



PAW PRINT

PREPARATORY ACADEMY FOR WRITERS

143-10 SPRINGFIELD BOULEVARD SPRINGFIELD GARDENS CAMPUS

CHARLES ANDERSON, PRINCIPAL

December 2017

COLLEGE FOR EVERY STUDENT: PAW'S NEW ADVENTURE

By Arlene Alvarez

Preparatory Academy for Writers is part of a new organization called, College For Every Student (CFES). CFES believes "Every student deserves a chance at success. No matter where they grow up. No matter how far they have to climb."

CFES emphasizes six essentials skills for students to apply in life: goal setting, teamwork, leadership, agility, perseverance, and networking. Imagine PAW with not only Portfolio Day and Decision Day, but with days such as Mission Day, where the students will be able to focus on their goals. In the words of Mr. Singh it aims, "to create a college-going culture," by sending resources to the counselors and students, assistance with college applications, college visits, internships, community service, and mentoring programs.

Guidance Counselor Ms. Chan says, "It lets us steal ideas." In the National Conference of CFES, K-12 schools came together with CFES scholars and they learned from each other. Keynote Speakers such as Cheryl Wills, NY1's weekend evening anchor, and Leland Melvin, a former NASA astronaut.

CFES data shows that 96% of scholars go to college and 99% of scholars graduate High School. Comparably, in 2017 senior class, PAW saw 90% of our students graduate while only 60% went to college. PAW has already taken the initiative to change that and started a mentoring program on campus including three Alumni: Daryll Caraballo, Quinton Douse, Natoria Carey, three Seniors: Katriel Perrier, Christian Judge, Catherine Turenne, three Juniors: Aria Sinclair, Omolola Lawal, Amari Leitzsey and three Seventh Graders: Kelsey Johnson, Joseph Criollo, and Nalique Smith.

Ms. Chan believes that, "we need to keep the conversation going," and with the mentoring program, PAW will have students teaching students. Mr. Singh sees programs, such as helping Seniors with the process between college and high school, helpful with our students succeeding in college, including a community service website, where one will see their progress in achieving their 100 community service hours digitally instead of on a paper. This program is different because it has monthly workshops with the students and the teachers to continuously improve its methods throughout the year. The future is bright with our new cooperation with CFES. Imagine all the things we will do.



PAW GRADUATE HARRASSED BY COLLEGE ROOMMATE

By Sydnee Johnson

This has got to be the most popular issue we have going on here at PAW right now. Former student, Chennel "Jazzy" Rowe, who graduated from here of Class 2017 went to college and so far it hasn't been a pleasant experience for her. Chennel attended the University of Hartford where she was basically bullied ever since she got there.

Brianna R. Brochu, 18, was charged with third-degree criminal mischief and second-degree breach of peace. Brochu shared on social media things that she had done; from licking her former roommate's eating utensils and

smearing bodily fluids on her backpack to sticking Chennel's toothbrush in a place it should not be. The victim, Chennel Rowe, just recently posted a video on Facebook stating in details exactly what Brianna Brochu did, which she described as "something straight out of a movie scene."

Rowe has stated that she has experienced very painful throat pains and she believes that it is from Brochu tainting with her belongings. I recently had an opportunity to interview Chennel Rowe and asked, "Why didn't you just beat Brochu up?" Her response was, "The night I found out what Brianna did, I went straight to my new room and didn't have any contact after that with her, and at the time I really wasn't thinking about fighting."

This is what many call a "hate crime." Some people have made tweets with hashtag #JusticeForJazzy stating that this is basically "white privilege" because of the fact that the problem was handled so slowly and so carelessly. Rowe said that she was randomly assigned to Brochu as a roommate and she moved into their dorm late August. There was said tension in the room ever since the beginning of the semester between the two roommates and Rowe said that she felt like a "ghost" in her own room.

On October 17th, Rowe was in the process of moving her belongings when she was alerted by disturbing posts that were made on Brochu's Instagram page, which read, "Finally did it. Yo girl finally got rid of her roommate!! After 1½ months of spitting in her coconut oil, putting moldy clam dip in her lotion and rubbing used tampons on her backpack, putting her toothbrush where the sun doesn't shine and so much more and finally say goodbye to Jamaican Barbie."

This post is now reported to have been deleted. Currently, this matter is under criminal investigation. Brochu is due back in court on December 18th. Chennel stated, "The process for getting any justice is still taking a long time."



Leading Ladies of PAW Fight Breast Cancer



By Nathalia Mccarthy and Zoe McLeod

In the month of October there were a series of breast cancer awareness events to help fundraise, including walks. In honor of this, members of The Leading Ladies of PAW and other students of PAW decided to go and walk in support. They walked on Sunday, October 15 in Central Park with hundreds of people, including survivors, people who have lost loved ones to breast cancer and supporters. The Leading Ladies of PAW are a group of young ladies who sometimes meet after school on Fridays. Lead by a few of our teachers, they fundraised money by selling cupcakes and other snacks. With the help of students, teachers and friends outside of school, over \$600 was raised.

At the walk there were many lively walkers and volunteers working, as well as Elvis Duran from Z100 103.1 was also there. There was music, dancing, clothes, small little giveaways and a lot of pink. At the end and beginning of the walk there were people handing out organic and healthy chips, bars and water. Even though it was a fun time, the cause is real and it is unfortunate how many women and men have breast cancer and die from it. Breast cancer is the second leading cause of death in women and most common cancer among women. One eighth of women are diagnosed with breast cancer, but thankfully there are over 3 million breast cancer survivors in the U.S. today. All the money raised goes toward the equipment and medicine needed to cure this disease and together we can.



Fathers' Breakfast

By Tawodi Russell

A 5th Annual Fathers' Breakfast was held in September, the first month of the year, where the fathers of students attending the school met and had a breakfast. However, the breakfast wasn't the only matter in the collaborative meeting. There was also a parental-staff discussion.

