VOL. 17, NO. 2 OCTOBER 2014

PPO CONNECTIONS

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

PPO Board Message

Happy Thanksgiving! November marks a time when we reflect on the things for which we are thankful. We are fortunate to be a part of this incredible academic community and to work with our very talented and dedicated group of parent volunteers, who make our events and meetings possible. This month also featured a calendar chock full of activities and excitement at BCA, including the fall play, Open Houses and our monthly PPO meeting.

Congratulations to Mr. Stephen Kaplan, the cast and crew, musicians and all faculty and staff involved in the comedic, fairy tale production of *The Seventh Son*. The play was a tremendous success in both attendance and artistic accomplishment. Bravo to our incredibly talented faculty member, Mr. Stephen Kaplan, who wrote and directed this masterpiece. The play's timeless lesson of staying true to your heart and who you are is one that should be heeded by all.

Our Open House days were successfully coordinated by Carol Monahan and her well-staffed team of parent volunteers. The PPO Board would like to extend our sincere gratitude to Carol and her husband Tom for their years of dedication to the coordination of the Open House days. Our student tour guides, once again demonstrated incredible grace as they highlighted the different Academy opportunities for prospective students. We also congratulate Mr. Davis and his team for another innovative presentation, which showcased our students, faculty and the amazing academic opportunities available to all at the Academies. Most importantly, we thank Dr. Pinto and Mrs. Katchen for the endless hours they dedicate to this process and the extreme kindness they show to each and every applicant. Job well done!

The monthly PPO meeting will include an informative Financial Aid Overview by Bill Rabbitt and Matt Carpenter from College Funding Services. Whether you are a senior family in the midst of the college process or a new freshmen family adjusting to the demands of high school, we hope the information shared at our meeting will make the daunting college funding process a little less frightful.

We hope you will mark your calendars for our first meeting of the New Year, Wednesday, January 14th, which will feature our 8th Annual Summer Opportunities Fair. This meeting, coordinated by our industrious Mr. Kaser, will showcase different summer programs and volunteer opportunities for your child.

The holiday season is upon us and with that the anticipation of all that needs to be done. As you and your child find yourselves in the midst of holiday gatherings, college applications, the end of trimester scramble, and financial aid forms, we suggest you pause for a moment and remember that with every closed door another one opens. Every hurdle your child faces during their formative years will make them more resilient and better prepared for their future.

Finally, the PPO Board would like to extend to all our families and BCA staff our sincere wishes for a very happy and healthy holiday season!

Warm regards, Cathy, Susan, Sasha, May, Sue & Julia



Academy Parent Partnership Organization

A New Jersey Nonprofit Corporation

Calendar Highlights

Nov. 19 th	PPO General Meeting - 7:00 pm Auditorium Financial Aid Presentation		
Nov. 20 th	Music Student Presentations – 4:30 pm Room 5		
Nov. 20 th	National Honor Society Induction Ceremony 7:00 pm Auditorium		
Nov. 21st	Tri-M Music Honor Society Induction & Reception 12:45 pm		
Nov. 25 th	Autumn Instrumental Concert –		
	7:00 pm Auditorium		
Nov. 26 th	HALF DAY – Thanksgiving Recess		
Nov. 27 th -28 th	NO SCHOOL – Thanksgiving Recess		
Dec. 2 nd	HALF DAY – Staff Development		
Dec. 3 rd	End of Trimester One		
Dec. 5 th	Yearbook Ad Extended Deadline		
Dec. 6 th	SAT Testing – Off-site		
Dec. 10 th	Admissions Information Session – 6:00 pm		
Dec. 13 th	ACT Testing – Off-site		
Dec. 16 th	Holiday Choir Concert – 7:30 pm Auditorium		
Dec. 23 rd	Senior and Alumni Breakfast – 10:00 am		
Dec. 23 rd	HALF DAY – Winter Recess		
Dec. 24 th -Jan 2 th	nd NO SCHOOL – Winter Recess		
Jan. 10 th -11 th	BCA Admissions Testing		
Jan. 13 th	HALF DAY – Staff Development		
Jan. 14 th	PPO Meeting and Summer Opportunity Fair – 7:00 pm		
Jan 14 th -15 th	Print Week – 6:00 pm Wed. – 3:00 pm Thurs BCA Stage		
Jan. 19 th	NO SCHOOL – Martin Luther King Jr.'s Birthday		
Jan. 21 st	PPO Newsletter Available		
Jan. 24 th	SAT Testing – Off-site		

