

# Quantum Quest

Albert Einstein High School PTSA

June 2009

## CONGRATULATIONS, CLASS OF 2009!

This issue celebrates the successes of our students, especially our seniors, with the full list from the May 13th Awards Night, as well as honors and accomplishments in academics, athletics, and the arts of both our seniors and our up-and-coming underclassmen. And Einstein statistics for student eligi-

bility—an overall measure of performance—are improving in several respects (see pages 12-13). Thank you, Einstein staff, for the work you do with our children. Good luck, seniors, and happy summer all. See the rest of you in the fall. ■

*The AEHS PTSA*

### Did you know.....?

- One-third of our graduating seniors (120 of 360) were offered at least one scholarship.
- The total dollar amount of scholarships offered was over \$5.3 million.

*Source:*

*AEHS Counseling Dept.*

### Graduation

*Friday, June 5, 10 am, DAR Constitution Hall (no school)*

### Final Exams

*June 10, 11, 12, 15*

### Last day of school

*Tuesday, June 16—early dismissal*

### Key start dates for 2009-2010

*Sports: August 15, 9 am  
School: August 26, 7:25 am*

## “First Friday” Career Days Next Year

Many cities around the country celebrate the first Friday of the month with art openings and other creative events. It's a chance to learn something new, explore creative ideas and broaden your perspective.

In that vein, I have been talking with the PTSA, Mr. Fernandez, and Ms.

DeOto, about beginning a First Friday program at Einstein,



with an emphasis on exploring careers.

The idea is that each month we will focus on one career area



-- say, medicine, law, construction, the arts, etc. A small panel of volunteers will visit the school and be available to speak with students about their education, career path, and interests. Within each field we will invite speakers with a variety of educational backgrounds. The idea is to inspire interest and offer a range of career options within that month's career choice.

We are still working out the details, but please put this on your radar screen. If you have an interesting job and would be willing to participate, please drop me a line so I can start lining up career areas and speakers. If you have ideas about the direction of the program, I would also appreciate receiving your input.



Thanks! ■

*Ellen Sands  
desands@juno.com*

### HELP WANTED

- **Staff Appreciation:** Coordinate the annual welcome back brunch for Einstein staff in late August. Many parents help, but a leader is needed. Please contact Molly Jackman at The jackman5@aol.com.
- **Quantum Quest team members:** Inform yourself and the Einstein community. We're looking for writers, editors, people who can do layout, a printing coordinator, and a mailing czar. Contact Connie Raab at raabcd@gmail.com.

## College Fair 2009

The Annual Einstein High School College Fair will take place on Monday, October 12th, 2009, on Main Street from 6 pm to 8 pm. This event showcases about 100 colleges and universities from all over the US. It is open to all our students and their families as a way to learn about different colleges without traveling any farther than Kensington.



Our students always shine at this event, asking questions, discussing the admissions process, and making a terrific impression on the admissions officers and alumni representatives from the various schools.

This year will be the last year for two of the organizers, as their children will be seniors who will graduate in the spring. If you would like to help organize this event drop me an email – [cfrank@umd.edu](mailto:cfrank@umd.edu). It is a lot of fun and an easy, rewarding job.

■  
*Cindy Frank*

## STAFF PORTRAIT: The Special Educator—Rachel Ziulkowski *by Sarah Brookhart*

The head of Einstein's special education program was once on a path to a career in medicine. But, as often happens in life, her path took an unexpected turn, and AEHS's students are the beneficiaries.

After graduating from college with an undergraduate degree in biology, Rachel Ziulkowski (who thanks her best friend and husband Aaron "for my loooong last name that no one can ever spell!") was living at home for a few months when she was given an opportunity to substitute for her former chemistry teacher who was going on maternity leave. "I absolutely loved it," she said, "so I decided to pursue a career as an educator."

Other influences were at work too. Her mother was a teacher – "I think I started helping her grade papers when I was about 8" – and having family members with learning difficulties inspired her specifically to pursue a graduate degree in special education.

"I love seeing how people learn in different ways," said Ziulkowski, who oversees a large staff serving more than 200 students. "I like helping stu-



*Rachel Ziulkowski, second from left, is pictured here with other special education staff members: Mindy Feldman, Marcy Ralph, and Dan Cooper. Photo by Lara Brenne.*

dents achieve their goals in so many different and unique ways."

### Special Ed Overview

The mission of the AEHS Special Education program is to provide a free, appropriate, public education for all students and to enable students to achieve success to the greatest extent possible.

The department has three main components. The LAD (Learning and Academic Disabilities program) is the largest, and serves students in the general education setting. These students are working towards diplomas and most have goals to attend college and/or find employment after graduation, said Ziulkowski, noting that many LAD students also attend Thomas Edison High School of Technology to learn employable skills.

Students in the LFI

(Learning for Independence) and SCB (School and Community Based) programs focus on developing practical life skills. The goal of these programs is for students to live as independently as possible and find employment or other experiences within the community after high school. "We have lots of very unique students," explained Ziulkowski, "so success means many different things to different students. I believe that all students can achieve at high levels, keeping in mind that 'high level' is different for different students."

"Success for most of our LAD students means graduating from high school with a diploma and going on to college and/or paid employment," she said. "However, students go about this in many different ways.

Some take a few extra years, some need to take some extra classes to help them along the way, some end up attending alternative programs. But eventually most everyone gets to the same place.”

“Success for some of our students in LFI and SCB programs means getting their first paid job at a store, travelling independently on a bus, walking when they’ve typically used a wheel chair or communicating for the first time,” she said.

The Special Ed program is also an integral part of daily life at AEHS, operating the Einstein Perks service that provides coffee/tea/hot chocolate daily to staff members, and the Green Team that assists with recycling efforts at Einstein.

### Open Door Policy

When asked what’s involved in her role as head of the department, Ziulkowski said “There are a lot of tasks, so I’ll sum it up by saying that I spend a lot of my time talking with people -- teachers, administrators, staff, parents and students. I do a lot of problem-solving to help teachers help students and I act as a liaison between many different groups of people.” But she is quick to credit the people around her: “I have a great staff

that supports me and makes my job a lot easier.”

The main challenge for the program “is including everyone in our school community regardless of their disability,” she said. “This can be especially difficult when the disability is invisible and masks itself as an ‘attitude’ or ‘laziness.’ It’s something that we need to work on as a community.”

Ziulkowski regrets that she isn’t able to spend time in the classroom these days, but “with a staff of 50 and 220-plus IEP [individual educational plan] meetings a year I’m pretty busy, so unfortunately I don’t currently teach any classes.” In the past she has taught algebra and environmental science.

What are her strategies for keeping up with the workload? “I try to keep a sense of humor and don’t waste a lot of time stressing about every little thing.” And she has a secret weapon of sorts: “I use a lot of post-it notes to remember everything.”

Talking about Einstein more generally, Ziulkowski said that “the people are definitely the best part. I’ve found it to be a very welcoming place and have always felt comfortable here.”

“Staff and students should know that I have an open door policy and they are welcome to come into my office -- Room 265 --, help themselves to a mint, sit and eat lunch, and have a chat. I value this open communication,” she said.