Ms. Gilliard, the Parent Coordinator for the Preparatory Academy for Writers thought it would be a great idea to hold a Fathers' Breakfast between all four schools. "I noticed elementary schools started to do it, so I thought it would be a good idea" District 29 gave them the "ok," when they agreed to do it. "One year, I did it by myself," Ms. Gilliard said, "I thought the rest of the building might be interested."

This annual breakfast was headed by Ms. Dorsett from George Washington Carver, Ms. Hooper from Queens Preparatory Academy, Ms. Maldonado from Excelsior, and of course, Ms. Gilliard. "It was very

successful," said Ms. Gilliard. Mr. Terry, a male mentor who had been in the school for three years, also made an appearance. He runs a mentor community-based organization, Our Brothers Guardian, and even has a fathers' segment that allows fathers to be productive in their children's lives.

At first, the Fathers' Breakfast wasn't held at the library, but rather a small room, since it wasn't so big. This year, more fathers were able to attend. They will plan for future endeavors, and are making efforts for more father-teacher-association meetings throughout the year. This way, fathers could still be connected, and not just this one day.

In the breakfast, the fathers were informed of how to check their children's grades to make sure that they are on task. Ms. Gilliard said, "Fathers being engaged in their children's lives helps them become more successful in school."

CPR: Why Do I need to Learn This?

By Taji Sanders

On Tuesday, November 21, students were trained by Emergency Medical Technicians (EMTs) in the school's auditorium. The training was during periods 1-4 when the students were supposed to be at gym.

Each EMT trained students in compression techniques, and instructions in case someone has a heart attack, seizure or passes out. They also taught students what to say when they call 911, that they should not do mouth to mouth anymore, and they should do 100 beats per minute compressions.

Ms. Gallagher and Mr. Singh had set up the program because everyone should learn how to do cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR), and because of head of security Mr. Ammirati. About a month prior, Mr. Ammirati had gotten sick. The sickness had produced "stroke like symptoms," Ammirati explained. It was a neurological event, and his right arm had been paralyzed. He theorized it was because he had looked at the ceiling light, and this caused the left side of the brain to malfunction. The left side of the brain controls the right side of the body, and

that is why his right arm was paralyzed. He had collapsed in his office, and he was luckily able to reach his office door so he could unlock it for school safety. The school safety and nurses acted swiftly and aided Ammirati. They will soon be honored at an unannounced later date.

Mr. Ammirati recalled when a student walked up to him asking a serious question, "Why do I need to learn CPR? I'm never gonna use it?" The next day, the school had a code blue. A code blue is when someone collapses, and cannot breathe. If the brain does not receive oxygen in less than 10 minutes, the individual will be brain dead. In order to prevent this, all physical education and PSAL (Public School Athletic League) coaches have to be trained in first aid, CPR, and how to use a Defibrillator. They then have to rush onto the scene, and treat the individual as best they can. While Ammirati's collapse was due to a neurological reason and not a cardiac one, his collapse and code blues are why everyone needs to be trained in CPR. Ms. Gallagher plans to reschedule the four EMTs to train the seniors and staff at a later date.

Thanksgiving Feast 2017

By Esther Tia Joseph

The students and staff of Preparatory Academy for Writers gathered in the gymnasium of Springfield Gardens the day before the break on November 21 to celebrate Thanksgiving as a family by playing different sports with each other no matter the grade or age. The sports played were basketball, soccer, and football while there was music and dancing on the sidelines.

Afterwards there was a feast of food brought by parents, students and staff. The staff served the students food and made writers feel like a family by coming together to enjoy each other's company.



BIRTH



A bouncing baby boy

We are very pleased to announce that Tiffany DiNome was blessed with a bouncing baby boy, Luca Daniel Bolivar, on October 25, 2017, 8 lbs., 13 ozs., 20 in. Mama and baby are doing great!



SENIOR SUMMER SPOTLIGHT



A Gift From the Children

By Zoe Mcleod, Arlene Alvarez, Tiana Livingston, Salmon Akinwunmi, Nathalia Mccarthy, Kikelomo Oluyemi, Tiana Livingston, & Priya Thakur

Many seniors at Preparatory Academy for Writers went on vacation either across the country or across the globe. The reasons for the trips varied based on each student. Some went for educational reasons, such as visiting colleges, or some just went to blow off some much needed steam from the stress accumulated during the school year. Arlene Alvarez went to the Dominican Republic for a rare combination of both reasons. Her trip to DR was unique. Arlene traveled to another country entirely without a parent. She had to work harder than most students to stay on track for her main objective for going to DR, which was to earn volunteer work for college. She volunteered to work at FACCI (Fundacion Amigos Contra Cáncer Infantil) a cancer center for children who are less fortunate than others. Here the children are provided with treatment and a place for them and their families to stay. Arlene didn't plan on working at FACCI this summer. She went to spend time with her family, but Arlene wanted something to do. Alvarez got her first job working at a children's home. The home provided housing for both children and their mothers who live in poor neighborhoods outside of DR. FACCI also pro-

vides transportation for children to and from the hospital. Even though the house wasn't very big they tried their best to make the children comfortable. There was a movie room and fathers were allowed during the day but couldn't stay the night to make the children and their mothers feel safe. While working there she always thought about working with the kids and she got that chance when she was organizing their back to school supplies. After organizing the school supplies she helped hand out all the supplies and was happy to see their faces light up with joy at receiving them. She met two girls named Carmen and Krystal, and a boy who were all kind to her and kept her company. It was, "heart-warming" to see the children smile every day. Arlene stated that this experience was amazing for her. "It was interesting to see things through children's eye sometimes. The things that seem insignificant to me are really awesome to a child," she stated. She spoke of the differences between the US and the town she stayed in, including the state of the buildings and its electricity. "The Dominican Republic," Arlene told us, "is largely in poverty." For example the lights would be on and off. Working



over the summer in the Dominican Republic made her feel grateful and realized how blessed she was to live in a place where she does not have to worry about being cold, or being in the dark. She said, she was, "...really glad and fortunate to experience such a life changing thing."

