



Hunter Hilites

Remember to Pay
Your PTA Dues!

A publication of the Hunter College High School Parent Teacher Association

September 2003

IN THIS ISSUE

- Letter from the PTA President 2
- Important PTA Events 2
- PTA Executive Board Meeting Highlights 9-2-03 3
- New Calendar 3
- Annual Hunter Banquet "A Taste of China" 4
- Political Action Notes 4
- HCHS PTA Financial Strategy 5
- From the Desk of Mark Schneider, Fundraising VP 5
- Parent Discussion/Support Group 6
- A Note From Counseling Services 6
- HCHS Safety Committee Update 6
- Attention 7th & 8th Graders — Middle School Sports 6
- 7th Grade Orientation 6
- PTA Dues Form 7
- Volunteer Form 8
- 8th Grade News 9
- 9th Grade News 9
- To Parents of 10th Graders 9
- Some 10th Grade Announcements 9
- 11th Grade News 10
- Borough Parties 2003 10
- Student Writers 10
- 12th Grade News 11
- Student Edition 11
- Calendar Hilites 12

Come to the First PTA Meeting Wednesday, September 17, 7:00 pm Auditorium

Our first PTA meeting of the new school year will be held on Wednesday, September 17, at 7:00 pm. Following welcoming remarks by Dr. Laurenson and PTA President Jolie Schwab, parents will learn about upcoming events and important school committees. We want and need you to participate in the work of the school. So come and find out more about what we do and how you might best find a role. Elections will also be held for a 7th grade representative to the Executive Board.

Prior to the 7 pm general meeting, there are two other meetings starting at 6:00 pm:

- Grade 12 meeting
- Middle School Sports

Room assignments for those meetings will be posted at the Security Desk.

We look forward to seeing you on September 17.

Your PTA DUES are DUE !

Welcome back to another school year. The DUES Campaign for our 2003–2004 school year is in full swing. Amid the flurry of papers in your mailbox over the summer you should have received the HCHS-PTA DUES Form. To those many families who have already paid their 2003-2004 PTA Dues, thank you.

We are, however, looking forward to hearing from the rest of you before we end the DUES Campaign on September 30th.

This year PTA DUES are \$50 for families with 1 child at HCHS and \$25 for each additional child. If everyone paid their DUES the PTA could start the school year off with over \$60,000...a very strong start-up fund to build on and put toward improvements.

As a bonus, families who have paid their DUES will receive this year's HCHS Family Directory containing current telephone numbers, addresses, and email addresses of our Hunter families. The Family Directory is a great resource for staying connected to the Hunter community.

You'll also find a copy of the PTA Dues Form and Volunteer Form in this issue of *Hilites*. Please complete both forms and return them by September 30th to Ana Ignat, 3217 Tierney Place, Bronx, NY, 10465.

If you have any questions regarding membership please contact Dolores Cogliano at 212-721-6493 or email dolben@aol.com.

With your participation we will reach our goal of 100% membership in the 2003-2004 DUES Campaign.

Letter from the Principal, September 2003

Welcome back—not only to a new school year, but to 87 new ventilators, new chillers, new air handlers, clean ductwork and overhauled boilers. In other words, welcome to the cleaner, healthier environment I promised in June's column. Obviously, I am very gratified by the timely completion of the HVAC project.

(continued on page 3)

DON'T MISS THE 2003 ANNUAL HUNTER PTA BANQUET

"A Taste of China"

A Sumptuous 10-Course Chinese Banquet Dinner to Raise Money for HCHS

☛ **Date & Time: Friday, October 24th at 7pm**

☛ **Place: Gum Fung Restaurant
136-28 39th Avenue, Flushing (Queens)**

☛ **Ticket Price: \$50/adults, \$35/students**

Convenient to public transportation (#7 train; and various buses) & across the street from a municipal parking lot.

Plentiful and delicious food.