### Pink and Green

In her spare time, Ziulkowski enjoys camping, travelling, running and salsa dancing. She also likes to read. Her favorite book is *The House on Mango Street* by Sandra Cisneros, and she currently is enjoying reading *Love in the Time of Cholera* by Gabriel Garcia Marquez, giving a pithy review: “It is excellent.”

Her favorite color is green, but her current favorite performer is Pink. “I just started listening to Pink’s new album ‘Funhouse’ and love it,” she said, adding that it’s a departure from her usual more mellow taste in music.

So, is there anything that her students would be surprised to know about her? “I absolutely love all of the trashy TV shows on Bravo,” confides Ziulkowski, “especially ‘The Real Housewives of Orange County/Atlanta/New York.’”

Just goes to show -- teachers can have guilty pleasures too. ■

## More on “Special Ed”

For anyone interested in understanding more about special education students, specifically students with learning disabilities, Ziulkowski recommends the video “How Difficult Can This Be? The F.A.T. City Workshop” with Rick Lavoie, and the follow-up video “Beyond F.A.T. City.”

For information on special education programs in the Montgomery County Public Schools see <http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/departments/specialied/> ■



**Best Buddies** is an after school club and international organization whose mission is to enhance the lives of people with intellectual disabilities by providing opportunities for one-to-one friendships and integrated employment.

Contact Mr. Lipshultz (Aaron\_E\_Lipshultz@mcpsmd.org; 301-962-1068) for information about joining. ■

## ACT - SO Competition at Montgomery College in April

The Afro-Academic, Cultural, Technological and Scientific Olympics (ACT-SO) is a major youth initiative of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP). Founded in 1978 by the renowned author and journalist, Vernon Jarrett, ACT-SO provides a forum through which African American youth demonstrate academic, artistic, and scientific prowess and expertise.

One hundred twenty-four MCPS students participated in the regional ACT SO competition, and 59 medals were presented -- 4 of which went to our very own AEHS students!!!!

### Gold Medalists:

- **Sarah Nicely** (Sr.), Drawing
- **Albert Ramey Speed**, (Jr.), Oratory

### Bronze Medalists:

- **Ahsante Bean** (Soph), Painting
- **Mirian Stephens** (Jr.), Painting ■



## Visual Art Center Spring News

Congratulations to the Visual Art Center Class of 2009, whose members have been offered over \$2,400,000.00 in scholarships!

### Scholastics Art & Writing Awards of 2009 (Region-at-Large) Winners

Eight VAC seniors received "Gold Key" portfolio awards for the 2009 Region-at-Large competition that this year. Their work has gone on to the national level of competition. Notification on Final National Awards will be announced in April. All students attend the VAC daily, but some travel from other schools as noted: **Danielle Ceneta**, **Stephen Elefante**, **Wyatt Jaster**, **Lucia Ormaza**, (VAC/AEHS) **Kelsey Devries** (VAC/Walter Johnson), **Abraham Murrell** (VAC/ Blair) **Angela Han & Seung-Hee Sung**, (VAC/ Wootton)

NFAA ARTS Competition National Recognition In December, VAC senior **Dah-Rong Kao** (VAC/ Wootton) was selected as one of twenty-two finalists in the NFAA (National Foundation for Advancement in the Arts) Talent Arts Competition. In January, **Dah-Rong** was flown to Miami for young ARTS Week, an all-expense-paid week of

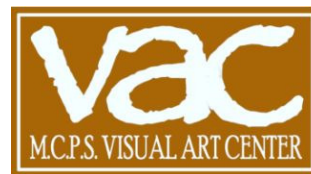
master classes, showcase performances, exhibitions, enrichment programs, and final adjudications for scholarship. **Aurora Alejandra Aviles** (VAC/ AEHS) was an ARTS Honorable Mention, and **Kelsey Requena Devries** (VAC/Walter Johnson) and **Seung-Hee Sung** (VAC/Wootton) were named Merit Award winners.

### Linehan Artist Scholars in the Arts at UMBC, (University of Maryland Baltimore Campus.)

VAC senior **Hua Shu** (VAC/Walter Johnson) was selected as a Linehan "Scholar in the Arts" and was awarded a full four year scholarship. Three other VAC Seniors, **Sarah Nicely and Wyatt Jaster** (VAC/AEHS) and **Madeleine Rabil** (VAC/ Watkins Mill) were also named as Linehan Artist Scholars and will receive \$5,000 per year for four years to attend UMBC.

### Maryland Distinguished Scholars in the Visual Arts for 2008

Finalist: **Lucia Ormaza**;  
Semi Finalist: **Danielle**



**Ceneta**; Honorable Mentions: **Abraham Murrell & Kelsey Devries**.

### "Looking Out Looking In" County-wide High School Art Competition, Sponsored by VisArts Center & Johns Hopkins University

Thirty-four Montgomery County high school students' artwork juried into this exhibit at the JHU Rockville Campus in February and March 2009. Fourteen students from the VAC were included, and two VAC seniors received top prizes! **Seung-Hee Sung** was awarded First Prize for her painting, "Where the Road Goes," and **John Raymundo** received an Honorable Mention for his painting, "Ray-Mundo." The other VAC students whose work was featured in the exhibit were **Kelsey Devries**, **Stephen Elefante**, **Melissa Gross**, **Wyatt Jaster**, **Daulton Kao**, **Solena Laigle**, **Ye In Lim**, **Melissa Mergner**, **Abraham Murrell**, **Josephine Odubiyi**, **Lucia Ormaza**, and **Madeleine Rabil**. ■