The Collegiate Try-Outs

By Sydnee Johnson

My summer intensive week to pursue my career goal began with an essay and a one on one orientation. "Great news Syd you were accepted into the summer intensive and awarded a scholarship to attend," said my mom, Candy Johnson. I was scared to death until I arrived at the orientation. What an enormous campus and a great food court, with a Star Bucks. I could live on Cake Pops for a year. I visited the Robert W. Greene News Room and studio after meeting Ms. Robinson, the program's coordinator, and Dean Schneider, who is Dean of the School of Journalism. I thought to myself, "I could try this college thing out and see what the experience of getting up on my own, having assignments to complete without parental push or advisement and being responsible for my day to day needs financially, academically and interpersonally will feel like." The Journalism experience began on the day we moved into the Dorm Rooms.



day to Blog about our experience that day. Bill Bleyer, from the Press Club of Long Island, served as Mentor for the camp. He has worked in newspaper and television newsrooms and told me that I had a gift in front of the camera, "Sydnee you are very charismatic and naturally comfortable in front of a camera. You speak very well and clearly announce your words while reading from the teleprompter. Keep practicing at home in the mirror. You're a natural Anchor Person." We produced many great articles for The Greene Gazette 2017 dedicated to Robert W. Greene who worked for the Newsday and was a professor at Stony Brook University's School of Journalism. The articles ranged from the Fidget Spinner toy craze and the Vice President of the University's building up of campus Healthcare to the Long Island Ducks game. I was chosen to be an Anchor Woman and to do commercial promos for next year. To see these stories and read

The Greene Team Blogs got to <https://journalism.cc.stonybrook.edu>

My week experience at Stony Brook University's Robert W. Greene Summer Journalism Institute for HS Juniors proved to be the best opportunity that was ever given to me. I have to thank Mr. Singh the Assistant Principal of Guidance and my mom for being strategic and intentional about getting me prepared for college. I also had the opportunity to really decide if I wanted to be a Journalist. The Team's major cohort leaders, Catherine Duffy the Associate Director of Student Support, Zachary R. Dowdy and Adjunct Professor, Bill Bleyer a Journalist and Summer Mentor, Dean Schneider and Maureen Robinson made me feel like I am the next Robin Roberts.

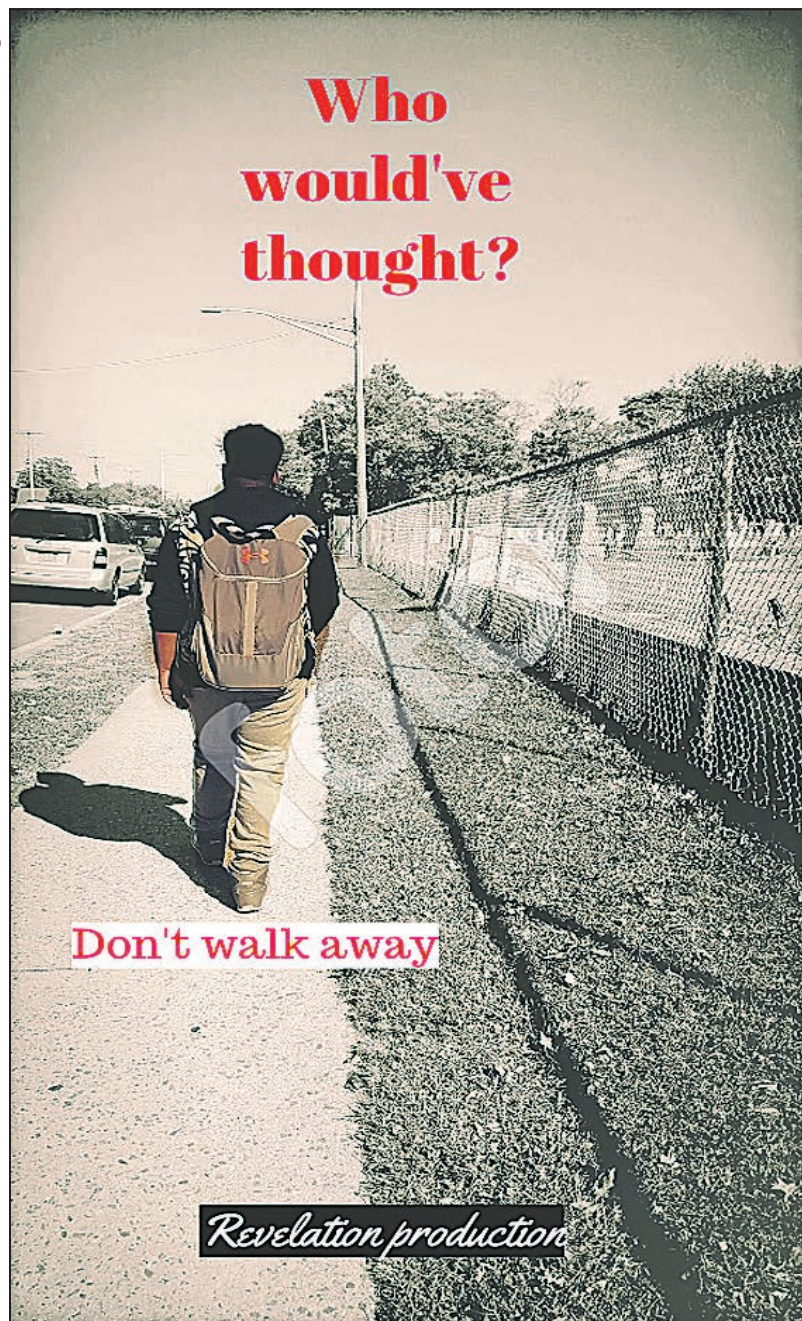
UCLA : The Medical Dream

By Taji Sanders, Tulsidai Gangarum, Tawodi Russell, Kahlia Morgan, Mabel Frimpong, Christopher Brown, Joshua Hall, & Kelis Hawkins

