

Quantum Quest

Albert Einstein High School PTSA

March/April 2010

PTSA Volunteers: Thank You— Now Who Else will Step Forward?

Many PTSA volunteers have been busy lately! Many thanks to:

--**Martha Kaiser**, for managing another round of the gift wrap booth at the Wheaton Mall, and much appreciation to all who helped wrap.

--**Kerstin Florian-Staguhn**, for coordinating a lovely Valentine's Day Staff Appreciation. Thanks to all who sent in treats.

--**Debra Brody and Patricia Williams**, who spearheaded another successful, well-attended "Taste of Einstein." This big event resulted from Debra and Patricia's planning and efforts as well as the many volunteers who helped carry off the evening. Students were a large part of the volunteer crew this year. Thanks go to the YMCA's after school participants who set up tables, prepared and served appetizers, and aided with other tasks. Many families brought delicious food

from all over the globe. Folks enjoyed entertainment provided by both students and staff. We have a wonderfully diverse community, and this event showcased it.

—**Ellen Sands**, for her great work with our award-winning Reflections Program (see page 8)

Our next scheduled **PTSA Meeting** will be held Tuesday, March 16. We will begin with our business meeting at 7:00pm, followed by a speaker from *I Drive Smart* on how to help our fledgling teenaged drivers.



Reminder... please **volunteer for board positions** for the next school year. Learn a lot, make a contribution to the community, be involved in the last few years your child is in school! ■

Molly Jackman

Your Name Here?

Here is your chance—all of the elected Board positions are open. If you are interested or know someone who would do well in these positions, contact Molly Jackman at Thejackman5@aol.com

President: The more people on our team, the more you can get done through others. You also call and lead meetings, visit the administration, communicate with the community, and advocate for our school.

Vice Presidents: Back up the President and lead one or more special efforts. In the past few years we had VPs for:

- Programs: plan PTSA meetings and other events,
- School Improvement: participate in school meetings, seek and look over data, report, and
- Communications: help keep the community informed, lead the newsletter (Quantum Quest) team.

Secretary: Write summary notes of PTSA meetings

Treasurer: Keep track of PTSA funds, make deposits, disperse funds, report.



SPRING MUSICAL

March 12, 13, 19, 20, 7 pm

Mulch delivery day
March 13

PTSA Meeting

March 16, 7pm

Come hear from *I Drive Smart* so you can better help your child be a safe driver.

April arts events

- 15-16** IB art show, 7:25-9 am
- 21-22** VAC Annual Show, 6-9 pm
- 23** VAC Ann. Show, 7:25 am-2:10 pm, dance concert, 7pm
- 28** Fashion show, 6:30 pm
- Instrumental concert, 7 pm
- 29** Poetry slam, 3:30-5:30 pm
- Choral Concert/Art Show, 7 pm

SPRING BREAK March 27-April 6



Winter Academic Blues Hit Freshmen and Seniors Hardest: Eligibility Analysis for the 2nd Quarter

By Gordie Brenne

Overall ineligibility was 27% for the second quarter just ended, less than the 29% rate a year ago and continuing last year's positive trends. (See table on page 3.) Year-over-year improvements were seen in almost all demographic categories and grade levels. However, when compared to their strong, record-setting first quarter performances, freshman and senior grades dropped significantly while sophomore and junior grades had smaller seasonal downturns.

The overall freshman ineligibility rate was better than the rate for last year's second quarter (29% vs. 36%), but grades dropped significantly from this year's outstanding first quarter. While the closely watched ineligibility rate of 25% for true freshmen (that is, excluding repeating freshmen) was better than the true freshman rate a year ago (29%), and better than would have been predicted by the incoming share of freshmen at risk due to poor middle school

grades (33%), the rate is still elevated. Repeating freshmen had a 69% ineligibility rate which, when blended with the true freshman rate, yields the combined freshman rate of 29%. Rates for true freshmen are monitored to adjust intervention strategies because performance in the first year often determines later success. In total, 26 more true freshmen became ineligible in the second quarter.