Entertainment by Hunter Students, so you know it'll be special.

For more details, see page 4. Please join us and return the enclosed invitation today.

P T A N E W S

Letter from the PTA President

Jolie Schwab

Welcome Back to School!
We know that our children and their teachers will be breathing a little easier this year, now that almost every classroom has been equipped with new ventilation equipment. Despite our

worries that the work would not be ready in time for the opening of school, this project went smoothly and we continue to be grateful to both CUNY and the Hunter College Administration for finding the means to implement this critical \$1.4 million job. Many, many thanks to all of the parents on the PTA's Facilities Committee who maintained a focus on this important project. As they continue to work with the Administration on finding ways to keep other projects such as the Gym and Courtyard improvements moving forward, I'm reminded of how important it is that every member of the Hunter community participates in the life of this school. Our success as a PTA is totally in our hands.

Last year, Hunter College President Raab launched a strategic planning initiative that convened for the better part of a year. Over 100 faculty members, parents, students and administrators worked together to develop an extensive list of recommendations that will form the framework for Hunter's goals and objectives for the next 3 to 5 years. But our work is not done. We need to continue to work on a wide variety of matters, including recommendations to:

- improve communication and strengthen the sense of community and mutual respect amongst all our constituent members
- enhance our physical and education environment
- develop additional sources of revenue for the school
- expand and improve student services
- improve the admissions process (with special respect for issues involving diversity)
- increase opportunities for professional development for faculty.
- support innovative curriculum development and articulation between the disciplines

If these recommendations are to become a reality, we need more funds and, more importantly, other essential resources which include your time, expertise and attendance at fundraising and other school events. We urge you to become involved in Hunter in any way your schedule and resources allow. There is much to be done and much to gain on behalf of our children.

Hunter students are very diverse—coming from backgrounds that differ culturally, socially and economically. Our

families have varying resources to share with the school and time to attend our meetings and events. But everyone has something to contribute—be it expertise, time, money, or in-kind resources. I am constantly amazed by the generosity of so many Hunter parents, especially those who give of their time. This newsletter alone depends on the volunteer efforts of at least a half dozen parents each and every month; the calendar you received took the efforts of at least as many parents over the summer. There are so many events and activities that require your participation. We have room for everyone. If you don't know where to start, call me.

And there is something in it for you too. As our children get older, it becomes more of a challenge to be an involved parent. Our children are in a great rush to grow up and push us away. I urge you to consider that the PTA offers a wealth of opportunities to have a direct impact on your child's education and to stay close to what is going on in their lives. By being an active member of the Hunter community, joining committees, attending events, meeting teachers and the parents of your children's friends, working with the faculty and administration, you will know what's going on in school and after school. Your participation enriches our children and our community, and it keeps you more in touch with your child's world as well. And as much as your child may try to keep you at arm's length, studies consistently show that parents involved in a child's school will be rewarded with a better performing student in their home.

I look forward to working with all of you in the months ahead. All the best for a successful year.

Jolie

Important PTA Events

- September 14:** Chinese PA Welcoming Party for 7th Grade Families
- September 17:** Middle School Sports Meeting
Grade 12 Meeting
PTA Meeting
- September 20:** Korean-American PA Welcoming Party for 7th Grade Families
- September 21:** PTA Borough Parties for 7th Grade Families
- September 24:** Coalition of African-American Parents Welcoming Party
- September 25:** Grade 9 Potluck Dinner
- October 2:** Grade 8 Potluck Dinner
- October 9:** Grade 11 Potluck Dinner

The PTA writes, produces, and distributes *Hunter Hilites* to all Hunter families and the HCHS faculty and administrators. Editors: Alice Pisciotta, e-mail: alicep1222@hotmail.com and Linda Hetzer, e-mail: LHetzer@aol.com. Layout: Bernadette Evangelist, e-mail: raidesign@trnimen.com. Every month *Hilites* invites the HCHS Principal, PTA Executive Board, and student editors to write on issues of their choice. Those articles reflect only the views of their authors. *Hilites* welcomes articles and suggestions from all members of the Hunter community. To contribute material, call or email: hunterhilites@hotmail.com. Deadline for the October issue of *Hilites* is Wednesday, October 1.