Over the summer of 2017, Joelisa Cummings went to California to attend a medical program at UCLA (University of California, Los Angeles). She was nominated unexpectedly by a previous teacher that she once had. During the course of the medical program, Joelisa had experienced what it is like to be an ER surgeon which is a career choice of hers. For as long as she could remember, Joelisa had always wanted to be in the medical field. Her desire came from when she was a child, and her sister had a rare tumor. Her sister was the third person in New York to ever get it, and doctors flew over from across the country to help and/or observe the surgery. Being in hospitals did scare Joelisa, but that is when the surgery performances came to her interest. When Cummings was nominated for the medical program at UCLA, it was clear that she could not wait to get an inside look at her career choice which is becoming an ER surgeon. An ER surgeon is an emergency medical doctor that mostly treats physical injuries and anyone who is brought into the emergency room where the doctors take action.



During her time there, Ms. Cummings was able to watch a live knee surgery at a local hospital. She learned how to intubate, which helps the patient to breathe, and draw blood as well as other procedures. The students were able to use a fake body to perform tests on. Additionally, she was able to perform a fake bypass surgery in the largest simulation lab in Los Angeles. At first Joelisa thought she would have been queasy, but she actually turned out to be okay with the experience. Her shift in perspective is only logical to her. She stated, "If I want to go into the [medical] field, I have to be able to handle that." It turns out that Joelisa was glad that she went to the medical program because she enjoyed the experience the program offered her, and could not wait to be a certified surgeon when the time comes. In order to achieve her dream, it will take at least 8 years of schooling, not including the residency years to become a certified surgeon. When asked about how she felt about the amount of years required to fulfill her dream, she replied, "It requires the right grades and mindset. It's something that I want to do, so I will do it."



VIDEO PRODUCTION

by Priya Thakur and Kikelomo Oluyemi

The students in the Advanced Video Production class are creating their own show in a format of a series. Students were placed in groups organized by Ms. Novak and Mr. Chris. There are approximately five groups that are currently in the process of creating their shows/series.

Ms. Novak is the head teacher of the Advanced Video Production class. The profession of theatre/arts/production has always been a passion for her. She originated from a theatre background which she also majored in while in college. Even though she was born in California, she had the opportunity to work at schools in Vermont and Idaho. During her time there, she made student and teacher films, wrote screenplays and so much more.

When writing theatre, Ms. Novak knew she wanted to do something else. In the 2017-2018 school year, she is very excited to be working with the seniors who made it into the Advanced Video Production class. Even though some of the seniors that were a part of the Video Production class in the 2016-2017 school year didn't make it to this year's class, she's hoping and looking forward to their cameos in some of this year's projects.

Another thing she is looking forward to this year in the making of different series by the class is that she is interested in the students writing their stories in all kinds of forms of art. She is really inspired by all types of mind-blowing creativity. She told us that, "...telling stories is another exciting part," and we couldn't have agreed more. She also mentioned that she loves working with the Advanced Video Production class. She looks forward to it and it's also, "... a great way to spend the day." If Ms. Novak had to describe the class in three words, she responded by saying,

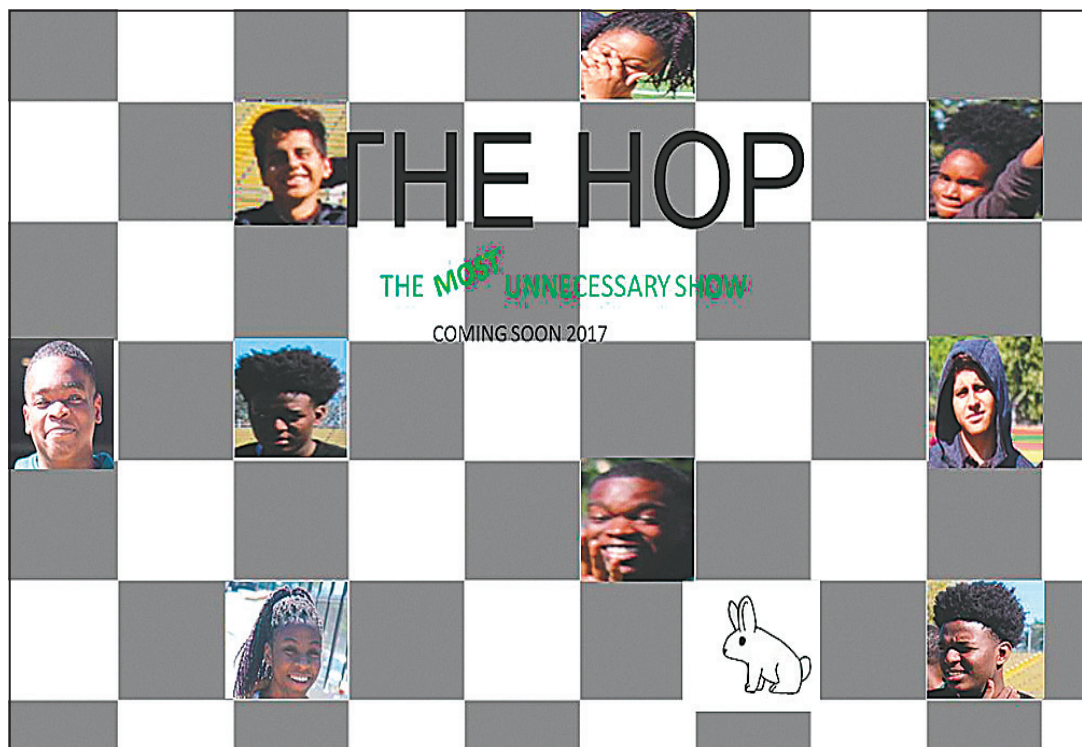
"Creative, Collaborative, Technology." Mr. Chris came to the 2015-2016 school year about video production and Video Production right off production, but I like it."