# SENIOR AWARDS—CLASS OF 2009

| Last Name                  | First Name | Award Name                               | Category                                     |
|----------------------------|------------|--|--|
| <b>DEPARTMENTAL AWARDS</b> |            |  |  |
| Zewdie                     | Dawit      | Marilyn Fivozinsky - Outstanding Student | Excellence in Mathematics                    |
| Galeas                     | Santiago   | Outstanding Student                      | Photography                                  |
| Galeas                     | Santiago   | Outstanding Student                      | Outstanding Visual Artist                    |
| Plyraharn                  | Anusorn    | Outstanding Student                      | Hospitality Management/ Culinary Arts        |
| Colindres                  | Monica     | Outstanding Student                      | Hospitality Management/ Culinary Arts        |
| Garcia                     | Rosalinda  | Outstanding Student                      | Hospitality Management/ Culinary Arts        |
| Pham                       | Minh       | Outstanding Student                      | Hospitality Management/ Culinary Arts        |
| Kah                        | Olimata    | Outstanding Student                      | Business                                     |
| Grant                      | Alex       | Outstanding Student                      | Academy of Finance                           |
| DeLavega                   | Gisela     | Outstanding Student                      | Business Management and Finance              |
| Conelley                   | Joanne     | Outstanding Student                      | Foreign Language--French                     |
| Dang                       | Tuong      | Outstanding Student                      | Foreign Language--Spanish                    |
| Coello                     | Ana        | Jaime Escalante Hispanic Honor Society   | Outstanding Student                          |
| Flamenco                   | Elias      | Jaime Escalante Hispanic Honor Society   | Outstanding Student                          |
| Hernandez                  | Diego      | Jaime Escalante Hispanic Honor Society   | Outstanding Student                          |
| Hernandez                  | Kathy      | Jaime Escalante Hispanic Honor Society   | Outstanding Student                          |
| Rojas                      | Joan       | Jaime Escalante Hispanic Honor Society   | Outstanding Student                          |
| Chan                       | Sarah      | Outstanding Student                      | Social Studies Award                         |
| McCully                    | Kaitlin    | Outstanding Student                      | English                                      |
| Li                         | Rongzhen   | Outstanding Student                      | Science                                      |
| Zepeda                     | Karen      | Outstanding Student                      | ESOL   |
| Pena                       | Manuel     | Francis Tacy                             | Most Improved Student                        |
| Huynh                      | Linh       | Outstanding Student                      | ESOL, Transition                             |
| Elefante                   | Stephen    | Outstanding Student                      | Physical Education, Male                     |
| Hyman                      | Sarah      | Outstanding Student                      | Physical Education, Female                   |
| Cherifi                    | Malika     | Outstanding Student                      | Drama  |
| Conelley                   | Joanne     | Outstanding Student                      | Drama  |
| Ebron                      | Elizabeth  | Outstanding Student                      | Drama  |
| Gearhart                   | Tracey     | Outstanding Student                      | Drama  |
| Grewell                    | Madeleine  | Outstanding Student                      | Drama  |
| Handforth                  | Georgia    | Outstanding Student                      | Drama  |
| Hood                       | Joseph     | Outstanding Student                      | Drama  |
| Menase                     | Emily      | Outstanding Student                      | Drama  |
| Naugle                     | Peggy      | Outstanding Student                      | Drama  |
| Stephens                   | Nora       | Outstanding Student                      | Drama  |
| Supko                      | Alexander  | Outstanding Student                      | Drama  |
| Wellington                 | Katherine  | Outstanding Student                      | Drama  |
| Cherifi                    | Malika     | Maryland Distinguished Scholars Talent   | Finalist--Drama                              |
| Cherifi                    | Malika     | Outstanding Student                      | Director's Award                             |
| Ebron                      | Elizabeth  | Outstanding Student                      | Director's Award                             |
| Pelaez                     | Carolina   | Outstanding Student                      | Director's Award                             |
| Pelaez                     | Carolina   | Maryland Distinguished Scholars Talent   | Distinguished Scholar Finalist --Vocal Music |
| Catanuso                   | Emily      | Outstanding Student                      | Music--Concert Band                          |

| <b>Last Name</b>                      | <b>First Name</b>    | <b>Award Name</b>                           | <b>Category</b>   |
|---------------------------------------|----------------------|---|---|
| <b>DEPARTMENTAL AWARDS, continued</b> |                      |   |   |
| Comas                                 | Alexandre            | Outstanding Student                         | Music--Concert Band   |
| Hagge                                 | Kira                 | Outstanding Student                         | Music--Concert Band   |
| Seppa                                 | Eliot                | Outstanding Student                         | Music--Honors Jazz  |
| Ebron                                 | Elizabeth            | Outstanding Student                         | Music--Honors Jazz  |
| MacLean                               | Georgia              | Outstanding Student                         | Music--Orchestra  |
| Seppa                                 | Eliot                | Outstanding Student                         | Music--Orchestra  |
| Smith                                 | Nicholas             | Outstanding Student                         | Music--Orchestra  |
| MacLean                               | Georgia              | Maryland Distinguished Scholars Talent      | Distinguished Scholar Honorable Mention--Instrumental Music |
| Seppa                                 | Eliot                | Maryland Distinguished Scholars Talent      | Distinguished Scholar Finalist--Instrumental Music          |
| Elefante                              | Stephen              | Outstanding Student                         | Visual and Performing Arts                                  |
| Nicely                                | Sarah                | Outstanding Student                         | Visual and Performing Arts                                  |
| Ceneta                                | Danielle             | Maryland Distinguished Scholars Talent      | Semi Finalist Talent--Visual Arts                           |
| Ormaza                                | Lucia                | Maryland Distinguished Scholars Talent      | Finalist Talent--Visual Arts                                |
| Chan                                  | Sarah                | Maryland Distinguished Scholars Achievement | Honorable Mention - Achievement                             |
| Coello                                | Ana                  | Maryland Distinguished Scholars Achievement | Honorable Mention - Achievement                             |
| Conelley                              | Joanne               | Maryland Distinguished Scholars Achievement | Honorable Mention - Achievement                             |
| Curro                                 | Alex                 | Maryland Distinguished Scholars Achievement | Honorable Mention - Achievement                             |
| Erskine                               | Maryclaire           | Maryland Distinguished Scholars Achievement | Honorable Mention - Achievement                             |
| Hyman                                 | Sarah                | Maryland Distinguished Scholars Achievement | Honorable Mention - Achievement                             |
| Lei                                   | Yueting              | Maryland Distinguished Scholars Achievement | Honorable Mention - Achievement                             |
| McGrady                               | Anna                 | Maryland Distinguished Scholars Achievement | Honorable Mention - Achievement                             |
| Zewdie                                | Dawit                | Maryland Distinguished Scholars Achievement | Honorable Mention - Achievement                             |
| McCully                               | Kaitlin              | Maryland Distinguished Scholars Achievement | Semifinalist - Achievement                                  |
| <b>ATHLETIC AWARDS</b>                |                      |   |   |
| Echeona                               | Ricardo              | William Kinkade                             | Outstanding Male Athlete                                    |
| Solomon                               | Andie                | Kit Pardee                                  | Outstanding Female Athlete                                  |
| Byars                                 | Christopher          | Robert Price Award                          | Unsung Hero   |
| Echeona                               | Ricardo              | Jack Keller Hall of Fame                    | Outstanding Athlete   |
| <b>ORGANIZATIONAL</b>                 |                      |   |   |
| Jimenez                               | David                | SAR Outstanding Citizenship                 | Outstanding Student   |
| Raheem                                | Ibrahim              | POSSE Foundation Scholarship                | Outstanding Student   |
| Glickman                              | Erin                 | Van Hollen Public Service Award             | Outstanding Student   |
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**SENIOR AWARDS—CLASS OF 2009, continued**

