

# Project Challenge Parent Association Newsletter

Volume V

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

## Project Challenge News

The school year's final meeting of the Project Challenge Parent Association will be this Friday, May 16, at 9:45AM. at the Stratford Cafeteria. Our featured guest speaker will be Dr. Selena Smith, a college professor who specializes in gifted education and differentiation. She has been hired by the district as a consultant to review the criteria, matrix and selection process for Project Challenge. In addition she's been visiting PC classes and looking at the curriculum. She'll be meeting with teachers, parents and administrators, and will issue a report and recommendations to the Board of Education.

## Middle Schools

As part of a proof of concept for the establishment of virtual field trips in POB, Ms. Winick's 5th grade Project Challenge class participated in Project Montserrat. Run by the Challenge Learning Center in West Virginia, this program took the students on a virtual field trip to the island of Montserrat where they needed to prepare a plan to save the island from an oncoming hurricane. This was not a Project Challenge event. Click the link below to see the video of an ABC News report:  
<http://abclocal.go.com/wabc/story?section=local&id=61>

## March Meeting Recap

On March 18, the PCPA hosted a Family Night which included pizza, cake and impressive presentations by three extraordinary POBJFK High School students. They presented their research findings that were showcased at the Intel Science Fair. They have been working on their research for most of the year under the guidance of Science Department chairperson Joyce Barry and independent research leader Mary Lou O'Donnell.

One research presentation involved the use of anti-bacterial products and the effective amount to be used. Another involved the findings of the breast cancer gene. All presentations were very interesting and both our parents and our children asked many thought-provoking questions to these young researchers.

It was a wonderful event for all and we thank all who supported this event.

We also thank those who have supported the Parent Association throughout the year.

## PCPA News

At the May 16th General Meeting, we will be voting on several changes to the PCPA bylaws. One of these changes would allow parents of any child in the District to participate on the Executive Board whether or not the parent has a child in Project Challenge. We will also hear a report from the Audit Committee and elect the 2008-2009 Executive Board.

The nominees for the 08-09 Board are: Holly Ash – President, Joe Illuzzi – Communications, Sophia Brogna – Programming, Betty Heiman – Membership, Emily Schulman – Secretary, Cheryl Kuster - Treasurer

## Next PCPA Meeting

**Friday May 16, 2008**

**9:45AM – Stratford Rd Cafeteria**

**Hear Dr Selena Smith and participate in several important votes. Final PCPA meeting of the year.**