Our next issue will be published on January 21st. Please submit all November calendar entries and all articles to Sue L Katz at SueLKatz@gmail.com by January 15, 2015. Thank You.



From the Principal's Desk

A School without Walls

Global Exchange to Japan

As I finish writing this column I have just landed in Japan along with Mr. Liva, Mr. Tronicke and several students to attend the Super Science High School Conference in Hiroshima. The hospitality of the staff from Kokutaiji High School and the Ministry of Education has been wonderful. Some of our students will be presenting a method they have devised to determine the probability of asteroids containing water through arduino sensors which measure the ferrous content of asteroids. During our visit, we will visit Kokutaiji High School and extend our affiliation charter agreement for three more years. I am immensely proud to represent our school and our country. We have had a long history of collaboration with Kokutaiji High School and I believe our joint partnership will continue to provide our students with amazing cultural and educational experiences for years to come.

Global Exchange to England

Just as we landed in Japan, Mr. Kaser, Mr. Schwimmer, Mrs. Sawhney and 38 of our Business Academy students returned from their trip to London, England. The itinerary for this trip was filled with activities that included a visit to an IB School, The University of Oxford, JPMorgan Chase, Lloyd's of London, and a river cruise on the Thames. We often pride ourselves on being "a school without walls" a place where students can partake in incredible experiences both in and out of the classroom. I'm glad that we are able to continue to offer students these opportunities. Special thanks to Mr. Kaser for all of his efforts in planning this amazing trip and to our dedicated chaperones.

Campus Upgrades

Earlier in the year we added an additional Physics/ Optics Lab and recently we have begun renovating one of our Chemistry labs to increase student access to research opportunities. With the addition of our new "Glove Box", students will be able to perform battery research in an oxygen free environment. I am also happy to report that we are moving ahead with renovations to the Environmental Science Building and should have more updates in the near future. As with all renovations, the inconvenience is temporary but the benefits are long lasting.

BCA National Merit Semifinalists and Commended Scholars

I am proud to announce that 39 BCA students have aualified as semifinalists and 124 have been named commended scholars in the National Merit Scholarship Program. This is the highest number from any high school in New Jersey. The National Merit Scholarship Program released the names of 50,000 students who are commended students and semifinalists in the 2015 National Merit Scholarship competition. More than one million students took the PSAT National Merit Qualifying Test in October 2013. There are 16,000 students recognized as National Merit Semifinalists, who will continue in the Merit Scholarship competition. The 34,000 students designated as Commended Students for exceptional academic promise were among the top five percent of high achieving students nationally. Congratulations to our students and their families.

BCA Teachers to present at National Conference

Dr. Todd Crane and Mr. Eric Zhang will be presenting at the National Consortium of Secondary STEM Schools (NCSSS) Conference in Baltimore, Maryland this week. Their presentations include implementing technology in the classroom as well as flipped classroom techniques. It is rewarding to see our staff sharing their skills and knowledge with educators from around the country.

As this is the last newsletter before the holidays, on behalf of the entire BCA Faculty and Staff...I extend my best wishes to you and your family for a healthy and happy holiday season.

Sincerely,

Russell Davis
Principal
rusdav@bergen.org
Twitter@DavisBCA

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 11 2014.pdf

Come join us at our PPO Meeting on Wednesday, November 19th at 7:00 pm.

Bill Rabbitt and Matt Carpenter from College Funding Services will walk us through the Financial Aid Process.

Whether you have a senior and are in the midst of college applications, or a freshman just starting on their journey, there's important information you won't want to miss!