Equally troubling was the drop in senior grades. While their 21% ineligibility rate is better than recent second quarters, the drop in grades was greater than seasonal trends and could put pressure on graduation rates and college acceptances. In total, 28 more seniors became ineligible in the second quarter.

Asian, Hispanic, African American, and Individual Education Program (IEP) students all showed improvement over last year's second quarter. Since Hispanic students comprise 43% of all students, they also had the largest share of total first quarter ineligibles (61%). The difference between the Hispanic share of stu-

dents and share of ineligibles is their "eligibility achievement gap," which is close to where it was a year ago (44% and 60%). African Americans had the second highest rate (28%), but that was better than the last 3 years. Their share of students (24%) was close to their ineligible share (26%), indicating that their ineligibility achievement gap continues to remain low, as was the IEP student gap (14% vs. 15%).

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

How To Make a Difference

Talk with your student's teachers to get ideas about how to improve perform-



ance. 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 Saturday 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. Contacts are Gordie Brenne, VP for School Improvement gubr@erols.com and Virgie Barnes, Black/African American Parent Council, nikonay@msn.com.

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 1st quarter is prelimi-

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

	2Q06/7	3Q	4Q	1Q07/8	2Q	3Q	4Q	1Q08/9	2Q	3Q	4Q	1Q09/10	2Q09/10
Total	35%	34	25	28	32	29	28	26	29	27	31%	22	27%
Asian	24%	20	18	14	16	15	18	12	15%	12	14	7	12%
White	17	18	9	12	15	12	10	12	11	10	12	7	10
Af. Am.	41	41	28	32	35	35	35	26	32	27	33	25	28
Hispanic	45	45	34	38	44	39	38	36	39	38	43	32	37
Am. Ind. (IEP)	67	83	67	33	50	60	50	75	67	67	67	33	50
	35%	34	25	49	45	41	35	36	34	34	33	28	28%
Grade 9	38%	37	9	38	47	40	27	36	36	29	36	23	29%
Grade 10	32	33	29	27	28	24	34	26	30	28	32	26	29
Grade 11	35	32	28	23	26	27	29	20	20	21	24	25	27
Grade 12	35%	35	37	22	26	24	29	23	26	27	29	13	21%

nary and subject to grade and loss of credit appeals.

Demographics- The overall 2nd quarter ineligibility rate is 27%, better than the 2nd quarter in the last 3 years. Hispanics had the highest rate this quarter (37%), but did better than the last 3 years. Since Hispanic students comprise 43% of all students, they also had the largest share of total 1Q ineligibles (61%). 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 2 students. African Americans had the sec-

ond highest rate (28%), but better than the last 3 years. Their share of students (24%) was close to their ineligible share (26%), indicating that their ineligibility achievement gap continues to remain low, a trend started last year.

Grade Level- Freshmen and sophomores were tied for the highest ineligibility rate (29%). These students had elevated ineligibility rates a year ago, and while they continued to have the lowest performance of all grade levels, their ineligibility rates have improved. Freshmen had their lowest winter quarter in years, far better than the risk analysis of incoming freshmen would have predicted for this year. Even taking into account

repeating freshmen who had a 69% ineligibility rate, the blended rate was low because true freshmen had an ineligibility rate of only 25%, below the predicted 33% of incoming freshmen who were classified at risk based on their 8th grade grades. Still this is significantly higher than the record setting 1st quarter rate for true freshmen (19%). The ineligibility rate for seniors jumped more than seasonal trends from the first quarter. While still the lowest rate among grade levels, this could indicate difficulties with credits needed to graduate, or lead to problems with college acceptance.

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.