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and you can't forget about the technology to Preparatory Academy for Writers in Ever since then, he has taught students and other skills. His first impression of the bat was "It's not better than audio

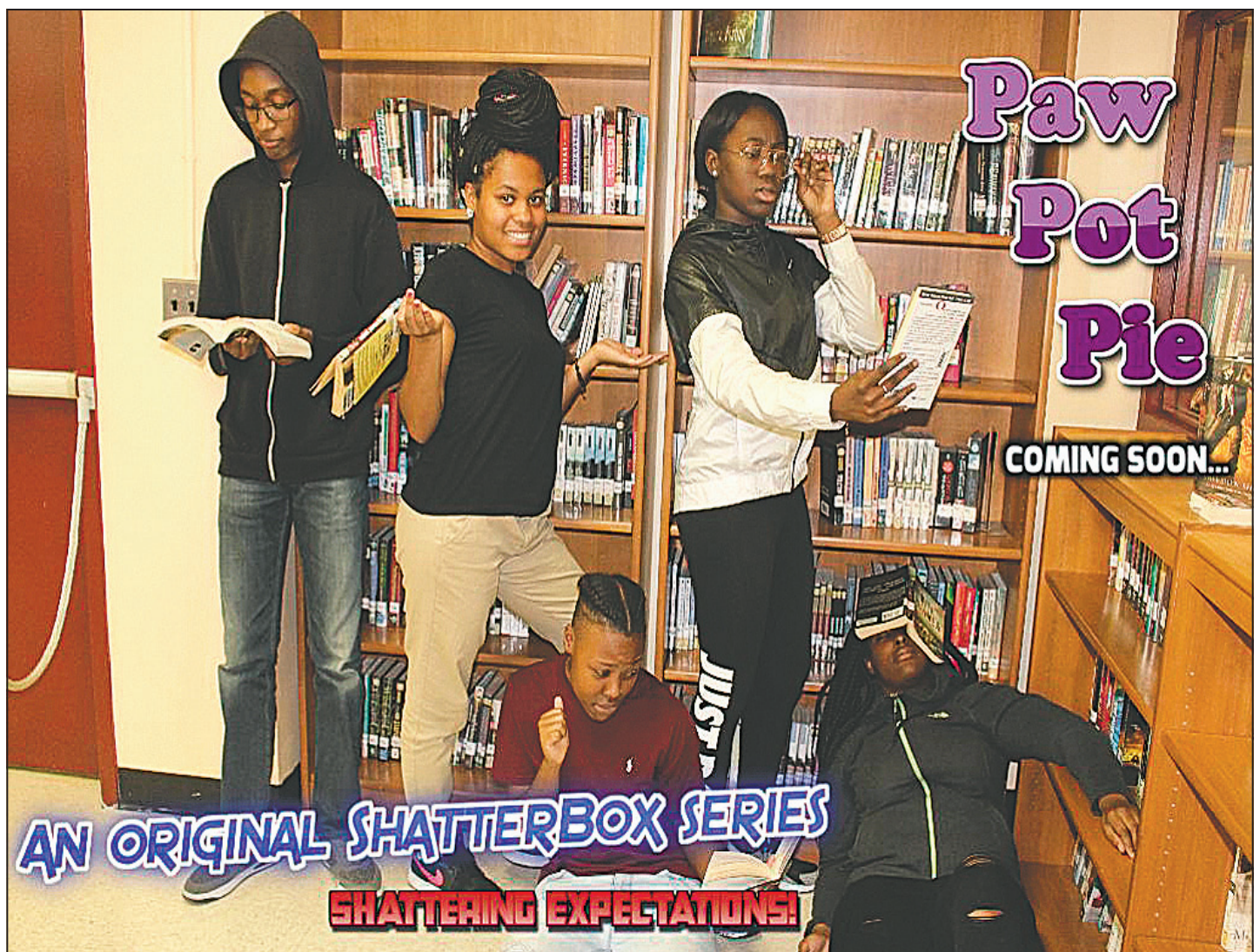
of his hobbies he does after school, are musically talented. "The kids inspire in doing," he says. He works with kids of ages whether he's doing it to get paid or We asked him to describe his job in three words and he replied saying, "Really Tulsidai arum is a student from 7th period video production class. She's been one of Ms. Novak Mr. Chris' students since the 2016-2017 school year. She stated that being in video production, "... is a good experience." She is not an actress in her production film she is the leader for her group. We asked her to describe the class in the three words, and she responded saying, "...interesting, challenging and stressful."

McLeod was also a part of the 2016-2017 video production class. She is now an addition to this group with a group of other seniors. Zoe, she likes learning new things, and she is a member. When the groups were first formed she found the good in it. Even though she doesn't know what her role in her group is, she is a member. We asked her to describe the class in three words, "... different, enlightening, and fun."

THE MIC PRODUCTION

Who
Can
You
Trust?

Locked In





PAW PRINT

Written by the students of

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Educational Campus

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RED RIBBON WEEK



By Kelis Hawkins

Red Ribbon Week is an alcohol, tobacco, and other drug and violence prevention awareness campaign observed annually in October in the United States. The red ribbon is a symbol for drunk driving prevention and drug prevention. Red Ribbon Week is where we wear red ribbons for anti-drug and alcohol use and abuse. It is also used to symbolize a present visible commitment to living a safe, healthy, and drug-free life. The campaign is designed to create awareness concerning the problems related to the use of tobacco, alcohol, and other drugs and to support the decision to live a drug-free lifestyle.

This year Red Ribbon Week was celebrated from the 23-31 of October and is celebrated on the same week every year.

It's A Trip To Drive!