| <b>Last Name</b>                       | <b>First Name</b> | <b>Award Name</b>                   | <b>Category</b>                       |
|--|-------------------|-------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| <b>Governor's TOP 5%</b>               |                   |                                     |                                       |
| Catanuso                               | Emily             | Governor's Merit Scholar Award      | Top 5% Scholastic Senior              |
| Chan                                   | Sarah             | Governor's Merit Scholar Award      | Top 5% Scholastic Senior              |
| Chang                                  | Betty             | Governor's Merit Scholar Award      | Top 5% Scholastic Senior              |
| Coello                                 | Ana               | Governor's Merit Scholar Award      | Top 5% Scholastic Senior              |
| Comas                                  | Alexandre         | Governor's Merit Scholar Award      | Top 5% Scholastic Senior              |
| Conelley                               | Joanne            | Governor's Merit Scholar Award      | Top 5% Scholastic Senior              |
| Curro                                  | Alex              | Governor's Merit Scholar Award      | Top 5% Scholastic Senior              |
| Dang                                   | Tuong             | Governor's Merit Scholar Award      | Top 5% Scholastic Senior              |
| Erskine                                | Maryclaire        | Governor's Merit Scholar Award      | Top 5% Scholastic Senior              |
| Hyman                                  | Sarah             | Governor's Merit Scholar Award      | Top 5% Scholastic Senior              |
| Jones                                  | Matthew           | Governor's Merit Scholar Award      | Top 5% Scholastic Senior              |
| Kronheim                               | Sarah             | Governor's Merit Scholar Award      | Top 5% Scholastic Senior              |
| Lei                                    | Yueting           | Governor's Merit Scholar Award      | Top 5% Scholastic Senior              |
| MacLean                                | Georgia           | Governor's Merit Scholar Award      | Top 5% Scholastic Senior              |
| McCully                                | Kaitlin           | Governor's Merit Scholar Award      | Top 5% Scholastic Senior              |
| McGrady                                | Anna              | Governor's Merit Scholar Award      | Top 5% Scholastic Senior              |
| Pappas                                 | Victoria          | Governor's Merit Scholar Award      | Top 5% Scholastic Senior              |
| Westbrook                              | David             | Governor's Merit Scholar Award      | Top 5% Scholastic Senior              |
| Ye                                     | Lisa              | Governor's Merit Scholar Award      | Top 5% Scholastic Senior              |
| Ye                                     | Sally             | Governor's Merit Scholar Award      | Top 5% Scholastic Senior              |
| Zewdie                                 | Dawit             | Governor's Merit Scholar Award      | Top 5% Scholastic Senior              |
| <b>PRINCIPAL'S ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE</b> |                   |                                     |                                       |
| Barbee                                 | Corey             | Certificate of Academic Achievement | For Maintaining a GPA of 3.5 or Above |
| Bowers                                 | Elaina            | Certificate of Academic Achievement | For Maintaining a GPA of 3.5 or Above |
| Bryen                                  | Mollie            | Certificate of Academic Achievement | For Maintaining a GPA of 3.5 or Above |
| Catanuso                               | Emily             | Certificate of Academic Achievement | For Maintaining a GPA of 3.5 or Above |
| Chan                                   | Sarah             | Certificate of Academic Achievement | For Maintaining a GPA of 3.5 or Above |
| Chang                                  | Betty             | Certificate of Academic Achievement | For Maintaining a GPA of 3.5 or Above |
| Coello                                 | Ana               | Certificate of Academic Achievement | For Maintaining a GPA of 3.5 or Above |
| Comas                                  | Alexandre         | Certificate of Academic Achievement | For Maintaining a GPA of 3.5 or Above |
| Conelley                               | Joanne            | Certificate of Academic Achievement | For Maintaining a GPA of 3.5 or Above |
| Cruz                                   | Julio             | Certificate of Academic Achievement | For Maintaining a GPA of 3.5 or Above |
| Curro                                  | Alex              | Certificate of Academic Achievement | For Maintaining a GPA of 3.5 or Above |
| Dang                                   | Tuong             | Certificate of Academic Achievement | For Maintaining a GPA of 3.5 or Above |
| Depaul                                 | Gina              | Certificate of Academic Achievement | For Maintaining a GPA of 3.5 or Above |
| Edmiston                               | Candice           | Certificate of Academic Achievement | For Maintaining a GPA of 3.5 or Above |

| <b>Last Name</b>                                  | <b>First Name</b>    | <b>Award Name</b>                       | <b>Category</b>  |
|---|----------------------|---|--|
| <b>PRINCIPAL'S ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE, continued</b> |                      |   |  |
| Erskine   | Maryclaire           | Certificate of Academic Achievement     | For Maintaining a GPA of 3.5 or Above                      |
| Flamenco  | Elias                | Certificate of Academic Achievement     | For Maintaining a GPA of 3.5 or Above                      |
| Fleming   | Mira                 | Certificate of Academic Achievement     | For Maintaining a GPA of 3.5 or Above                      |
| Francois  | Jennifer             | Certificate of Academic Achievement     | For Maintaining a GPA of 3.5 or Above                      |
| Fuentes   | Marcos               | Certificate of Academic Achievement     | For Maintaining a GPA of 3.5 or Above                      |
| Gearhart  | Tracey               | Certificate of Academic Achievement     | For Maintaining a GPA of 3.5 or Above                      |
| Gebremariam                                       | Yohanis              | Certificate of Academic Achievement     | For Maintaining a GPA of 3.5 or Above                      |
| Grewell   | Madeleine            | Certificate of Academic Achievement     | For Maintaining a GPA of 3.5 or Above                      |
| Hernandez   | Diego                | Certificate of Academic Achievement     | For Maintaining a GPA of 3.5 or Above                      |
| Hillis  | Heather              | Certificate of Academic Achievement     | For Maintaining a GPA of 3.5 or Above                      |
| Huynh   | Linh                 | Certificate of Academic Achievement     | For Maintaining a GPA of 3.5 or Above                      |
| Hyman   | Sarah                | Certificate of Academic Achievement     | For Maintaining a GPA of 3.5 or Above                      |
| Jean-Charles                                      | Josue                | Certificate of Academic Achievement     | For Maintaining a GPA of 3.5 or Above                      |
| Jones   | Matthew              | Certificate of Academic Achievement     | For Maintaining a GPA of 3.5 or Above                      |
| Kah   | Olimata              | Certificate of Academic Achievement     | For Maintaining a GPA of 3.5 or Above                      |
| Kronheim  | Sarah                | Certificate of Academic Achievement     | For Maintaining a GPA of 3.5 or Above                      |
| Lei   | Yueting              | Certificate of Academic Achievement     | For Maintaining a GPA of 3.5 or Above                      |
| Li  | Rongzhen             | Certificate of Academic Achievement     | For Maintaining a GPA of 3.5 or Above                      |
| Lucero  | Cynthia              | Certificate of Academic Achievement     | For Maintaining a GPA of 3.5 or Above                      |
| MacLean   | Georgia              | Certificate of Academic Achievement     | For Maintaining a GPA of 3.5 or Above                      |
| McCully   | Kaitlin              | Certificate of Academic Achievement     | For Maintaining a GPA of 3.5 or Above                      |
| McGrady   | Anna                 | Certificate of Academic Achievement     | For Maintaining a GPA of 3.5 or Above                      |
| Pappas  | Victoria             | Certificate of Academic Achievement     | For Maintaining a GPA of 3.5 or Above                      |
| Rogers  | Clinton              | Certificate of Academic Achievement     | For Maintaining a GPA of 3.5 or Above                      |
| Sun   | Li Cheng             | Certificate of Academic Achievement     | For Maintaining a GPA of 3.5 or Above                      |
| Thammavong  | Narin                | Certificate of Academic Achievement     | For Maintaining a GPA of 3.5 or Above                      |
| Truong  | Jeffrey              | Certificate of Academic Achievement     | For Maintaining a GPA of 3.5 or Above                      |
| Westbrook   | David                | Certificate of Academic Achievement     | For Maintaining a GPA of 3.5 or Above                      |
| Ye  | Sally                | Certificate of Academic Achievement     | For Maintaining a GPA of 3.5 or Above                      |
| Ye  | Lisa                 | Certificate of Academic Achievement     | For Maintaining a GPA of 3.5 or Above                      |
| Yuli  | Dina                 | Certificate of Academic Achievement     | For Maintaining a GPA of 3.5 or Above                      |
| Zastrow   | Joshua               | Certificate of Academic Achievement     | For Maintaining a GPA of 3.5 or Above                      |
| Zepeda  | Karen                | Certificate of Academic Achievement     | For Maintaining a GPA of 3.5 or Above                      |
| Zewdie  | Dawit                | Certificate of Academic Achievement     | For Maintaining a GPA of 3.5 or Above                      |
| <b>Memorial Awards LETTERS</b>                    |                      |   |  |
| Renderos  | Veronica             | Marietta E. Williams                    | Mastered Learning Challenges through Strength of Character |
| Glickman  | Erin                 | Michael Burch                           | Service  |
| Mesina  | Sean Kenneth         | Euleta Rockwell                         | Counseling Aide Award                                      |
| Comas   | Alexandre            | Rishi & Rehanna Raman Scholarship Award | Tremendous Drive for the Future                            |
| Zewdie  | Dawit                | Ethel Bradford                          | W.E.B Dubois Certificate of Academic Achievement           |
| Seppa   | Eliot                | Kristel Noback                          | Instrumental Music Award                                   |
| Hood  | Joseph               | Kirk McNaney                            | Most School Spirit   |
| Raheem  | Ibrahim              | William Kuskin                          | Outstanding Leadership, Scholastics and Good Character     |
| <b>8</b>  | <b>Quantum Quest</b> |   |  |

