



Bronx Academy of Letters
Advisory Board Newsletter
October 1, 2006

News Items from Bronx Academy of Letters for September 15 – October 1

- **THE LIBRARY:** Toni got us a \$10,000 grant from the Stringer Foundation for our library--go Toni!!!--and our library is now up and running because Kelly, our librarian, devoted her whole summer to the task. We also got \$25,000 from the William and Mary Grieve foundation for our library and the Bronx Borough President's office gave us \$250,000 for the physical construction of our library. Kelly and Joan will be meeting with the Robinhood Foundation about the new library this week.
 - For those of you going to the board meeting on Wednesday, please make a special effort to stop by the library.

- **THE CURRICULUM:** We have added two additional AP courses; we now offer AP US history, AP US government, and AP Composition.
 - --Our science department managed to unload and inventory the fifty-some-odd thousand dollars worth of lab equipment that we ordered. Now, our science classes are engaging in lab exercises that formerly were not possible. It's fun to see. Stop by.
 - **ADVISORY:** Our advisory program is off to its best start yet. Mitra and Kelly worked hard to set up the reading piece and introduce our students to the new library resources. Meanwhile, seniors are testing out our new senior elective system. Some seniors have already begun their College Now classes. Others are helping to run ninth-grade advisories.
 - --I have attached the old version of the advisory list. I will try to get a new one to you soon. If you don't have an advisory let me know and I'll figure it out with you. I'll try to get an updated list out to you soon.

- **SPECIAL EDUCATION:** We have more than doubled the number of special-education students at Letters and now have enough special-education staff to form a genuine special-education department. This department has worked hard to get everything in order and to serve these students, who have enriched the school enormously.
 - --We have a full-time ELL teacher, which means our ELL students are finally getting the attention they need. Many thanks to Shannon for working and reworking our program

to accommodate the needs of everyone, including five students who speak almost no English.

- **THE FORUM:** We are having our second forum on Wednesday with singer and songwriter Edie Carey. This one is for the eleventh grade. If you have any ideas for writers or performers for the Forum please let me or Will Georgantas (wgeorgantas@gmail.com), know. Will is now one of our two writers-in-residence. He is no longer program coordinator.
- **MISCELLANEOUS:** On October 13 we will have a Latino heritage assembly for Latino heritage month. Any ideas you might have for this would be welcome. E-mail me and I'll pass them on.
 - --I have attached an updated staff list.
- **STAY TUNED:**
 - *New member announcements
 - *Reports from the board meeting at the school
 - Schedule for the fall Forum
 - *Updated Advisory list.