2014-15 Financial Aid Workshop

- (1)Overview of the entire financial aid process
- (2) What you can do to minimize your family contribution, and maximize your eligibility for need-based financial aid
- (3) Why you should apply even if you WILL NOT qualify for need-based aid
- (4) How to value different assets Home, 529's, retirement, etc.
- (5) Which colleges give the most money
- (6)How to leverage colleges against one another
- (7)How to appeal your financial aid package
- (8)Pros and Cons of different borrowing options
- (9)Q & A with a financial aid expert

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

THANKS TO ALL OPEN HOUSE VOLUNTEERS



There were likely many projects, chores, or errands that needed your attention yet you chose to volunteer your time and talents in order to make the 2014 BCA Open Houses extremely successful events.

Whatever your contribution – a sincere Thank-You!

As part of the BCA family we are extremely fortunate to be surrounded not only by talented, passionate, and dedicated faculty and administrators but also by loving parents trying to help and guide their children through what may seem at times to be turbulent high school years.

Please always remind your child that service to others is important; however, it is not nearly as important as setting an example, as you have done.

Over the past eight years, it has been my pleasure and privilege to work with you when the BCA family has had the opportunity to "Open Our House" and show off what one of the best high schools in the nation is all about!

"Volunteers do not necessarily have the time; they just have the heart." ~Elizabeth Andrew

Carol Monahan Open House Chairperson

Admissions Information Session: If you have a child who will be applying to our district this year and you have questions about our Admissions procedures, please see us at the Information Session December 10 from 6-7 pm.



Class of 2015

Happy Thanksgiving to all! During this incredibly busy time, we wish the best to you and your family. We are so grateful to each of you for all you contribute to BCA and to the Class of 2015, we are so fortunate to have such a wonderful community!!

As your son/daughter finishes college applications we have just a few reminders for you. Plans for the 2015 Fashion Show are going well, we will be having our next planning meeting on Tuesday, December 2, 2014 at 7:00 **pm** in the first floor cafeteria...we hope you can join us to help make this event a huge success. We will be making an exciting announcement at this meeting, so join us and learn the latest news! Next on our agenda, we will be hosting the annual Senior/Alumna Breakfast on Tuesday, **December 23rd at 10 am**. It is a great morning for our kids to reconnect with old friends and have fun! Watch for the signup sheet, we will need lots of volunteers for a successful morning. Also, a quick reminder, if you haven't already returned your diploma form/permission slip to Ms. Redlitz in Guidance please do so ASAP. Again, wishes to you and your family for a wonderful holiday

Please contact us with any ideas, questions or concerns bcaclass2015@gmail.com .

Best to all, Lisa & Donna

Class of 2016

We would like to thank all of you who contributed to our bake sale on Sunday, October 26th and a special thank you to those who stood outside all day with us! It was a tremendous success. We are currently planning Junior Prom, Project Graduation and Cabaret, save the date... April 23rd. We had our first meeting on November 13th. For those of you who could not make the meeting, but are interested in helping out in any way, please reach out to us. We will be holding another meeting in January, date to be determined. We will need many baskets for the raffle items so save any gift baskets you receive this holiday season and donate them to our class. Just drop them off in the office with a label, send us an email and we will arrange to pick them up.

We are still collecting class dues. Class dues are \$200 and paid only once. We will be sending reminders out in January. If you have not paid your dues, please send a check made out to "Student Activity Fund - Class of 2016" and mail it to BCA or drop it off in the office.

During this Thanksgiving season, we would like to extend our thanks to all of you for your continued support and friendship. We would like to wish all of you a wonderful holiday season and a New Year full of peace and joy.

Warmest regards. Maria and Laina

Maria Jasionowski <u>mariajasionowski@yahoo.com</u> Laina DeRose <u>msdr21@yahoo.com</u>

Class News Updates....

Class of 2017

We would like to send out a HUGE THANK YOU to all of you who contributed food, time, and donations to our recent events in October and November. Your support of our class is just amazing and our class is directly benefitting from your care and dedication. Thank you all so much!