## SENIOR AWARDS—CLASS OF 2009, continued

### PRINCIPAL'S AWARD FOR ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE

|         |         |                   |                     |
|---------|---------|-------------------|---------------------|
| McCully | Kaitlin | Principal's Award | Academic Excellence |
|---------|---------|-------------------|---------------------|

### BOOSTER CLUB

|          |         |                          |                     |
|----------|---------|--------------------------|---------------------|
| Anderson | Alec    | Booster Club Scholarship | Outstanding Student |
| Echeona  | Ricardo | Booster Club Scholarship | Outstanding Student |
| McCully  | Kaitlin | Booster Club Scholarship | Outstanding Student |
| McGrady  | Anna    | Booster Club Scholarship | Outstanding Student |
| Solomon  | Andie   | Booster Club Scholarship | Outstanding Student |
| Wilson   | Thomas  | Booster Club Scholarship | Outstanding Student |

### KIWANIS CLUB

|          |          |                           |  |
|----------|----------|---------------------------|--|
| Curro    | Alex     | Kiwanis Club Achievement  | Excellence in English                      |
| Zewdie   | Dawit    | Kiwanis Club Achievement  | Excellence in Mathematics                  |
| Li       | Rongzhen | Kiwanis Club Achievement  | Excellence in Science                      |
| Chan     | Sarah    | Kiwanis Club Achievement  | Excellence in Social Studies               |
| Grant    | Alex     | Kiwanis Club Achievement  | Superior Performance in Academy of Finance |
| Gearhart | Tracey   | Kiwanis Club Scholarships | Outstanding Student                        |
| Glickman | Erin     | Kiwanis Club Scholarships | Outstanding Student                        |
| Lei      | Yueting  | Kiwanis Club Scholarships | Outstanding Student                        |
| Ngo      | Phuong   | Kiwanis Club Scholarships | Outstanding Student                        |

## COLLEGES ACCEPTING THE CLASS OF 2009

Allegany College of Maryland  
 American University  
 Babson College  
 Bard College  
 Berklee College  
 Clark University  
 College of Notre Dame of Maryland  
 Drexel University  
 Eckerd College  
 Frostburg State University  
 Full Sail University  
 Howard University  
 Juniata College  
 Liberty University  
 Livingstone College  
 Loyola University New Orleans  
 Marymount University  
 Massachusetts Institute of Technology  
 Michigan State University  
 Montgomery College, Rockville  
 Montgomery College, Takoma Park

Montserrat College of Art  
 Morgan State University  
 New York University  
 Oberlin College  
 Philadelphia University  
 Reed College  
 Salisbury University  
 School of Art and Design at Montgomery College  
 Shepherd University  
 St. Mary's College of Maryland  
 Suffolk University  
 Temple University  
 The Art Institute of Washington  
 The Catholic University of America  
 Thiel College  
 Towson University  
 Trinity College  
 University of Colorado at Boulder



University of Delaware  
 University of Houston  
 University of Maryland, Baltimore County  
 University of Maryland, College Park  
 University of Maryland, Eastern Shore  
 University of Michigan  
 University of New Haven  
 University of Pennsylvania  
 University of Rhode Island  
 University of the District of Columbia  
 University of Virginia  
 University of Wisconsin, Madison  
 Valley Forge Christian College  
 Virginia Commonwealth University  
 Warren Wilson College  
 Washington and Jefferson

## Kudos

The **AEHS Key Club** was the winner of the prestigious **Marriott Spirit to Serve Community Service Awards**. The field was very competitive this year, and we are very proud of this accomplishment. This award program is administered by the Montgomery County Volunteer Center, Office of the Montgomery County Executive.

Congratulations to the following students for winning Marriot Service Awards: **Sally Ye, Minh Pham, Anh Tran, and Erin Glickman**.

A very special thank you goes to **Ms. Rosemary Piercey**, the Einstein math teacher who is the key club sponsor. ■

## Announcements

The Einstein staff is looking for contributions of old **lamps** to use instead of overhead lights. Many offices could do this full time, and classroom teachers could turn off overhead lights when they don't have classes. The Green Team can supply energy efficient bulbs. Thanks for helping AEHS in our attempt to use our resources more efficiently. ■

*Debby Kerr,  
AEHS SCB Green Team*

**Electronic devices** confiscated from students this school year should be picked up in the main office by a parent/guardian before school ends on June 16. ■

**Students** – You can earn **SSL hours** this summer working in Einstein's main office. Hours are flexible and the work environment is friendly. See Mrs. Lopez in the main office for details. ■

The PTSA received a check for \$669.00 from **Sniders** from 2008 receipts. Thank you to everyone who diligently saved their receipts. This is an easy fundraiser. Over the summer, please keep your receipts and send to Joanna McCully or drop them off at Einstein. ■

## Honors Chamber Singers Take On Manhattan

Einstein senior Liz Ebron began crying as she waited for the curtain to rise in a Broadway theater on a recent Friday night in April. She was visiting New York City for the first time in her life, she was about to see the famed Broadway musical, "Phantom of the Opera," and within hours, she herself would be singing for judges in a national competition.

"I've never had an opportunity like this," she recalled thinking as the tears flowed.

Her swell of emotions turned to excitement the next day on April 25, as Ebron and 12 other students with Einstein's Honors Chamber Singers assembled before judges with the Heritage Festival in Manhattan's historic Riverside Church. The Einstein singers came home from the competition with an award plaque as winners of a silver second place among choral groups, scoring 89 points out of a possible 100.

"It's the first time in years that an Einstein choral group has participated in a major music competition," said Delmer Padgett, chamber group director and head of the school's

Visual and Performing Arts Academy.