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 seven of the twelve teams maintaining 100% eligibility at the end of the 2nd quarter (for an overall eligibility rate of 94%). Other extracurricular activities can be just as effective at helping kids maintain their eligibility. ■



Date	AP Exams	IB Exams	Start Time
Mon., May 3	<i>AP Government and Politics: US</i>		7:20 am
	<i>AP French Language</i>		11:20 am
Tues., May 4		IB English HL paper 1	7:20 am
	<i>AP Spanish Language</i>		7:20 am
	<i>AP Statistics</i>		11:20 am
Wed., May 5	<i>AP Calculus AB</i>		7:20 am
	<i>AP Calculus BC</i>		7:20 am
		IB Math SL paper 1	12:20 pm
		IB Math Studies paper 1	12:20 pm
Thurs., May 6		IB Math SL paper 2	7:20 am
		IB Math Studies paper 2	7:20 am
	<i>AP English Literature</i>		7:20 am
Fri., May 7	<i>AP United States History</i>		7:20 am
	<i>AP Studio Art (portfolios due)</i>		
Mon., May 10		IB English HL paper 2	7:20 am
	<i>AP Biology</i>		7:20 am
	<i>AP Music Theory</i>		7:20 am
	<i>AP Physics B</i>		11:20 am
	<i>AP Physics C: Mechanics</i>		11:20 am
	<i>AP Physics C: Electricity and Magnetism</i>		2 pm
Tues., May 11	<i>AP Environmental Science</i>		7:20 am
	<i>AP Chemistry</i>		7:20 am
	<i>AP Psychology</i>		11:20 am
		IB History HL paper 1 and 2	12:20 pm
Wed., May 12		IB History HL paper 3	7:20 am
	<i>AP English Language</i>		7:20 am
		IB Chemistry SL paper 1 & 2	12:20 pm
Thurs., May 13		IB Chemistry, SL paper 3	7:20 am
	<i>AP World History</i>		7:20 am
Fri., May 14	<i>AP Spanish Literature</i>		7:20 am
	<i>AP Human Geography</i>		7:20 am
Mon., May 17		IB Biology HL paper 1 & 2	12:20 pm
		IB Environmental Systems SL paper 1	12:20 pm
Tues., May 18		IB Biology HL paper 3	7:20 am
		IB Environmental Systems SL paper 2	7:20 am
Wed., May 19		IB Spanish HL paper 1 & 2	7:20 am
		IB Spanish SL paper 1 & 2	7:20 am
		IB Spanish <i>ab</i> SL paper 1 & 2	7:20 am
Thurs., May 20		IB ITGS SL paper 1	12:30 pm
		IB ITGS HL paper 1	12:30 pm
Fri., May 21		IB Music HL & SL paper 1	7:20 am
		IB ITGS HL paper 2 & 3	7:20 am
		IB ITGS SL paper 2	7:20 am
Mon., May 24		IB French HL paper 1 & 2	7:20 am
		IB French SL paper 1 & 2	7:20 am
		IB French <i>ab</i> SL paper 1 & 2	7:20 am

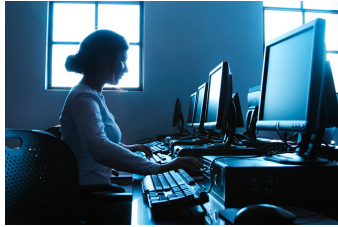
Esperanza Fund Scholarships

The Esperanza Fund will once again be providing \$5,000 two-year scholarships and \$10,000 four-year college scholarships to immigrant students in Maryland, the District of Columbia, and Virginia this year. In 2009, their first year of operation, they awarded \$50,000 in scholarships to six Esperanza Scholars -- an exceptional group of students chosen from a pool of 250 applicants and 30 interviewees.

(Read more about these Scholars at www.esperanzafund.org). Two scholarships were awarded to Maryland students. The scholarship serves all immigrant students in the capital region regardless of ethnicity, national origin, or immigration status.

The 2010 scholarship applications are now available at www.esperanzafund.org/scholarship. The application process is entirely electronic, and all applications are due on **March 19.** ■

*Laura Newton, Ph.D.
Supervisor, School
Counseling Services*



2010 College Fair Event

Every fall, AEHS and the PTSA organize and host the College Fair. This event is attended by students and their parents from all over the county. My big focus this year will be to get even more Einstein students to attend – after all, this is our school, our community and our students.

The Fair is simple to organize, but this coming year I need some help. Last year's committee parents have seniors who are graduating and they are moving on. I will manage the invitations and track which schools will be attending the Fair, but **I need help with: flyer design, posting announcements** to the listserv, **coordinating the volunteers** who check people in the evening of the fair, and **organizing the salad supper** for the college representatives the evening of the fair.

