **Regards, Laina and Maria**
Maria Jasionowski, mariajasionowski@yahoo.com.
and **Laina DeRose**, msdr21@yahoo.com

Class of 2017

Greetings Class of 2017 and happy spring! We look forward to the cold weather breaking and to our 1st Class Car Wash Fundraiser! The car wash will take place on Saturday, May 17th at BCA, led by our students. We hope to see you there with your child for some fun and conversation! This will coincide with our BCA PPO picnic for next years incoming Freshman. *** Our class council is also working on a Class of 2017 hoodie. Details will be forthcoming...*** Lastly, our next coffee social is scheduled for **Thursday, April 24th at 9a.m. at Panera, Rt. 4 West in Paramus**. Thank you to those who attended our last evening coffee social! *** We do apologize for the frequent reminders, but please remember to send in your class dues of \$200, if you haven't already. Checks should be made payable to **"BCA Class of 2017", to the address: BCA Class of 2017 Class Dues, 200 Hackensack Ave, Hackensack, NJ 07601**. Thank you for your cooperation!

Warm regards, D'Arcy Natale and Allison Orecchio
bcaclassof2017@gmail.com



Parents And Patrons of the Arts

As we prepare to enter the Extremely Busy Season, here's a quick update:

If you want to order a **Bat Boy** DVD, but didn't, the order form is online at the PAPA page on the PPO website, also known as "[click here](#)". Please place your order soon - we want to get these before school is out. If you haven't seen any of the excerpts videotaped by alum dad Walter Czolacz, you can find them on his [You Tube channel](#).

Late March has brought us mainly Musical events, and they have all been wonderful. As we write this, we have just finished joining the AVPA-M seniors at their annual recital, immediately followed by ACAFest, which deserves to be an annual event! Thank you ACA organizers, for your support of PAPA!

Speaking of Music, **Tuesday, April 29th at 7:00pm** is the annual Ensemble Prestige concert, featuring our Music students in various chamber settings. It's a lovely evening of mainly classical music and it's free, so if you are free, try to be there (in the auditorium).

We are still selling tickets for our Broadway raffle... You can see [Kinky Boots](#) for just \$5. Or better yet, 3 for \$10. We'll be there with our jar at all arts and PPO events. We'll choose a winner at **Macbeth** in June.

We're going to have a Potluck Brunch on **Saturday, April 26th at 10:00a.m.** -- will let everyone know where in a week or so when we put out a Perfect Potluck sign up. That will be a mainly social event, plus elections. Please try to make it!

Please mark your calendars for the May meeting, which will follow the PPO meeting on **Tuesday, May 13th**. It will feature breakout sessions for each AVPA academy with a panel of seniors talking about "How to do What I Just Did", which is get accepted to college for their various arts. We'll have a panel of students going to college for Visual Arts, a panel for Music and a panel for Theatre. This meeting is a must for any parent or student thinking about applying to study the arts in college. You will never get a better, more honest perspective on the college application/audition/interview process.

Our June meeting will be our *End of the Year Banquet/Installation* at the [Emerson Hotel](#) on **Tuesday, June 10th**, same night as the Choir Banquet, so we can drop off our choir members at [Seasons](#) and eat between their drop-off and pickup. You'll have a choice of 3 entrees and we'll send out notification in plenty of time.

Other upcoming events are on the calendar, which we'll resend with a couple of updates. We're going to start looking for help at: Rehearsal Dinners, concession sales and box office for One-Acts and *Macbeth*, for Groove-Out, for graduation DVD sales... and probably a few other things toward the end of the year. At least it's warming up out there!!!

Karen Sacks
kssacks@optonline.net

and
Co-Presidents

Gloria Ling Chau
pcgl7@optonline.net

Ace the ACT!



Catalyst's ACT Bootcamp is a momentum-boosting workshop that arms students with go-to strategies for every question they'll face on the day of the test. Topics include:

- How to spot hidden clues that instantly reveal the main idea in long ACT Reading passages
- How to highlight key information in seemingly confusing ACT Science passages
- How to shortcut ACT math questions that stump more than 90% of test-takers
- How to crack the 10 types of English questions guaranteed to be on the ACT

DATE & TIME

Saturday, March 29th from 9am to 1pm &
Sunday, March 30th from 9am to 1pm
at Bergen County Academies

COST

Just \$165 per student for the
entire workshop and course
materials

For more information or to enroll, visit www.CatalystPrep.com and click the Bootcamp Sign-Up tab on the website's menu bar. The deadline to enroll in this special ACT prep opportunity is Wednesday, March 26th at 6pm.



ZUMBA[®]

for
Autism Awareness

Come **April 22nd** at **6:30 pm** to a fun-filled
Zumba class in the BCA gym,
taught by **Mrs. Forne-Neves!**

Refreshments will be available for purchase,
and a **raffle** will be held during the night!

It is only **\$7** to attend, and ALL proceeds will
go to the **Autism Speaks Walk** held in May!

Sponsored by EASY A



**"Winning The Game:
Achieving College Admission Success
and College Sports Opportunities"**



Wednesday, March 26, 2014

7:30 to 9:00 p.m.

**Hackensack Campus -- 2nd Floor Cafeteria
200 Hackensack Avenue, Hackensack, New Jersey 07601**

In conjunction with BrainStorm Tutoring & Arts and Keen Eye Sports Video & Advisory Services, the Bergen County Technical High School District presents this **FREE SEMINAR** for parents who are currently or soon to be looking at colleges.

HOSTED BY:

Scott Doty, Founder & CEO of BrainStorm Tutoring & Arts

Scott will share secrets on how to navigate the college application process. How can you maximize your child's chances of earning admission and scholarship money? Scott will offer some tricks of the trade.

Larry Heller, Founder of Keen Eye Sports, President of Knights Sports Parents Boosters

Larry will discuss tools and strategies to increase high school athletes' visibility to coaches at colleges that fit each athlete's interests and abilities. Larry will share what he has learned from many local families' showcasing and recruiting experiences.

This seminar is geared toward parents, but students are welcome to attend.

E-mail info@keeneyesports.com with any questions.



www.stormthetest.com



www.keeneyesports.com

Show your pride in your BCA GRAD!!!

Purchase a BCA Graduation Sign!



Get a customized sign for your Class of 2014 graduate!!!!

These beautiful 100% all weather signs are 24" X 48" (larger than pictured) and come with metal stakes for lawn installation or they can be hung in your window.

Custom printed for BCA in Black & Gold, they are \$30/sign.

A perfect way to welcome everyone to your graduation party!

All orders must be received by May 1, 2014. Signs will be delivered to BCA in early June. To place an order, please complete and return:

Name: _____

Email: _____

Graduates name as you want it to appear on sign (please print):

Number of signs: ____ Total (\$30/sign): ____ Checks payable to BCA Student Activity Fund Class of 2015.

Mail orders to: Lisa Caron, 145 West Ridgewood Ave., Ridgewood, NJ 07450. Questions? Please contact us at Lisa.caron3@verizon.net

(A minimum of 100 signs need to be ordered for our order to be placed.)