The October event, our Soph/Frosh Fright Night, was a big success. An unprecedented 165 students attended to watch "Insidious" (a very creepy movie!) and to enjoy the ice cream donated from Van Dyk's in Ridgewood. Be sure to visit Van Dyk's if you're in the area and thank them for their donations! With the admission price and selling of extra snacks, the class council made almost \$900 for the class. A fantastic fundraising effort!

So many of you contributed goodies for the BCA Open House recently held on November 2nd. We manned the tables from 9-5 and nearly \$600 was collected for the class. Our visitors very much appreciated the snacks and drinks after going on their tours.

We have been planning for the March Soph/Frosh semiformal and we are pleased to announce we'll be hosting the event offsite, at Powerhouse Studios in Paramus on March 6th. With music, dancing, food, and arcades, we anticipate this will be another terrific opportunity for our students to have a fun, relaxing night with friends. Once we get closer to the event more details will be shared but we are also happy to report that the some of the funds raised from our October and November events will help us offset some of the "extra" costs for the Powerhouse Studios event.

We are gearing up to host the National Honor Society reception which will be held on Thursday, November 20th this year. This is an event that honors NHS junior class and senior class recipients. We have sent out a signup for volunteers, if you are available.

Once again, thank you so much for being a wonderful group of parents/ guardians for our Class of 2017. Your help is greatly appreciated!!

Wishing all of you a happy & healthy Thanksgiving holiday!

Warm regards, Allison & D'Arcy

Class of 2018

Class News Continued.....

First we want to wish you all a Happy Thanksgiving. Our winter fundraiser, The

Nutcracker, will be held on December 5th from 10-noon in the BCA auditorium. This should be a wonderful production and we look forward to seeing all the freshman there (by the way, they are excused from class since this is considered an annual tradition). After the performance we will be serving hot chocolate and donuts in the gym. We will be sending out an email soon to fill the chaperone slots and ask for donations for the refreshment portion of the event. Chaperones do not need to purchase tickets. So keep your eyes open for the Sign up Genius link in our email (it is the online volunteer sign up site). In other news, our next parent coffee will be Wed., Dec. 3rd from 9-10:30 a.m. at Panera Bread on Route 4 in the back room. Thank you to the Sophomore Parents, the freshman and sophomore class advisors for helping the students host a wonderful Freshman/Sophomore Fright Night Movie evening. Everyone had loads of fun hanging out, eating ice cream and screaming! Lastly, save the date. We have already booked our senior prom for June 14, 2018! It has been a busy fall and we hope the kids are having a wonderful experience so far.

All the best and see you soon, Rena Moy-Chang, Christine Nicholas and Gwen Sullivan bcaclassof2018@amail.com



Autumn Concert

The Autumn Concert will take place Tuesday, November 25 @7:00pm. The instrumental ensembles will be featured: Concert Band, Jazz Band, Orchestra, Guitar & Mandolin Orchestra, Brass Quintet, and Flute Ensemble. There will a quite a bit of variety of music.... folksong from Korea, Irish fiddle tune, opera overture, a swing version of a dance from Nutcracker Suite, and ragtime from New Orleans. The students have been well focused and put together this program in just 8 weeks of rehearsal!

I am proud to announce that 2 of our students just returned from performing in Nashville with the All-National Concert Band and another recently completed a tour with the National Youth Orchestra of the USA. Many students are now preparing for county and regional honors ensembles and we hope to hear good news as they move forward in the audition process.

Our Tri-M Music Honor Society Induction Ceremony will take place on Friday November 21 (2:30, auditorium). Thanks in advance to PAPA for sponsoring the reception. We also have a less formal presentation in room 5 for students in Guitar 1, Musicians Workshop and Senior Music Seminar on November 20 (4:30, room 5). Both of these events are free and open to the public.