PTA NEWS

PTA Executive Board Meeting Highlights 9-2-03

Dr. Laurenson was not able to attend the meeting, but Jolie Schwab met with him earlier in the day and delivered the following report on his behalf:

- Dr. Laurenson will be meeting on Wednesday, September 3, with Dr. Miller, the chair of the English/CT department, and a group of parents and students to discuss changes in this year's Brick Prison program.
- The new design for the transcript has not been finalized yet. Jolie Schwab met with Dr. Laurenson during the summer to discuss it, and the administration is working to have it finished in ample time for seniors who are applying to college on an early decision basis.
- There are several renovation projects in progress. The work on the heating and ventilation system is almost complete, but there is clean-up to be done and some adjustments to ventilators to be made. Scaffolding has been put up on the side of the building facing the schoolyard because the parapet is being repaired, but it should be removed by the start of school.
- The room for the new language lab has been renovated, with furniture and computers to be delivered and installed before the start of school. The gym is to be renovated during the Christmas break and the Winter Recess.
- A new librarian, Eugene Lim, has been hired.
- The new learning specialist has been identified; hiring is awaiting approval of the College. The learning specialist will focus initially on grades 4 through 8.
- The orientation for the parents of seventh graders, to take place on Friday, September 5, was discussed.
- The treasurer reported that \$22,000 in PTA dues had been deposited into the bank so far.
- A fund-raising brochure to be sent out to parents has been created. The need to write versions to be sent out to Chinese- and Korean-speaking parents was discussed.
- VP of External Affairs, Richard Barr reported that the Budget Restoration Committee and the Political Action Committee which worked together over the last two years to get the budget cuts restored have been combined into a joint HCHS-HCES Political Action Committee. He reported that the Manhattan Delegation of the City Council had turned down our request for member item funds in the amount of \$65,000, which covered our participation in the Public Schools Athletic League. Finding replacement for that money will be a top priority of the Political Action Committee and the Fundraising Committee.
- Publicity for the banquet with a Chinese theme to be held in Queens on October 24 was discussed.
- The fund-raising committee is searching for a team to run the Annual Benefit in the spring.
- The board is in the process of rewriting the PTA by-laws to

bring them in line with the practice of the last few years. Discussion of the proposed by-laws will continue at the October Executive Board Meeting.

LETTER FROM THE PRINCIPAL, SEPTEMBER 2003

(continued from page 1)

The gym and playground projects are progressing, albeit more slowly. Some of the issues are bureaucratic; we are doing our best to move them along, currently developing a gym project timetable that will accommodate work done in stages, to minimize disruption to our programs. Registration and contractor issues have slowed the playground project, but I am determined to begin it as soon as possible. Construction in the Language Lab is all but complete—furniture installation and computer setup is expected within a few weeks.

Though the search for a Learning Specialist is not yet complete, the prospects are very exciting. Since a permanent chair has not been appointed for Health and Physical Education, Ms. Miley will serve as Acting Chair for another year. Dona Matthews, from the University of Toronto, brings a wealth of experience and enthusiasm to the new position of Director of Urban Gifted Education at Hunter College and plans to be very active at both of the Campus Schools.

I want to thank everyone who helped ready the building for the summer's construction, and who enabled us to continue normal operations, including student activities and office management, at off-campus sites. We pulled together and met significant challenges, getting to know each other better in the process. The level of cooperation between people in the Elementary School, High School and Admissions Office was extremely high. I am, and will be, developing and promoting a range of joint initiatives to capitalize on that spirit, which can only benefit us all.