"We were up against some really great programs. We were judged on a national standard," said Padgett, who was participating in the competition for the first time in his eight-year career as a music educator. "We went with pieces we loved and we knew were difficult."

The Heritage Festival, a well-known vocal and instrumental music competition, drew school groups from California, Florida, Wisconsin, Ohio and Canada, among other places. Some schools arrived with several bus loads of student performers. Einstein's small chartered bus carried a group of 17, including 13 female student performers, chaperones, Padgett and school counselor and pianist Karen Karma.

The singers did fundraising for months to collect the thousands of dollars needed to pay for the weekend trip. On Saturday, competition day, the girls sang a contemporary choral composition, an

Italian classical piece and an Irish folk song. "The judges were impressed with the difficulty of the pieces, the beautiful sound the girls had, the amount of sound we produced," said Padgett.

Ebron, who's appeared in Einstein's spring musicals and who plans to study music education in college, said, "When we actually performed, we had a lot of fun. It was more excitement than nerves."

The weekend included a dinner cruise and awards ceremony, a nighttime view of the illuminated Statue of Liberty, impromptu choral singing on the street in Times Square, and a visit to Rockefeller Center. ■



### Fall Sports Begin Aug. 15

The first day of tryouts for fall sports (cross country, field hockey, golf, football, soccer, girls' tennis, and girls' volleyball) is Aug. 15. Athletes must have a valid physical on record in order to try out. Forms are available in the main office and on the school's Web site under Sports. ■

## Einstein Photographers Rock!

Einstein photographers have earned several honors recently.

Senior **Santiago Galeas** won the first place photograph in Youth Art Show, Federation of Women's Clubs of Montgomery County and second place in Federation of Women's Clubs of Maryland.

Two Einstein students received regional recognition by the Alliance for Young Artists & Writers in their The Scholastic Art & Writing Awards of 2009. This year 140,000 works were submitted to 81 Regional Affiliates. 10,000 students were honored across the country as regional Gold Key winners. Senior **Santiago Galeas** won a Gold Key for his art portfolio and Junior **Helen Ploussiou** won one for her photography.

Junior **Lara Brenne** won first prize in the first photography contest held by the Montgomery County Education Association (MCEA).

Five Einstein photographers were among 93 artists recognized by Congressman Chris Van Hollen in the 2009 Congressional Art Competition, out of 270 who entered. Their work was displayed in the Mansion at Strathmore in May. They are:

- **Lara Brenne**
- **Camilla Desiree Fleitas**
- **Tracy Morales**
- **Tuomas Peurala**
- **Nancy Yo**

**Lara** was also one of six runners up. Starting in June, her photograph ("Go Big") will be on display in one of Van Hollen's district offices for a year.

Einstein photographers walked away with seven of 17 awards given at the annual Nora School Photography Festival. A record 160 students representing 13 schools competed this year.

Senior **Santiago Galeas** won an honorable mention in the category of "People." In the category of "Places" **Stephanie Pratt** won an honorable mention, **Courtney Browder-Monroe** won third prize, **Salima Mbayo** won second prize, and **Lara Brenne** won first prize. In the overall category of "Best of Show" **Salima Mbayo** won third prize and **Lara Brenne** won second prize.

The following students also had their work shown at the festival:

- **Maria Arias**
- **Analia Beloso**
- **Lara Brenne**
- **Courtney Browder-Monroe**
- **Danielle Ceneta**

- **Skye Dantzer**
- **Wilmer Escoto**
- **Ian Evans**
- **Dane Ewing**
- **Shun Feng**
- **Annie Fulton**
- **Santiago Galeas**
- **Sean Hollister**
- **Danielle Jones**
- **Mary Jean Joyce**
- **Blayne Keysar**
- **Maggie Linebaugh**
- **Katie Maurey**
- **Beverly Minker**
- **Tracy Morales**
- **Salima Mbayo**
- **Karen Nicely**
- **Jacqueline Orellana**
- **Jessica Pellak**
- **Tuomas Peurala**
- **Helen Ploussiou**
- **Stephanie Pratt**
- **Ingrid Ramos**
- **Christian Reyes**
- **Jacob Rodriguez**
- **Oscar Salazar**
- **Ciara Scott**
- **Saravonn Sullivan**
- **Delena Tela**
- **Madeleine Tison-Orrill**
- **Holly Trout**
- **Fredys Vanegas**
- **Samantha Ventura**
- **Michaela Vila**
- **Nancy Vo**



**WOW!**

Thank you, photography teacher **Andris Rutins**, for supporting and encouraging these students. ■

## PACE Update

2009-2010 accomplishments of the Performing Arts Coalition of Einstein (PACE) were:

- Improved communication with the performing arts faculty;
- Advocacy for the performing arts in class scheduling to minimize conflicts with higher level courses;
- Improved performing arts trophy case;
- Sponsoring a Gaelic vocal coach for Chamber singers
- Financial assistance to dance company;
- Requesting a "wish list" of needs from other divisions;
- Frequent articles in Quantum Quest and liaison with PTSA;
- Fiscal soundness.

For 2009-2010 we would like to invite student representatives from music, theater, choral, and dance; sponsor an instrument coach or masters class; and fund raise as needed. Judi Sheffer will take the reins of PACE for 2009-2010. Assisting her will be Betsy Toretzky (Secretary); Jenny Hess (Treasurer); Debbie Duel (Publicity); and Sue Udry (Concession Manager).■

*Sue Edwards*

## African American Students Close Gap *By Gordie Brenne*

African American students closed the eligibility\* achievement gap in the third quarter this year when their share of the school's ineligibles (23%) dropped to become identical to their student share (23%). This is the first time since historical records have been maintained by the PTSA that the African American students' share of ineligibles has been equal to or less than their share of the student population.

Overall, the ineligibility rate was 27% for the third quarter that just ended, continuing a positive trend that began this school year. Ineligibility usually improves in the third quarter, and this year was no exception. The improved rate this quarter is comparable to the low rate experience in the first quarter of 2007. Year-over-year improvements were experienced in almost all grades and demographic categories. An explanation of this rate and detailed analysis is shown in the accompanying table.

Principal Fernandez attributed the positive results this year to the efforts of all teachers. Improved attendance and reduced suspensions and Loss of Credits have also been cited in the past as

positive factors.

As in the past, the biggest area of ineligibility is among freshmen. In part, this is due to the large number of incoming students (34%) who were classified as "at risk" because their average MPA in Middle School was 2.4 or less. However, freshman performance improved significantly over the third quarter last year and was the biggest contributor to the school's improved year-over-year performance. The freshman ineligibility rate of 29% includes repeating freshmen, but is still lower than the "at risk" percentage for true freshmen, indicating that our new students are learning better than they did in Middle School.

African American student performance, followed by SPED/IEP performance improvements (i.e. by special education students/students with individual education plans) were the second and third biggest contributors to this positive trend. However, the eligibility achievement gap continues to be a challenge for Hispanic students, who continued to have the highest overall ineligibility rate (38%) of any demographic category. Hispanic students comprise 44% of all stu-

dents, but had 64% of all ineligibles. Their overall rate however, was lower than it had been in the third quarter of the last two years and has stabilized in the last year.