Within the walls of BCA there are amazing things happening every day. Students are working in conjunction with Liberty Science Center (LSC) creating MIDI compositions that will be run through their Tesla coils, emitting 10-foot lightning blots that respond to the pitch and rhythm of the music. Their compositions will become part of the library of LSC. In Musicians Workshop, we have been working with a local guitar maker who donated a few handmade electric guitar bodies. Students are now winding their own pickups and installing associated hardware. In Orchestra, we looked at math/physics concept of cymatics and experimented with a Chladni plate- students had opportunities to set a plate into vibration at various frequencies and see how objects affect sound. As you can see, connecting music to other disciplines is something we do quite well. Another new program is Soundwave Audio Lab, where students solder circuit boards and build electronic music effects, incorporating electronic engineering skills. As hands-on "maker" projects are becoming more popular in our culture, I will be looking at running courses at our new Bergen Maker Space in the near future.

But the most exciting component of our program is really the smallest... at all hours of the day our kids have a fun, safe and creative place to explore music! The arts allow young people to grow and instill a sense of discipline and self-expression. The arts also help to bridge gaps of culture, age and almost any other divisive element we hear about in the news. Whether practicing for an upcoming audition or putting together a song with new friends, music is one of the forces that bind our students together and helps give us an identity... people who love to create and learn.

Michael Lemma Music Department

ORDER YOUR 2015 ACADEMY YEARBOOK!

This is certainly a yearbook you do *not* want to miss out on!

The book is currently in production and in order to secure your copy, you must pre-order your book now! We do *not* print extra copies to be purchased at the end of the year, so you must place your order in advance! The deadline will approach quickly, so do not wait. You can purchase a yearbook directly through the Taylor Publishing website at http://www.balfour.com

The FINAL DEADLINE for ordering your yearbook book is Thursday, JANUARY 24, 2015

Please return all orders to Mrs. Rios in Room 154 with \$85.00 check made out to Academy Yearbook, or buy online http://www.balfour.com

SENIOR YEARBOOK ADS

Deadline Extended to December 5th!!

http://users.bergen.org/dondew/bio/YB/ADS/index.html



ASAP Meeting Association of Science Academy Parents

MOST IMPORTANT THINGS

Every AAST Student needs to know!

Great advice presented by a panel of AAST Seniors

Come and get involved!



Join other AAST parents and students on Tuesday, January 13 - 7:00PM in the upstairs cafeteria

Easy A's - Autism Awareness Club

Basket-Gram

The gift that keeps giving! (Literally)

The holidays are getting near.

You have a list of people you need to give gifts to.

The rush the panic the stress starts piling up But The stores are too crowded.

The products are still pricey after Thanksgiving.

You don't know what to give

Well we have a solution to your holiday gift shopping worries!

Introducing EASY A's (Autism Awareness Club) first holiday fundraiser

Customizable Gift Baskets!

(Its a holiday gram but bigger better and still a good deal)

There is a wide selection of brands

St. Ives

Pond's

Dove

Vaseline

TRESemmé

Clear

Simple

Axe

And more

A variety of products to choose from.

Facial wipes

Facial cleansers

Lotions

Deodorant

Hair gel

Hair creme

Body wash

Shampoo

And more

All proceeds will go to autism research and funding.

Watch out for the ad coming soon with the full selection and online ordering system $% \left\{ 1,2,\ldots ,n\right\}$

Supplies are Limited so act fast and be prepared when it comes out!

Gift shopping and donating to a good cause at the same time? It can't get any better than this.





PAPA congratulates everyone involved in last week's amazing production of **The Seventh Son** and thanks everyone who contributed to its success, especially our PAPA volunteers who helped out backstage working on hair, makeup and costumes, or front and center in the box office, at the Refreshment-Kisses for the Cast-Flowers-DVD tables during the show.

But wait – there's more!

We're already hard at work preparing for our winter musical – **Kiss Me Kate**. Those who attended our November PAPA meeting were treated to two wonderful performances from the show. It's going to be wonderful. The Playbill Committee has been getting everything ready too so that our biggest fundraiser of the year will be a success and allow us to do all the wonderful things PAPA does for our students. We encourage everyone with a student in the show to provide us with \$100 worth of ads.