During the 2003–2004 school year, I also plan specific support for our entire community, through staff development, focus on the transition years (grades 4–8), and continuous review of our curriculum, which I define broadly to include not only classroom programs, but also after-school and extracurricular activities, and unscheduled periods. It is important to me that we provide stimulating, appropriate opportunities across the board to Hunter's unique population. I'm confident this school year will reflect that goal.

Sincerely,

David Laurenson

Calendar Thanks

We're sure you'll find the new school calendar great. And for that we thank Assistant Principal Sonya Mosco, Douglas Padgett (assisted by Heidi Marben), Randy Osofsky, Victoria Pinderhughes and alumni parents Janet Falk and Tony Falcone and of course, Dr Laurenson and his assistant, Chris Carlson.

Come Join Us at the 2003 Annual Hunter Banquet "A Taste of China," 7 pm, Friday, October 24

A Sumptuous 10-Course Chinese Banquet Dinner

You and all members of the HCHS community are cordially invited to celebrate the new school year at the 2003 Annual Hunter Banquet, "A Taste of China." This festive and delicious event features a sumptuous 10-course Chinese banquet-style dinner and entertainment provided by HCHS students.

Sponsored by the HCHS-PTA and scheduled for Friday, October 24, "A Taste of China" will be held at Gum Fung Restaurant, one of the best-known Chinese restaurants in downtown Flushing, Queens (travel directions are below). The banquet dinner will begin at 7:00 pm.

It's no secret that in Chinese culture a feast like this traditional 10-course banquet dinner is meant for only the most special occasion, such as a wedding or family reunion. The 2003 Annual Hunter Banquet will feature a wide variety of dishes: Chinese meat and seafood combination; cold cut appetizers; baked scallops with crab claws; sauteed shredded beef and chicken; seafood soup; braised abalone mushroom and assorted vegetables; crispy fried whole chicken; lobsters in ginger and scallion sauce; deep-fried fish filet with creamy corn; Yangchow-style fried rice; Cantonese "longevity" noodles; Chinese dessert and fresh fruits. Chinese tea and soda will also be served.

A cash bar, to be staffed by HCHS-PTA throughout the evening, will surely add even more spice and spark to your culinary experience.

"A Taste of China" will also feature an entertainment program by HCHS students, including a musical performance of "gu-zheng," a traditional string instrument known for its crisp, serene and soul-soothing sound. More performances will be announced at a later date.

Raffle tickets will be sold throughout the evening. Winners will be drawn and announced to receive fabulous prizes before the banquet concludes.

Proceeds from the banquet, cash bar and raffle ticket sales will benefit our students through HCHS-PTA.

To reserve your seats at the banquet, complete the enclosed reservation form and return it with payment to Ming Su, 450 East 63rd Street, #5E, New York, NY 10021. For more information, please contact either Jenny Liu at 718-380-0392, Nancy Kong at 917-416-6601 or Wendy Zhang at 718-793-0840.

Directions to Gum Fung Restaurant:

136-28 39th Avenue, Flushing, Queens, (718-762-8821)
(A huge municipal parking lot is conveniently located across the street from the restaurant)

Subway: #7 (express, when available) from Midtown to Main Street, last stop in Queens. At the Duane Reade Pharmacy street corner of the Main Street/Roosevelt Avenue intersection, walk one block north on Main Street and turn right onto 39th Ave. Restaurant is one half block up on your right.

Bus from the Bronx: Take QBx1 or Q44 to Main Street then follow the Subway directions

Bus from Queens: Take Q12, Q13, Q14, Q15, Q16, Q17, Q20, Q25, Q26, Q27, Q28, Q34, Q44, Q48, Q58, Q65 or Q77 to Main Street Stop and then follow Subway directions

Driving from points West or South: take either (1) the Triborough Bridge to Grand Central Parkway East and then to LIE East, (2) the Midtown Tunnel to LIE East, (3) the Williamsburg, Manhattan or Brooklyn Bridge to BQE and then to LIE East. On LIE East, take the Main Street Exit; travel north on Main Street to (and turn right onto) 39th Avenue (municipal parking on your left).