Sophomore and Senior ineligibility rates are both higher than they were in the third quarter last year, but both are within the trend line range. Sophomores improved from the second quarter, while the Senior rate is only one point higher than the second quarter.

This data is preliminary and subject to change as parents appeal grades and Loss of Credit.\*\* Remember you have 10 days to file an appeal from receipt of the loss of credit notification letter; the school sometimes makes record keeping mistakes. An effective appeal can provide evidence that unexcused absences may have been recorded in error, but families can also make a case by discussing how the students will change their attendance pattern, improve performance on class assignments, and follow school policies and procedures. ■

### **Key Terms**

*\*Eligibility means that a student's grades are good*

*enough to allow participation in sports and other extracurricular activities. The grade point average must be 2.0 or better and no more than 1 failing grade or loss of credit.\*\**

*\*\*Five unexcused absences from a class will result in **loss of credit** for that class and a failing grade for the semester. (In addition, three unexcused tardies equals one unexcused absence.)*

## **How To Make a Difference**

Talk with your student's teachers to get ideas about how to improve students' performance. Make sure your student is taking advantage of the intervention programs offered by the school for any subjects your student is struggling with. These range from lunch time sessions with teachers to after school and night time programs. Talk to your guidance counselor if you have any questions. The PTSA and African American Parents Group also have ideas that may help and would be pleased to answer questions: Gordie Brenne, VP for School Improvement [gwbr@erols.com](mailto:gwbr@erols.com); Wanda Watson, Black/African American Parent Council, [Wanda\\_F\\_Watson@mcpsmd.org](mailto:Wanda_F_Watson@mcpsmd.org). ■

# AEHS Ineligibility Analysis—as of the 3rd quarter 2009-10

*By Gordie Brenne*

**Observations:**

Objective- Reducing ineligibility is one goal of MCPS and AEHS.

MCPS uses the ineligibility rate to measure how effective instructional programs are at increasing attendance and promotion, and in reducing drop outs.

Measure- Ineligibility rate is the percent of students with a GPA < 2.0, or 2 or more failing grades or losses of credits. It is the only overall measure of student performance covering all grades and all students. Data shown for 2Q is preliminary and subject to grade and loss of credit appeals.

Demographics- The overall 2Q ineligibility rate is 27%, better than the 3rd

Quarter in the last 2 years. Hispanics had the highest rate this quarter (38%), but did better than the last 2 years. Since Hispanic students comprise 44% of all students, they also had the largest share of total 3Q ineligibles (64%). The difference between the Hispanic share of students and share of ineligibles is the “eligibility achievement gap.” American Indians had a higher ineligibility rate, but represent only 3 students. African Americans had the second highest rate (27%), better than the last 2 years. Their share of ineligibles (23%) was identical to their student share (23%), indicating that their ineligibility achievement gap has closed for the first time since historical records

have been maintained.

Grade Level- Freshmen had the highest ineligibility rate (29%), although that is far better than last year and last quarter, and is better than the risk analysis of incoming freshmen which this year was classified 34% at risk based on their 8<sup>th</sup> grade grades. Also, this significant improvement is the primary reason the school’s overall rate continues to drop.

Interventions- Interventions for Math, Reading, Biology and Government have been implemented to improve Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) and High School Assessment pass rates. Many teachers are available at lunch time and after school to help. The

All Male Honors English class is off to a good start and only had 4 ineligible students this quarter. Principal Fernandez hopes to expand this pilot to other classes next year.

Sports Safety Net- School sports are the oldest, largest and most well funded eligibility program. Frequent grade monitoring by coaches continued with spring sports and resulted in all teams maintaining 100% eligibility through 3Q. Other extracurricular activities can be just as effective at helping kids maintain their eligibility. ■



**AEHS Ineligibility Analysis**  
(Percentages shown are for each sub population)

|              | 1Q06 | 2Q | 3Q | 4Q | 1Q07 | 2Q | 3Q | 4Q | 1Q08 | 2Q        | 3Q         |
|--------------|------|----|----|----|------|----|----|----|------|-----------|------------|
| <b>Total</b> | 26%  | 35 | 34 | 25 | 28   | 32 | 29 | 28 | 26   | 29        | <b>27%</b> |
| Asian        | 15%  | 24 | 20 | 18 | 14   | 16 | 15 | 18 | 12   | 15%       | 12%        |
| White        | 12   | 17 | 18 | 9  | 12   | 15 | 12 | 10 | 12   | 11        | 10         |
| Af. Am.      | 28   | 41 | 41 | 28 | 32   | 35 | 35 | 35 | 26   | 32        | 27         |
| Hispanic     | 37   | 45 | 45 | 34 | 38   | 44 | 39 | 38 | 36   | <b>39</b> | <b>38</b>  |
| Am. Ind.     | 33   | 67 | 83 | 67 | 33   | 50 | 60 | 50 | 75   | 67        | 67         |
| SPED (IEP)   | 26%  | 35 | 34 | 25 | 49   | 45 | 41 | 35 | 36   | 34        | 34%        |
| Grade 9      | 29%  | 38 | 37 | 9  | 38   | 47 | 40 | 27 | 36%  | 36        | <b>29%</b> |
| Grade 10     | 24   | 32 | 33 | 29 | 27   | 28 | 24 | 34 | 26   | 30        | 28         |
| Grade 11     | 26   | 35 | 32 | 28 | 23   | 26 | 27 | 29 | 20   | 20        | 21         |
| Grade 12     | 25%  | 35 | 35 | 37 | 22   | 26 | 24 | 29 | 23%  | 26        | 27%        |

## All Spring Athletes Retain Eligibility

None of the 205 spring athletes on 13 JV and varsity spring teams this season lost their place on the roster because of low third quarter grades, according to Athletic Director **Brady Blade**.

It's the first time all Titan athletes in a season have retained 100 percent eligibility since Einstein officials began more than two years ago to emphasize academic performance among athletes.

"I knew we were going to be good," said Blade, who reported the news to Principal **James Fernandez** and administrators after hearing from coaches at the end of third quarter last month. "I didn't realize we were going to be this good. We've come a long way from what we started off doing," he added.

Athletes, like many students who participate in extracurricular activities, must maintain a minimum GPA of 2.0 on a 4.0 scale to remain on their teams. Improving academic eligibility is a common goal at schools where athletic participation and performance have lagged in the past.

"Every school does it a little differently," said Blade. At Einstein, the athletic director and coaches have worked more closely with teachers and students to assess athletes' academic performance and attitude, and they've utilized Edline, the school system's computerized grade reporting program.



"In the fall we learned a lot," said Blade. At one point, he said, the JV football team had more than

10 kids with shaky academic performance. JV Coach **Jermaine Howell** excused those students from practice to study and bring up their grades.

The fall season, with its large number of athletic participants and freshmen new to high school, traditionally has had the highest percentage of ineligible athletes. The percentage of eligible athletes last fall was about 95 percent.