By Tulsidai Gangarum and Mabel Frimpong

In New York, at the age of 16, you are eligible to acquire a learner's permit from the DMV (Department of Motor Vehicles) located at various locations. When you want to get a driver's permit you have to take a test that consists of 20 multiple choices, but even before that there is one important document you need before you get the permit which is your Social Security number.

If you do not have a learner's permit, there will be an opportunity every 3-4 months which will be facilitated by our own Ms. T. who is a paraprofessional at the Preparatory Academy for Writers that works in the educational system, and hosts these DMV trips for high school students to get their learner's permit.

When asked about her thoughts about the purpose of the DMV trip, she said that she, "... technically figured that high school students are supposed to have a state ID" She stated that she offered her services to students because everyone will need to have a state ID. Even if you cannot afford to pay for both the test and ID altogether, there's an option to only pay for the state ID which is only \$10.

The most recent DMV trip, which took place on Friday, November 17, helped a good amount of students get their permit and then later on, their license. Now, there are 26 students that have a license and 62 with permits. By June, most of the students that got a permit will then obtain a license.



If any high school student at the Preparatory Academy for Writers wants to get their learner's permit, and then later on their license, find Ms. T who is usually in the conference room in the morning and later in her office, room 118, and let her know.

Ms. T has been doing these trips for 2 years now so she knows what she is doing. She says that, "Once they have their permit, I put them onto driving lessons," which is good because practice makes perfect.

Free Lunch for All

By Tiana Livingston, Ahmad Simpson & Aalayah Griffith

In the 2016-2017 school year, many students had to pay for lunch. This was unfair and led some to go on and starve. Sometimes kids don't have money to pay for lunch and they go hungry. That right there is a sad thought. Some of my classmates from last year said they had to pay even though their parents didn't make enough for them to.

School Chancellor Carmen Fariña, City Council Speaker Melissa Mark-Viverito and Public Advocate Letitia James announced that lunch is now free for every student at every public school across New York City. Free School Lunch for All will provide over 200,000 more students with free lunch starting this school year.

Seventy five percent of students were eligible for free lunch last school year and starting this school year, 100% of families will be eligible to receive free lunch. This move has been long sought by food-policy advocates and many members of the New York City Council, who said that some students would prefer to go hungry rather than admit they cannot afford to pay for lunch. "We know that students cannot learn or thrive in school if they are hungry all day," said Mayor Bill de Blasio.

When school began, students were ecstatic that lunch was free. The cafeteria staff was happy they didn't have to take the students' money. While the initial days were calm since not all the students knew lunch was free,

it became hectic once everyone found out. Since lunch is thirty minutes long, not everyone received their lunch. A fellow senior said, "The lunch line is too hectic to get lunch and sometimes it's just unappealing, especially when it's cold."

Head Chef Ms. Felicia said, "Free lunch for all is a great thing but it makes the lines more hectic ... lunch needs to be more than 30 minutes for everyone to get lunch."

When asked, "Why don't you open up a second line since you have the other machine for people to put in their number?" Her reply was, "I tried to get an electrician to fix it before this and the power on the side of the room where the machine is at has no electricity coming through it and

I've been trying to have them come back to fix it again." This is why they have been keeping the lunch line as one line instead of two.

Since the interview, changes have been made and the second line has opened, making the line to get free lunch much better. Having to pay for lunch was a big problem that needed to be fixed. Since the law has been passed from the DOE that all kids must eat free, the lunchroom has been packed with kids in line getting the lunch they deserve. This is really saving money in parents pockets, and students at Preparatory Academy for Writers believe that free lunch was a great decision. In an interview with a student he said, "Free schoolie ... valid!"



CELL PHONE BAN

*By Nia Brewster, Jermaine Orr,
Leanna Wright, Aalayah Griffith,
Travis Mcgeachy, & Joel Springer*

On Monday, September 17, 2017, students at Springfield Gardens Complex were forced to turn over their phones to school administrators at the door due to the new school-wide cellphone ban. This is not the first time students haven't been permitted to use their phones in school.

Before the Department of Education lifted the city-wide cell phone ban in 2015, students at the Springfield Gardens Complex were forced to pay to leave their phones in a phone truck or in the pizzeria that used to reside across the street from the school. These two options for phone storage are no longer available but luckily for the students the school collects their phones for free. The procedure for entering the school now is for students to put their phones into a ziplock bag with their name and school on it with their last period, place it into their perspective school's bin, supervised by school administrators, and then go through scanning.

Without a doubt the cell phone ban has caused an eruption of various emotions for different reasons. The line was so long it wrapped around the school. Kids were waiting on line for 10-20 minutes and students that were on time were now late for class. Several students have reported that their phones have been lost, and because of the problems, people have begun to start petitions and protests to get their phones back. When asked how he felt about the cell phone ban, AP Singh said that he has "mixed feelings" about the cellphone policy, and that, "The first week was a mess."

AP Singh gave several reasons why he was conflicted in his feelings towards the cell phone ban. One of the reasons he gave was that cellphones can be used as useful tools in the classroom, but 10-20% of students do not use their cell phones as tools. Another reason he gave was that there had been a school-wide increase in the Online Occurrence Reporting System (OORS) reports since the cellphone ban had been lifted. Lots of students, staff, and administrators have been open about how they feel on the phone policy, and they mostly agree that this policy should be expunged. There will be less conflict and confrontation as a result of that.

LGBTQ CLUB

By Kelis Hawkins

Our student Advisor, Ms. Gallagher, has started a new LGBTQ Club for all students from all four schools that are a part of the LGBTQ community. This club takes place in room 102B, every Thursday from 2:40 to 3:40 p.m. When asked why she wanted to start this club, Ms. Gallagher stated that she felt like since there's no club for the LGBT on any of the floors on the campus, the students didn't have anyone to talk to or a place to come and talk, so this is how the club came about. If you're interested in joining or participating, stop by room 102B after school on Thursdays!