This is a fun event! If you want to be part of the action, please email me: gaylerfrank@gmail.com. ■

Cindy Frank

Media Center Will Be Offering Test Preparation Aids

The media center is in the process of updating the SAT, ACT and all the AP test prep review books to the latest 2010 versions available that coordinate with the AP subjects taught here at AEHS. I have also purchased a set of flash cards for study use with the SAT, ACT, and each of the AP subjects that are offered here at AEHS. Many of these books are so new they are not yet on the MCPS "approved" list. We are working diligently to get them on the approved list and processed so that they will be available to students within the next month.

As soon as all the items are processed and available for checkout we will put an announcement out through the AEHS listserv. Parents, you are always welcome to come in and take a look at these materials; however, we only have one copy per subject which is only checked out to a student.

The 2010 editions will be available for a 2-week check out period. All these test prep materials are also available through Amazon.com currently at discounted pricing. The books' cost ranges between \$12.24 - \$17.81 and the flash cards between \$10.19 - \$13.59, in case you are interested in purchasing them for your own child. ■

Dorothy P. D'Ascanio

SENIORS: For your calendar

This is not a complete list, but here are some key dates according to online AEHS master calendar:

Thurs., May 20— Senior Awards Night, 7 pm, auditorium

Friday, May 21— Prom, 8-11:55pm, Rockville Hilton followed by.....

Saturday, May 22— After Prom, Midnight to 5 am, AEHS

Week of May 24— Senior Exams*

Wed, June 2— Graduation, 2:30 pm, DAR Constitution Hall

*Exams for the rest of the student body are on the AEHS calendar for June 10-16



Study Shows Sports is a Proven Academic Strategy

By Gordie Brenne

Communication, team work, competitiveness, assertiveness, and discipline: these are winning personal skills in our culture. Ever wonder how our kids develop those skills? We intuitively understand that kids from families with high achieving parents just seem to naturally acquire these skills. But some of us (guilty) don't trust those factors and go nuts with the drill sergeant routine to pound them home. Is there a better way?

Many of you are aware that these skills are often found among athletes. Athletic Director Nan Martino shared an anecdote. She heard that all of the physicians in one hospital's emergency ward were former athletes. Math Resource teacher Ed Nolan says that athletes in his classes seem to focus better and have better time management skills. Coincidence? Do we see what we want to see? Measurement bias?

Conventional wisdom has held for years that athletes' winning skills are a result of "self selection." That is, kids who already have those skills gravitate into

sports, and those who don't take a pass. This line of reasoning implies that you can't attribute the development of these skills to sports. Congress decided to run against conventional wisdom and give girls a fighting chance by passing Title IX legislation in 1972. Title IX banned gender discrimination in federally funded schools and resulted in increases in girls' sports participation to match the boys. Were they right?

Yes, and in significant ways that go directly to the core purpose of a high school education. A recent study by highly respected economist Betsey Stevenson (University of Pennsylvania—see link next page) has concluded that girls' sports may actually foster the development of skills needed for success. Her study found that girls in sports have educational advantages (up to 1 more year of college) and employment advantages (7% higher wages) over girls who do not participate in sports.

The study used nationwide data about girls who began high school sports after Title IX was passed

to study how these new athletes succeeded once they became women aged 25-34. Most of these girls didn't have previous sports experience, so by using data for HS girls between 1972 and 1978, she was able to focus on the effect of HS sports without worrying about spillover effects of previous recreational sports participation. In statistical terms, Title IX provided a natural experiment to study the effect of randomly assigning different levels of sports opportunities to different schools with a large enough sample size to create statistically valid conclusions.

Some might argue that those results don't apply today because the period Dr. Stevenson studied for athletes' later success, the 70's and 80's, was also a period of big gains in women's equality and careers. Maybe, but the new study does make you wonder what caused those big equality gains. Those benefits are exactly the kind of boost many of our disadvantaged kids need today, since too many of our kids, particularly girls, come from families and cultural backgrounds that sometimes discourage college

and careers.