We're putting the finishing touches on the ad sales form, sample ads, etc and will be posting all info on our PAPA at BCA Facebook page. Please be sure to look for more info and help make the Playbill a success.

On **Tuesday, November 25 at 7:00pm** join our music families and members of all of the BCA instrumental ensembles for the Annual Autumn Concert. The Concert will highlight the tremendous talent of our BCA instrumentalists. Music from Italy, Korea, Ireland, Brazil, Russia, and the USA! \$5 donation at the auditorium door.

Also on our calendar: The Holiday Choir Concert under the direction of Dr. Patrick D. Finley on **Tuesday**, **December 16**, **7:30 pm**., in the BCA auditorium. The concert will feature the works of Felix Mendelssohn, Palestrina, Ola Gjeilo, John Rutter, Philip Stopford, Stephen Hatfield, Frederick Silver, a beautiful rendition of the Maoz Tzur, plus the world premiere of Dr. Finley's piece "Feast of Faith and Light, and more. It's always a great night! Donation of \$5 at the door.

Our January PAPA meeting will kick off 2015 with a fabulous meeting featuring the Music Class of 2016 (maybe even Class of 2017). More on that to come.

And, don't forget PRINT WEEK. As always it coincides with January's PPO meeting, on Wednesday, January 14th. Viewing begins at 6pm on the Stage. Look for an upcoming email in December.

Still not a member of PAPA? Dues are still only \$10 and if you are the parent of a BCA senior, your student will automatically be entered into a drawing for a scholarship at the end of the school year.

Be sure to Like us on Facebook – PAPA at BCA – to keep up-to-date with the latest PAPA information.

Gloria Ling Chau (<u>pcgl7@optonline.net</u>) – Co-President Eileen Gabriele (<u>Eileen@gabrielegroup.com</u>) - Co-President

ATTENTION SENIORS!

CLASS OF 2015 "Project Graduation Party"

It's a BCA tradition, a graduation party for "everyone" in the class to celebrate with all their friends that they've shared their high school years with. It will never happen again!

Please don't miss out on this fabulous event planned for the graduating class of 2015!!

Sign your child up today! Please send your \$200 payment to: Monica Rome, 740 Smoke Hollow Trail, Franklin Lakes, NJ 07417 or you can leave it in the PPO mailbox, mark it for Project Graduation 2015.

Make checks payable to: Project Graduation 2015

any questions, contact Monica Rome (201)207-8191 <u>romemonica@hotmail.com</u> Diane Whiteley (201)600-0382 <u>dianewhiteley@optonline.net</u>

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Student Name:		
Academy:	Phone #	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·
Amount:	Check#_	

Membership Form



We are the parent association for ACAHA, bringing our families together to support our children and our academy.

To Join

Please mail this form along with your check for \$20, payable to PPO/ACAHAPA, to:

Carol Monahan 10 Lorraine Drive Park Ridge, NJ 07656

*******	*************	******	*****	********	
Student Name:	_	Please check all that apply. YES, we would like to join ACAHAPA. Our \$20 dues are included. Please accept our additional donation of \$ to support ACAHAPA.			
Graduation Year:					
Email:Cell:					-
Address:		DI.	ease con I work field.	ract me. in the culinary or hospitality	
				a professional contact that help us as a speaker or ce.	
If you would like more information, please contact us.			I would like to volunteer at an event.		
Carol Monahan Membership Coordinator	Class of 2015 yankfan1950@aol.com 201-930-9187	Heidi Walker Fundraising Co-coordinator		Class of 2015 hbainteriors@aol.com 201-446-1366	
		Dawn Schi Fundraisin Co-coor	g	Class of 2016 dawns@optonline.net 201-262-7986	
	For ACAHAPA	use:			
Check # Cash		Amount \$ _	D	ate Received	



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



Wednesday, January 21, 2015 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, 2011-14

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.