GIVING BACK

By Nirvanie Balkaran

On Tuesday, November 21st, Preparatory Academy for Writers' Parent Coordinator, Tanya Gilliard, hosted a trip to the Springfield Family Inn for the seniors of PAW to attend. The Springfield Family Inn is a shelter to those who are displaced or homeless. Ms. Gilliard had planned a canned food drive to gather canned food and non-perishable food items to give out to the families who were sheltered in the Inn. Ms. Gilliard stated that she, "...wanted to host this specific trip in the spirit of Thanksgiving," and that the students should leave with a new sense of gratitude. The students who attended the trip packed individual bags filled with canned food and a turkey for the families at the Springfield Family Inn and proceeded to give out these bags to each family. In the end, the seniors of PAW indeed left with a new found sense of gratification and gratitude for what they had, to a point where they did not want to leave the Family Inn.

NEW SOUND BOOTH

By Christopher Brown



This school year of 2017-2018 PAW has changed drastically. With new staff and a new auditorium, along comes a new sound booth directed by our own Mr. Chris. This room is where people can come to show off your musical skills. This room is where you can express yourself (in a non-vulgar way) without judgment. The room is a drama-free zone so leave your drama at the door. Only good vibes and laughs happen in this room where strong bonds can be made and musical genius can be born.

SENIOR REPORT

The Senior Class hosted their first school dance Friday, 11/15. Ms. Serrette and the Senior Class would like to thank Ms. Gallagher, Ms. Johnson, and Ms. Novak for volunteering to chaperone. The seniors also helped out and showed great leadership. The seniors that helped out include Lorie, Kiki, Imani, Karen, Theresa, Katriel, and Anthony. We also had help from Aaliyah and Erica. Everyone seemed to have a really good time. Some students had a little too much fun. The night went really well and we raised over \$1100.



By Ashley Hardy, Ahmad Simpson & Joell Springer

Springfield Gardens Campus Student Athlete of the Week is Katriel Perrier with an average of a 91% and the Captain of the volleyball team. Katriel Perrier is a 17 year old female that attends Preparatory Academy for Writers. She is a very dedicated athlete that plays volleyball as her secondary sport and she runs track which is her main event. Katriel has been playing volleyball from her freshman to senior year and she feels exhilarated and honored to be the current holder of the Captain position. Even though she holds this position there are things that she still needs to improve upon like her cooperation and communication skills which would also be effective in the outer world. In order for Katriel to gain the title as Student Athlete of the Week, she had to be a great student and a great athlete. She pushes herself to be the best.

Katriel has played sports basically her whole life. She has always been athletic and it has paid off. Being a student athlete might be hard, but not for Katriel. She claims, "You have to have good time management skills." Katriel had a lot of challenges that she had to face. She had to be determined and responsible to keep her grades in check and perform her best on the court. When she was finished from a hard day of practice she would come home at night to realize that she had homework to take care of to ensure she has over a 90% average. With all the stress that school brings along, you may think juggling one's personal life, school and sports may be a handful for most. Katriel stated that she dedicates most of her time to school, then to her athletics and lastly to her friends. Having friends that support your athletics also helps. What she has learned from playing a team sport is that she doesn't have to rely only on herself. She can rely on others and overcome any obstacle.

As intelligent as Katriel Perrier is, she does have an amazing social life. She has incredible grades to back herself up along with her talents in sports. Earning Student Athlete of the Week can be astonishing to a person because it makes them feel appreciated, but to Katriel it means more than that to her. "I think I have worked hard and achieved something honorable and it reminds me that my hard work and effort were not in vain." Katriel's hard work is very much appreciated by the Springfield Gardens Eagles and we would not be the same without her. Katriel has been determined to succeed in everything and this is why she is our Student Athlete of the Week. She said, "Being a great student comes first then the athlete."

AP for All

By Mabel Frimpong & Salmon Akinwunmi

This year, Advanced Placement students from George Washington Carver High School for the Sciences, Queens Preparatory Academy, Preparatory Academy for Writers, and Excelsior Preparatory High School are placed into one class and the opinions on this program may vary from students to teachers but there is one fact: the program is here to stay.

When asked how rigorous the AP for All courses are, Katriel Perrier said that, "The courses are hard depending on the subject. For example, math classes such as AP Stats and Calc are more rigorous than English courses like AP Lit and AP Lang because there are concepts in Math

that you need to grind and grasp which is unlike English courses where you would need to improve writing skills." Meanwhile Raphael Williams and Arlene Alvarez don't feel the same. They stated that the AP for All courses are harder regardless of the subject because they are advanced college level classes. Students need to read the textbooks and give more dedication than they would need to give in regular high school classes.

As a result of the rigorous schoolwork, many AP students feel the desire to drop the class because it creates too much stress. However, Arlene stated that, "In calculus we have 30 minutes before class and we have a study group that helps people who are behind on the work." Instead of slacking on their work, this group of students feels like encouraging each other to do their best is worthwhile.

STUDENT ATHLETE OF THE WEEK KATRIEL PERRIER



INK MAGAZINE CONTEST

By Nirvanie Balkaran

**Be the next author featured in
INK Literary Magazine!**

Criteria: Write an original poem that is 8 lines or more, or a short story of 2-5 pages long. Only ONE student from each grade level will be selected (Excluding non-INK 12th graders).

**Some topics may include,
but are not limited to:**

**Being a teen (change; challenge)
Overcoming obstacles
Escape
Journey
Peace & War
Judgement
Sense of Self / Identity
Truth
Perseverance
Freedom
Courage
Conformity
Alienation
Coming of Age
Change
Heroism
Love
Love and Loss
Betrayal
Death
Friendship**

Online Submissions ONLY!
Deadline: February 27th, 2018

See Ms. Granados in room 138
for more information.