Still not convinced? Here was the corker for me: The study controlled for factors frequently correlated with later student success like parent's income, race, student's intelligence, number of siblings, school characteristics like size and drop-out rates, and still found the significant benefits noted above. That means that through sports, students can overcome personal, economic, and educational disadvantages to achieve better academic and career results.

What about boys and extracurricular activities?

Dr. Stevenson says it's reasonable to expect college education and employment benefits apply to boys too. As for other extracurricular activities, the study looked at participation in "nonvocational clubs," and found that while girls in clubs did get the similar education benefit of additional college, they did not get the athletes' benefit of higher employment.

What is MCPS doing?

Not surprisingly, MCPS hasn't yet included sports in its academic strategies. The skills of successful athletes aren't measured by SAT or AP exams. Even the much ballyhooed Seven Keys to College Readiness study (<http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/info/keys/>), didn't look at sports. In that study, MCPS pre-selected seven variables for college success that excluded sports. Not surprisingly, MCPS concluded the factors it selected were



keys to success. With apologies to our hard working math department, does that mean that sports participation could be more important than Algebra 2, the fifth of school system's Seven Keys, to college and career success?

Maybe participation in sports is a better strategy for some kids, but that's a study yet to be done. Similarly, studies of our customized interventions and vocational educational programs haven't been done.

The good news is our school has discretion to implement local strategies. We've launched expanded cheers

and poms squads for girls, as well as in-school and after school intramural sports activities through the YMCA's Einstein-based after school program for boys and girls. We've also added frequent monitoring of academic performance to the responsibilities of coaches, and our teams achieved 94% eligibility this winter season.

What can you do?

If you have kids in sports, buy an insur-

ance policy for their future success by keeping them involved and participating in all three sports seasons. If you know kids that need help participating in sports, start a car pool to practices, buddy-up and bring those kids along to summer clinics, and if they need a ball or a glove, get them one. Become an advocate for kids who are struggling under the crushing weight of poverty or need help dealing



with other family demands or cultural biases to get and stay involved in sports.

You can also advocate for larger sports teams and serve as team

parents to help coaches manage larger teams. According to Stevenson's study, nationwide HS sports participation averages 50% for boys and 33% for girls. While Einstein has made progress, we still fall short of this average, in part because of elevated ineligibility rates. "No cut" teams like swimming and track have plenty of capacity for more participants. Still others could expand by adding kids to practice squads who may not play in the big games, but still

Accolades for Taste of Einstein!!



This year's "A Taste of Einstein" drew record numbers, as the annual event celebrated the many cultures and traditions represented at our school. The event opened with students and their families mingling on Main Street to the sounds of a select jazz group and to the new addition of tasty appetizers prepared and served by the after school YMCA program. Attendees also had the opportunity to interact with representatives from several community groups that help to support our school.

They then jammed the cafeteria to partake in a large feast, featuring cuisines from around the world. Special thanks to Sergio's Place and Los Cabanos, and to the Ethiopian restaurants who generously donated food as

well as to the parents who prepared special dishes.

From there, attendees moved to the auditorium for the event's entertainment, which included a Bollywood dance, selections from the upcoming "Guys and Dolls" musical, films by two "Reflections" winners (page 8) and other talented music presentations. It was a wonderful showcase of cultures!

Many thanks to the students, teachers, staff, and parents who went out of their way to make this year's program, the 6th year of the event, a tremendous success. ■

Debra Brody

get the benefits of participation. For kids that prefer more culturally focused alternatives, support the development of competitive dance squads modeled after our successful LASU dance program. For academically ineligible kids, you can advocate for increases to the after school sports program for intramural sports, and especially for an integrated tutoring program that will get them back on track. ■

The Stevenson Study

"Beyond the Classroom: Using Title IX to Measure the Return to High School Sports,"
Betsey Stevenson,
University of Pennsylvania.

At this link
http://repository.upenn.edu/psc_working_papers/17/
click "download"

Summer Volunteers Needed for Front Office

The main office will need student help again this summer. Please keep this in mind and mention to your child that the main office has this available for students to earn student service learning hours. Days and hours can be flexible.