"I'm sure we're going to be looking at some issues again this fall," said Blade. "I think we know what to do. The coaches are aware of what's going on." ■

*Susan Deford*

## Spring 2009 Sports Awards

Einstein's spring teams were recognized at a dinner on May 20 and the following special awards were presented:

### Varsity Baseball / Coach **Mike Moreland**

Most Improved: David Westbrook, Coach's  
Award: Charlie Anderson,  
MVP: Bobby Stouffer

### JV Baseball / Coach **Pete White**

Most Improved: Cristhian Reyes, Coach's  
Award: Sam Milton,  
MVP: Danny Stouffer

### Girls Varsity Lacrosse / Coach **Suzanne Murray**

Most Improved: Vicki Pappas, Coach's  
Award: Anna McGrady,  
MVP: Andie Solomon

### Girls JV Lacrosse / Coach **Jeffrey Rackey**

Most Improved: Emily Owens, Coach's  
Award: Rosario Miranda  
MVP: Charlotte Sheffield

### Boys Varsity Lacrosse / Coach **Brian Elliott**

Most Improved: Glen Pastel, Coach's  
Award: Landon Adams  
MVP: Shaun Flynn

### Boys JV Lacrosse / Coach **Jay Andrews**

Most Improved: John Paul Francis, Coach's  
Award: Sasha Ruby,  
MVP: Charlie McGrady

### Varsity Softball / Coach **Joan Rackey**

Most Improved: Gina Depaul, Coach's  
Award: Mollie Bryen  
MVP: Sarah Chan

### JV Softball / Coach **Frank Brown Jr.**

Most Improved: Erin Miller, Coach's  
Award: Jenny Jolles,  
MVP: Ashley Thurmond

### Boys Tennis / Coach **Mike Bonavia**

Most Improved: Henry Tan, Coach's  
Award: Minh Pham,  
MVP: Milo Johnson

### Girls Track & Field / Coach **Eric DaSilva**

Most Improved: Rebecca Murtha, Coach's  
Award: Kate McCully,  
MVP: Katy Rebois

### Boys Track & Field / Coach **Eric DaSilva**

Most Improved: Melvin Hernandez, Coach's  
Award: Jamil Shah,  
MVP: Sam Asiamah and Malcolm Crockett

### Boys Volleyball / Coach **Emily Hallam**

Most Improved: Sean Mesina, Coach's  
Award: Juan Sarabia,  
MVP: Son Le

### Coed Volleyball / Coach **James Chan**

Most Improved: David Jimenez, Coach's  
Award: Ali Vallespin,  
MVP: Kirk Vallespin ■

# Course-Related Fees: A letter from Principal James Fernandez

As you may be aware, changes to the existing practices regarding assessment of course-related fees will be implemented for the 2009–2010 school year. The new guidelines are intended to achieve a balance that reduces the number of course-related fees families are asked to pay while preserving the broad array of course offerings our community expects and our students deserve. A list of those courses being offered at our school which include a course-related fee will be included in our August summer mailing to Einstein families.

Course-related fees are not charged for textbooks, supplementary readers (such as anthologies, atlases, or workbooks), most materials of instruction, audiovisual aids, stationery items not commonly found in the home and required for the student to demonstrate mastery of course objectives, or building or office materials needed to operate schools.

The approved course-related fees primarily fit into three categories as follows:

- Items consumed by the student as a part of the course (example: recipe ingredients).
- Component parts of a

product that will become student property (example: sculpting clay, model airplane kit).

- Materials of instruction or items of personal use that become the property of the student (example: career prep uniforms, hard hats, cosmetology kit).

Students are still expected to bring individual organizational tools and personal supplies (such as notebooks, pencils, and paper) from home. In addition, there are student fees which are not course-related but local school decisions made by the principal in collaboration with the school and parent leadership. These may include class fees, special grade level assemblies, etc. I will discuss these decisions with our school and parent leadership this summer and will update you on this information as needed. There also may be fees related to field trips, but these will be shared each time there is a trip and not in advance as a course-related fee.

In circumstances when a course is selected with a fee, we are committed to providing all students, regardless of their economic circumstances, with full access to all courses, including the instructional

materials required for those courses and the instructional program. A student, his/her parent or guardian, or any student advocate may request an adjustment to the course-related fee. Please contact the teacher, the counselor, or the administrator who will work with you to meet your needs. You and your child will have options that include a schedule of payments, a reduced fee, or a complete waiver.

Please note that these waiver options may not apply to fees paid to outside organizations, such as the College Board, ETS, International Baccalaureate, or for services including testing (Advanced Placement, SAT, ACT, etc.). Other waiver options MAY apply and you should contact the school counselor to review those options.

I am committed to the intent of these changes and plan to successfully reduce course-related fees while maintaining the instructional program our students expect and deserve. If you have any questions regarding the course-related fees being charged at our school for the 2009-2010 school year, please contact me. ■

## PTSA Officers 2009-2010

Elected at the May 19 PTSA meeting:

- Pres: Molly Jackman
- VP: Emily Sudbrink
- VP: Gordie Brenne
- VP: Connie Raab
- Treas.: Rich Lerner
- Sec'y: Suzanne Milton

Want get involved? Let Molly know at Thejackman5@aol.com.



**Quantum Quest**

### **Albert Einstein High School PTSA**

*President:* Molly Jackman  
*Editors:* Connie Raab, Deb Ferrin,  
Emily Ellenbogen, Nancy Hanlon  
aehsnews@yahoo.com

# Calendar

## June

- 5 GRADUATION, 10 am, DAR Constitution Hall
- 10 Final exams, per. 1 & 2
- 11 Final exams, per. 3 & 4
- 12 Final exams, per. 5 & 6
- 15 Final exams, per. 7 & makeups.
- 16 Last day of school for students
  
- 23 Report cards mailed



## August

- 15 Fall sports begin
  
- 26 First day of school

## 2009 After Prom - A Night to Remember

Over 100 parent volunteers and 350 students attended the PTSA's After Prom Friday, May 8, from midnight to 5 am. Beach and boardwalk-themed decorations lined Main Street and the cafeteria, and students participated in activities such as bumper cars, laser tag, casino games, stuff-a-bear, and an obstacle course in the gym.

The evening also supplied students with lots of music, food and fun. Tickets won at carnival games allowed students to win 28 donated themed baskets.

Numerous door prizes donated by community businesses and parents were raffled off as well.

Huge thanks to Chris and Ty Bragg and Karen Lee who organized the carnival games and decorations. Julie Lee and Suzanne Milton's kitchen team provided a delicious multi-course buffet. Chris Grewell gave away her last door prize after many, many years of gathering donations.

Ellen Kendall recruited the parent volunteers, who had just as much fun as the students. The bountiful basket committee included Wanda Watson, Patti Gig-

lio, and Joanna McCully. Many thanks to Karen Goozner, Hillary Steele, Donna Maclean, Stephanie Gearhart, Tracy Keating, Barb Pastel, Carol Gardner, Kit Woods, Kelly Giblin, Gary Weil, and the PTSA Board for their behind-the-scenes support.

It's not too early to be thinking about next year's After Prom, so send your ideas to Ellen Kandell at [ek@alternativeresolutions.net](mailto:ek@alternativeresolutions.net).

Here's a big pat on the back to all who made the After Prom "A Night to Remember!" ■

Jennifer Maroney Tripodi  
2009 After Prom Chair

Albert Einstein High School PTSA  
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Kensington, MD 20895

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