

# Project Challenge Parent Association Newsletter

Volume III – Happy New Year

[www.geocities.com/pobpcpa](http://www.geocities.com/pobpcpa)

## Project Challenge News

Current 3rd graders who took the OLSAT last year and scored 120+ and are not currently in Project Challenge will be retested in January for possible entry into Project Challenge in February 2008.

Due to District testing, there will be no 4<sup>th</sup> grade Project Challenge Friday 1/11 and no 6<sup>th</sup> grade groups on 1/16 or 1/17.

## Other News

The PCPA board addressed the Board of Education and top district Administrators on Dec. 11. The purpose of the yearly meeting is to discuss items which need to have budget funds allocated. Among the topics we raised were: professional development to recognize giftedness, development of better screening processes and yearly screening for Project Challenge. We pointed out the existence of the state Assembly bill that would mandate gifted programs in schools. The text of the bill can be found at <http://assembly.state.ny.us/leg/?bn=A01502>. We also advocated for the development of rigorous curricula at all levels, implementation of strong middle school programs such as the math, pre-AP and IB programs outlined on the right and the development of a path for advanced students beginning in 1st grade.

## Odyssey of the Mind

Odyssey of the Mind will be brought back in the spring as a weekly club for 6<sup>th</sup>- and 7<sup>th</sup>-graders and be fully implemented next year. Thank you to everyone who is making this possible

## December Meeting Recap

Interim Assistant Superintendent Dr. Bruno addressed the Parent Association at its Dec. 7 meeting. Among the subjects Dr. Bruno discussed were the district's investigation of a new math program for grades K-8 and the district's consideration of a pre-AP (Advanced Placement) program for the middle schools or International Baccalaureate (IB) program for the middle and high schools. She said her mission is to find the right programs for the district.

Two new math programs are being considered and each would have built-in levels of differentiation and tiered assignments. That would enable each child to work at their appropriate level. Web-based activities would be available to work on at home.

The pre-AP program will focus on English, math and social studies. It covers grades 6-8 and is geared toward preparing students for AP classes in high school. The district will hold an informational meeting on pre-AP on January 24. The PCPA Board has been invited to the presentation.

IB is a rigorous, international-based program starting in grade 5 that covers all subjects. Classes will be heterogeneous, but students will work at different levels. Once students hit certain benchmarks, they can move on to higher standards of work. Dr. Bruno said it would take about five years for the program to be fully implemented, but effects would be felt as early as next year. The district will be holding an informational meeting on IB Feb. 7. The PCPA Board has been invited to this meeting as well.

## Upcoming PCPA Meetings

**Friday January 25 9:45AM - Business Meeting – Pasadena Cafeteria**

**Tuesday March 18 7PM – FAMILY NIGHT – Old Bethpage Elementary AP Room**