Students help Mrs. Lopez, the principal's secretary, with answering phones, putting away mail, assisting with summer mass mailing and other miscellaneous office chores.

Also, Mrs. Lopez could use an adult or two to assist and oversee students processing the summer mass mailing that goes out the first or second week in August. In past summers, the main office has had wonderful adult and student volunteers. Please contact Mrs. Lopez at 301-962-1005 for more information. ■



Kudos for "Reflections" Successes

Three Einstein students have been recognized for their achievements in this year's national PTA Reflections arts contest. Rediet Teshome and Mauricio Rios produced films for a class of Ms. Ellen Daniels (see sidebar). Their projects each received an Award of Excellence, which qualified them to move on to the state level of competition. Kiai Cannon-Hill also received an Award of Merit for her photography submission. Her photo featured a jet soaring past the Washington Monument, over a ring of flags.

The Reflections competition is an annual program to enhance arts education. Now in its 41st year, Reflections invites students to explore open-ended themes in a variety of media. Previous themes have included "I Can Make a Difference by....," "I'd Like To Give the World a Lift By....," and have been as simple as last year's "WOW!" This year's theme was "Beauty is...." Over 400 students participated at all age levels, with nine high schools sending in entries.

Students choose from among six media categories (film, music compo-

sition, visual arts, photography, dance and literature) and submit a project to address the theme.

Three levels of competition (elementary, middle, and high school) are provided. After being reviewed by judges at the county level, projects are selected to move on to the state level. Montgomery County judging was in early February, and the state judging will occur in early March. National winners will be selected sometime in April. Four students from Einstein submitted entries, and two moved on to the state level. Next year's theme has just been announced: "Together We Can...."



Ms. Ellen Daniels, an ESOL teacher at Einstein, has had her students participate in the PTA Reflections program for two of the last three years. Both times, her students' projects have advanced to the state level (the films were also shown at this year's Taste of Einstein). The students work collaboratively; here's a look at how they do it:

In response to the PTSA "Reflections" contest, the students in the ESOL Mul-



PTA REFLECTIONS
40 Years of Achievement in the Arts

timedia Arts Literacy class brainstormed ideas for films based on this year's theme of "Beauty Is." After all students in the class created film proposals and storyboards, they pitched their film ideas to the class. The class then voted on the two most popular ideas. The two winners became directors and planned, produced, and created short films to reflect the theme.

Rediet Teshome wrote a narrative story called "Internal Beauty." With the help of actors from the class, she created a film to show the importance of who a person is on the inside.

Mauricio Rios created a film called "Nature is Beauty." He integrated still pictures and found footage with music, narration, and interviews with teachers to show the beauty of nature as well as to highlight the dangers of global warming on this earth. His film team helped him with conducting the interviews and finding resources online for video and audio components of the film. ■

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and the
ACADEMY OF VISUAL and PERFORMING ARTS
PROUDLY PRESENT
THE WORLD'S MOST PERFECT MUSICAL COMEDY:



A Musical Fable of Broadway

Book by

Jo Swerling and Abe Burrows

Music and Lyrics by

Frank Loesser

MARCH 12, 13, 19, 20 7:00 PM

EINSTEIN THEATRE
ALBERT EINSTEIN HIGH SCHOOL
11135 NEWPORT MILL ROAD
KENSINGTON, MARYLAND

RESERVED SEATS \$10.00 and \$8.00

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(Click on state of Maryland, then Einstein HS)

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**Plans for the
After Prom Are
Underway!**

The snow is melting and spring will soon be here, that means time to gear up for Prom and After Prom. This year the AEHS After Prom will be held from 12:00 am - 5:00 am May 22 at the school. The After Prom committee recently surveyed the seniors to find out what activities, prizes, games, and food they wanted for their party, and will use the results in After Prom planning.

At 12:00 am we open the doors and begin a night of casino games, bath tub races, great food, wonderful prizes, engaging entertainment, and good music. At 3:00 am the party-goers will venture into the auditorium for some lively interactive entertainment and end the night with specialty coffees, donuts, and other breakfast treats around 4:30 am.



