

Project Challenge Parent Association Newsletter

Volume IV

www.geocities.com/pobpcpa

Project Challenge News

A group of 3rd graders was re-evaluated for entrance into Project Challenge. These children were selected based upon 2nd grade test score and/or teacher recommendation. Of the group, 19 students were placed into the program.

Dr. Bruno is looking to institute annual evaluations for 3rd and 5th graders, something the PCPA has been advocating.

In addition, Dr. Bruno has enlisted Dr. Selena Smith, a student of Dr. Borland at Columbia who has worked with the gifted program in the Half Hollow Hills district, to take a look at our Project Challenge program with an eye toward making suggestions regarding the curriculum and the matrix used for selection. We are hoping to have Dr. Smith address our May 16 PCPA meeting.

January Meeting Recap

Several committees were formed during the January PCPA meeting. Our nominating committee will be meeting shortly to set the slate for next year's Board. If you are interested, please contact the PCPA via our Web site.

It was agreed that our bylaws committee should consider revising the bylaws so that all PCPA members are eligible to serve on the Board whether or not the member has a child in the program. We will be voting on revised bylaws at our May meeting.

All attendees signed letters for Assemblyman Lavine and Senator Hampton urging them to support gifted education legislation. Both have replied and have stated that they would take our concerns into account.

Middle Schools

The District is seeking to undertake a feasibility study regarding the International Baccalaureate program for our middle schools. The IB is one of the programs, along with Springboard, that the district is considering implementing to add rigor to our middle school curriculum. The PCPA board, along with administrators, faculty and other parent representatives, attended presentations for both programs and our board came away very impressed with the IB program. It provides rigor and differentiation within the classroom by focusing on critical thinking. The IB is an international program which seeks to make children "citizens of the world."

A major component of the IB is professional development. Teachers would be trained in stages. Several years would be required to train the entire faculty. However, the children would begin to see benefits immediately.

A major area of training is differentiation of instruction so that assignments can be tailored to individual levels. Each middle school would have an IB coordinator who would oversee the development of the curricula and assessments.

Next PCPA Meeting

Tuesday March 18, 2007 7PM

Family Night – Old Bethpage AP Room

Pizza and dessert will be served during a short business meeting to be followed immediately by presentations by several POBJFK students doing high level research.

We've done this before and the kids love it so come on down!