Send submissions to Ms. Granados
at: ggranados@prep4writers.com



Boys Soccer Scores in PSAL Playoffs

By Lance Manley, Joshua Hall & Salmon Akinwunmi

No matter the sport, it seems that the goal for every sports team is the same: WIN. Although many teams that begin the season soon recognize that they may not have the talent for this task, the Springfield Boys Soccer Team is not one of them. Bracing for another deep playoff push, it seems as important as ever for the Soccer Team to stay as focused as ever. After a disappointing end to last year's playoff run, the team seeks to regroup and retool as the challenges they face become increasingly rigorous.

The Soccer Team clinched a spot into the Quarterfinals after a hard-fought 1-0 win against Brooklyn's South Shore. This was one of the more thrilling games of the season as in the beginning of this fixture, things seemed to stray away from the usual game-plan. Coach Rohan Johnson used a 3-2-3-2 to beat both South Shore and East Harlem Pride High School in the playoffs. The newly implemented 3-2-3-2 in the 2nd round of the playoffs against South Shore

displayed the character of Springfield because the team had their backs against the wall for almost the whole game. Being able to win a game where they were basically not themselves in terms of their play style for more than half the game shows their character. The goal by sophomore Raheem Thompson which came late in the game was enough for the team to win the round and move on to the quarter-finals of the PSAL Division B Tournament.

During the quarter-finals of the game the team had to overcome a 2-0 deficit against Brooklyn School for Collaborative Studies and ended winning 3-2. The semi-finals were disappointing for the Springfield boys after losing 3-2 against Franklin k. Lane. After coming back from a 1-0 deficit the team rallied and scored two quick goals in order to take a 2-1 lead. But even after all the hard work the team put in, they were unlucky to concede to more goals and unfortunately lost 3-2, which brought an end to the season.

HOMECOMING

By Katriel Perrier

The Homecoming game for Springfield Gardens Eagles Varsity Boys Football team was in October. Our boys were pretty confident going into the football game. They were not too cocky, but just cocky enough. You would not want to go into a game with a lackadaisical mindset and care free.

Jalanni Springer, Christian Judge, Joshua Alphonso, Philemon Benjamin, Tyrese Schultz, Tareon Rodriguez, and Anthony Mckenzie were among some of the football players interviewed and they had some pretty interesting things to say about their Homecoming game. Surprisingly, the majority of them were not nervous the day before the game. Usually if it's a pretty important game against some good competition it would make the average athlete nervous. These weren't your average athletes. These boys trained long and hard and put the work in so that they in turn would be able to give the other teams "the works." I asked them about the previous teams that they've versed and if they were prepared for their game and they all said they were prepared and Alphonso reported "we demolished them" in reference to the other teams and how well our Eagles played them.

Rodriguez mentioned that they had some pretty good strategies under their belt and their defensive coach helped prepared them for that day. As we all know after the party comes the after party, so after the Homecoming football game was the Homecoming party. Just about everyone looks forward to the Homecoming game, but the party as we know doesn't exactly carry the same vibe. Chantae Williams, one of the football managers, when asked which she prefers better the party or the game said, "definitely the game, because if they lose, the party wouldn't be as fun." The game itself on Saturday at Springfield Gardens High School was pretty intense. Our boys were down for about the first two quarters, which can be pretty nerve racking for the crowd and especially the players and coaches. Finally, in the third quarter our quarterback and running back scored us some touchdowns that tied us up and soon enough put us on top. All we had to do was hold it down throughout the last quarter and the win was ours. Unfortunately, the other team was indeed some good competition and our team wasn't able to defend their title on their home turf.

Christian Judge, the starting quarterback on offense and cornerback on defense, can do just about anything his coaches need him to do. Judge was confident with just about everything his coaches and teammates had prepared and went into the game headstrong with no regrets. He stated, "In order to prepare for an important game, you have to train your body to do the things you want it to do. You have to practice the way you want your body to perform." Clearly Judge has some pretty solid work ethic behind him to make him the great football player he is today. When asked how he felt coming out of the game, Judge said that having a positive attitude is very important when it comes to team work and learning from your mistakes. "Everything happens for a reason so I just have to believe in God's plan. I try not to look back."



Girls Soccer Recap

By Imani Leitzsey and Jermaine Orr

In the fall of 2017 the Springfield Gardens Girls Varsity Soccer Team finished an amazing season. Girls from all 4 schools came and laid their hearts out on the field all season long. With a record of 4 wins 5 losses and 1 tie an improvement over previous years and one game shy of making playoffs is what we can call big strides for success. "We've really played some tough games," says Imani Leitzsey from PAW, "But every time we got out on the field every last one of us played our hearts out and our records from before to now have shown it." Imani later told me about how coach Weiss constantly made practice fun and was able to get everyone to enjoy the sport. But, not only did he make it fun, he made them work hard to ensure the success of the team. "He made the girls work but he made it fun enough to instill a new love for soccer within the girls," says Erika Exum the team manager. "Even the girls who didn't know how to play have gotten better because they actually like to play." After talking with these two I got a sense that the soccer program is constantly moving forward towards success in a very family oriented way. So if you're a girl looking to try something new and have fun this is a great route to go in.



Thank You Play After Work!

On behalf of the entire Springfield Gardens High School Gardens Educational Campus we would like to extend a huge thank you to Ms. Johnson the Program Director of Play After Work after school program, her staff and their parent agency The Child Center of NY.

We received lightly used cafeteria tables this fall through a donation to The Child Center of NY. Play After Work has been able to offer consistent academic enrichment, performing arts, stem activities, trips, carnivals and employment opportunities not only to the students of Preparatory Academy for Writers, but for the students building wide for the past three years.

The staff of Play After Work this year is an exceptional group

and they have hopes to extend this program to high school clubs next year. Thank you Ms. Johnson, for all you do, and thank you Ms. Hazzard-Thomas, Assistant Program Director, for your support and willingness to run exceptional programs.