The After Prom is open to all seniors and a guest whether they go to the prom or not. If you have questions please feel free to contact Karen Lee at jbrownklee@aol.com. ■

Maryland High School Theatre Festival at AEHS a Roaring Success

The weekend of February 27-28, AEHS played host to about 500 high school theatre students at the annual Maryland High School Theatre Festival.

The students were treated to a steady diet of play performances by participating schools, including Einstein's presentation of scenes from the upcoming *Guys and Dolls*. There were also competitive events in scene work, singing, dance, playwriting, and improvisation, as well as workshops on everything from acting with an accent to costuming for large casts (that workshop was presented by our very own Karen Mikkelsen, costumier extraordinaire!)

Einstein students served as the host stage and tech crew (thanks in great part to the wonderful supervisory work of Jeff Schneider and Bruce Strand), and they also manned the concessions table and registration desk. Einstein definitely put its best foot forward and the entire festival went smoothly largely due to their cooperative efforts.

PACE president Judi Sheffer outdid herself in coordinating volunteers for concessions and lunch. Congratulations and THANKS to all the performing arts parents who helped!

AEHS festival performance and competitive event award winners included:

- **Excellence in Acting Awards** for work in a mainstage show - Emma Sheffer and Awate Serequeberhan for their roles as Adelaide and Nathan in *Guys and Dolls*.
- **Songfest Awards** for Excellence in Song Performance - Reshma Crawford, Emma Sheffer, Natalie Perez Duel
- **Scenefest Awards** for Excellence in Scene Presentation - Maya Martin Udry and Rebecca Murtha for their "Odd Couple" Scene
- **Playwriting Award** for the short play "Moses Gets Whacked" by Shaquille Stewart-Merritt
- **Classical Monologue Award** for performance by Awate Serequeberhan
- **Dancefest Award** for Excellence in Dancing to Karen Carbajal and Cristian Panameno

- **Honorable Mention All-State Status in Theatre** for Kevin Ortiz, Maya Martin Udry, Aaron Fellows
- **All-State Status in Theatre** to Dan Patrick Leano, Ahsante Bean, Reshma Crawford, Awate Serequeberhan, Shaquille Stewart-Merritt, Emma Sheffer

All in all it was a terrific weekend for theatre at Einstein - a weekend that could only be topped by the opening performances of our new musical! *Guys and Dolls* will run - March 12, 13, 19 and 20 at 7 pm. Get your tickets right now at www.showtix4u.com! ■

Peter Smeallie

Bravo!!

YMCA Workshops and Parenting Classes Offered

The Silver Spring YMCA offers free library workshops (donations appreciated):

Mastering the Art of Encouragement

Are you looking for alternatives to threats and bribes? This program will help parents develop positive strategies for building cooperation and setting limits with respect.

Monday, March 8, 7:00 - 9:00 p.m. Free. Donations appreciated. Silver Spring Library, 8901 Colesville Rd., Silver Spring

Helping Kids Deal with Anger

Anger is good for identifying problems but not good for solving them. This workshop with address ways parents can help their children recognize early warning signs and develop

strategies for dealing with their anger in a positive way. Wednesday, March 17, 7:00 - 9:00 p.m. Free. Donations appreciated. Bethesda Library, 7400 Arlington Rd., Bethesda

Getting Up and Out (and other scheduling torments)

This parenting workshop will explore simple techniques for adding structure to your family's day around the issues of getting up and out, homework, chores, dinner and bedtime.

Monday, March 22, 7:00 - 9:00 p.m. Free. Donations appreciated. Davis Library, 6400 Democracy Blvd., Bethesda ■



Join Einstein's E-mail Lists and Stay Connected

AEHS Discussion

At this virtual gathering place, you can trade tips about tutors, remind each other about upcoming events and deadlines, and clarify Einstein rumors. Einstein staff members join in, too, letting you know about important programs, services, and activities. To join, send an e-mail to einsteinhs-subscribe@yahoogroups.com.

AEHS Bulletin

You'll receive only e-mail announcements from the school and parent groups on this list. Members cannot reply to or post messages unless they are authorized "posters" for a particular group. To join, send a blank email message to aehs_bulletin-subscribe@yahoogroups.com. ■

Thank you for your Sniders receipts!



