



Advisory Board Beat

BAL Students

- The high school admission process is complete! We have our 2007–2008 Student Roster and look forward to welcoming the class of 2011.
- Our middle schools admissions process, organized and conducted by Anna Hall is also complete. In September, 46 students will be joining the Bronx Letters Class of 2014.
- Our student services department planned college trips for all the underclassmen. The trips were a great success!
- More and more of our seniors are getting accepted to college. We recently had students accepted to Binghamton, Northeastern, Skidmore, and CUNY Honors. Most students are also receiving very impressive financial packages as well.
- Victoria and Sierra are working hard to get our students enrolled in summer programs. Most recently, Stacey Bosques won a scholarship to Exeter's summer school program.
- JonKarlo Velazquez, one of our ninth grade students, is having a poem published in the Anthology of Poetry of American Youth. Congratulations to him!
- At the end of March Bronx Letters hosted a memorial through the word in honor of Farrah Fuentes, the student we recently lost to cancer. Students remembered and honored their classmate and friend with a slideshow, student and staff speeches, readings of Farrah's work and student letters and pieces about Farrah.
- Bronx Letters students, Stacey Bosques, Alexander Lambie, Delilah Rivera wrote and performed an amazing program, UN-CENSORED, along with other members of MCC Theater Youth Company Acting Lab. The Youth Company performed April 12-14 at the Baruch Performing Arts Center and wowed their audiences with emotional, dramatic and funny scenes about their lives growing up in urban America.



BAL Teachers and Parents

- We conducted our first hiring event for the upcoming school year. This year, in addition to the teachers' fair recruiting table and traditional interviews, we held an informational session in the auditorium with staff and students and then broke into departments for small group interviews. The candidates thought the format was fantastic.
- The hiring process for the 2007–2008 school year is going well. Anna Hall has processed as many as 200 resumes in one day. The next hiring open house will take place on April 18.



Class of 2007

- The first graduating class of the Bronx Academy of Letters will receive their diplomas on June 27, 2007, at the Teachers' College at Columbia University. Senator Bill Bradley will deliver the keynote address. Please mark your calendars!

Opportunities: How Board Members Can Make a Difference Day-to-Day

- Tenth grade students, under the guidance of Ms. Battaglia, completed a six-week journalism project wherein they researched topics of societal relevance, learned about factors that affect journalistic integrity, familiarized themselves with local news and newspapers, and, finally, created an article that reflected the unique voice of their community. Their work has been published in online blogs. In an effort to also create competition, Ms. Battaglia has asked that we look at the students' blogs and e-mail her at ms.battaglia@gmail.com with our votes for the TOP BLOG. Factors to consider include: format, article topics, societal relevance, neatness, and creativity. The student work can be found at:

Period 2 - Boogie Down Gazette <http://balbdg2007.blogspot.com>

Period 3 - Fight the Power! <http://balftp2007.blogspot.com>

Period 6 - Speaking Without a Tongue <http://balswt2007.blogspot.com>

- The next Bronx Letters career awareness trip is scheduled for May 10, 2007. We need your help finding sites for groups of 15-30 students to visit. The site should be willing to provide a tour of the site and facilitate some discussion about the content of the work, higher education pathways, diversity recruitment, etc. from approximately 1:30 to 3:30. Thanks to Samantha and Toni who have already agreed to help! Please contact Victoria Crispin if you can help: VCrispin@schools.nyc.gov.
- We have lots of open teaching positions and hope to fill them soon. If you know a good teacher in search of a job, please encourage him or her to apply at Bronx Letters!
- The spring sports season has started and students are very excited about participating in baseball and track and field. Cheer on our Ravens at a game or a meet!

BAL Board Items

- Our Fifth Annual Bronx Academy of Letters Benefit is quickly approaching! The event will take place on May 17, 2007, at 6:30 p.m., at the Columbia University Italian Academy. Please send your invitations out immediately! Please also continue to help secure auction prizes and sell Benefit Journal ads.
- Thank you to all board members who attended the April 12, 2007, Advisory Board Meeting! We missed those who were not able to make it! Those in attendance had great interactions with their advisories, discussed committee items, prepared for the benefit and welcomed new board member, Kim Bendheim. Please be sure to review the meeting minutes when you receive them!
- Please help us welcome new Advisory Board member Kim Bendheim! She joins Darnley Stewart and Margie Fox in the new class of board members for the 2007–2008 school year. All have been making extremely positive contributions already! We are so glad to have them as part of the Bronx Letters family.



April 2007

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

1	2 Spring Break	3 Spring Break	4 Spring Break	5 Spring Break	6 Spring Break	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17 BAL Boys' Baseball Game 4pm Crotona Park #4 / Track Meet 4pm JFK HS track	18 Hiring Open House	19 Writers' Forum	20 Environ-mental Assembly	21
22	23	24	25 BAL Boys' Baseball Game 4pm Crotona Park #4 / Track Meet Harry Truman HS	26 Student-Staff B-ball Game	27	28
29	30					

Bronx Academy of Letters Advisory Board Education Committee Co-Chairs:

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