The PTSA earned over \$1000.00 for 2009. Keep up the good work!

(and thanks to parent Joanna McCully for gathering and tallying a mountain of receipts)

high school. When you welcome a student from another country into your home, your children and family learn about the world, your AFS student takes home a part of America, and you make a personal contribution to world peace and understanding. Two and single parent households, with or without kids, are eligible.

The family provides a place to sleep (not necessarily a private room) and provides meals. Students bring their own spending money and have excellent health insurance.

Now is the time to start making the arrangements. Working with an AFS volunteer, you'll select your student from several who are a good match for the family's interests and lifestyle. All AFS students are above average scholastically and speak English.

To learn more, contact AFS volunteer Bob Rushing at 301-236-6809 (rushingrw@hotmail.com) or visit the AFS website at <http://usa.afs.org/>. ■

AFS Host Families Needed

AFS International Student Exchange has opportunities for about 15 Montgomery County families to host international high school exchange students for the 2010-2011 school year. Won't you consider it?

These are great, carefully screened kids. They come from over 40 different countries, and are eager to learn about America and take part in the activities of the host family and local

Join the PTSA "Comm Team"!

Parents, guardians of incoming students of all grades: want to make sure you—and the rest of our community—are informed about AEHS? Become part of the PTSA communications team!



Here's what's needed:

- A **VP of Communications** to lead the charge,
- An editorial team of **2-3 people** to plan, seek information from parents, staff, wherever else, edit it, lay it out, and proofread it,

- A **calendar honcho** for the back page,
- A **feature writer** to profile people, events,
- A **printing coordinator**,
- A **distribution guru** to get labeling done,
- A **mailing coordinator**.

The high school years go by fast with many important events, decisions, and opportunities. And those dear teens of our don't necessarily let us know what's going on. Stay informed, stay involved—help our remarkable community communicate.

Questions? Want to start learning the ropes now? Contact Connie Raab at raabcd@gmail.com or (301) 588-7206. ■



Quantum Quest

Albert Einstein High School PTSA

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aehsnews@yahoo.com

The next issue will be May; deadline April 14.

Calendar

March

- 4** Interims mailed
- 10** Mulch orders due (new date)
Swing Dance Concert, 7-10 pm, cafeteria
- 10** Booster meeting, 7 pm, room 130
- 12** Spring musical, 7 pm
- 13** Mulch sale
Spring musical, 7 pm
- 16** PTSA meeting, 7 pm
- 19** Spring musical, 7 pm
- 20** Spring musical, 7 pm
- 26** 3rd marking period ends
- 27** Spring break begins

April

- 6** Last day of spring break
- 12-15** HSAs

April, cont'd

- 14** Report cards distributed
Booster meeting, 7 pm, room 130
- 14-16** IB art show, 7:25-9 am
- 20** PTSA meeting, 7 pm, cafeteria
- 21-22** VAC Annual Show, 6-9 pm
- 23** VAC Ann. Show, 7:25 am-2:10 pm
Dance concert, 7pm
- 28** Fashion show, 6:30 pm
Instrumental concert, 7 pm, aud.
- 29** Poetry slam, 3:30-5:30 pm
Choral Concert/Art Show, 7 pm
- 30** ESOL field trip to American Film Institute (AFI), 9 am-1:20 pm



May

- 4** Senior interims mailed
- 11** Interims mailed
- 12** Booster meeting, 7 pm, room 130
- 18** PTSA meeting, 7 pm, cafeteria
- 20** Senior Awards Night, 7pm, aud.
- 21** Prom, 8-11:55 pm, Hilton (Rockville)
- 22** After Prom, 12 am-5 am, AEHS
- 24-27** Senior finals
- 25** IB Celebration, 6 pm

June

- 2** Graduation, DAR, 2:30 pm
- 16** Last day of school , early release
[watch Web for possible changes]
- 23** Report cards mailed

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* **SPRING BREAK** *
* **March 27-April 6** *

NOTE: AP and IB exams run all May See page 4 for the schedule.