Driving from points North and the Bronx: Take the Whitestone Bridge (right lane) to Whitestone Expressway, take the Linden Place Exit, go straight and turn left at the T onto College Point Blvd. After the second light, turn left to drive along the Northern Blvd underpass. Turn right onto the second cross street (Main Street) and left onto 39th Ave (municipal parking on your left).

Driving from points South and Brooklyn: In addition to BQE (see above), you may also take the Van Wyck Expressway North to Main Street. Travel North on Main Street to 39th Avenue.

Political Action Notes

For the last two years, a committee drawn from the PTA's of both the high school and the elementary school has worked to undo proposed cuts to the Campus Schools' budget (which is mainly funded by the City). Separately, a small contingent from the HS has worked with Dr. Laurenson to obtain City funding for our athletic program. Hunter competes in the Public School Athletic League, but is the only public high school not receiving PSAL funding.

The Mayor's proposed \$437,000 cut in the HCCS budget for 2002-2003 was completely restored, in part because of our lobbying efforts with the City Council. Then, a proposed budget modification last November would have cut \$615,000 for the balance of the year (this prorates to over \$1 million for a full year—an enormous chunk of the overall budget). When the dust settled, the cut was reduced to \$124,000.

For 2003-2004, it was proposed that the \$124,000 reduction be carried over, but the good news is that the final City budget restored that cut, so we are now back to the budget we had before the fiscal crisis.

The news is not good on the athletic front, however. After securing a \$65,000 grant from the City Council's Manhattan Delegation to fund our sports program last year, we asked for the same this year, but didn't get it. So we'll have to continue to search for those funds elsewhere.

This year, all of these efforts, as well as others should they become necessary, will be coordinated by one Political Action Committee for the two schools, with a co-chair from each school. Our first meeting is Wednesday, October 15th at 6 pm, before the general PTA meeting at 7. We invite you to attend, if you wish to get involved. If you're interested but can't make the meeting, let Richard Barr know at 212-220-5072 or richardedbarr@aol.com.

The Hunter College High School PTA Financial Strategy: *Why Hunter Needs You!*

Hunter is a public school. As such, one might expect that all the funding necessary came from public coffers and that parents would not have to participate in fund raising at all. But sadly, in these days of government spending cuts, that couldn't be farther from the truth. And because of an arcane spending formula that affects Hunter differently than Department of Education schools, Hunter receives less funding than many of the comparable public schools (in some cases by as much as \$2,000 per child!) That means basic supplies are in short supply. Much needed and long overdue capital improvements are not provided in the school's budget at all.

So, how do we make up the difference? The PTA has put the following strategy in place for the 2003-2004. We thought it important that you understand the strategy since we will need your help to deliver on it.

1. Better understand the official school budget to insure Hunter is getting all the funds it is supposed to be getting.
2. Identify and pursue other potential government funding sources, like "member items" from both the City Council and the State Legislature.
3. Identify and submit grant requests for private foundation and corporate assistance.
4. Look to the parent body to help raise money either directly through financial donations or with volunteerism directed at raising money from others.

Our Budget, Political Action and Grants committees are currently working on items 1-3 above. If you would like to help in any of these areas, please contact PTA At Large Board Member Allen Brawer (LBrawer@aol.com) indicating which committee you would like to join.

We also need you to help in our direct fundraising efforts.

First, how much do we need to raise to support the School? The PTA's 2003-2004 operating budget is \$317,000. That budget covers items such as: **Library renovations, textbooks and teaching materials, specialized classroom computer equipment, the middle school sports program, Varsity sports coaches and uniforms, after-school tutoring, drug and alcohol awareness programs, the school calendar, *Family Directory* and *Hilites*.**

The PTA also provides major support for: **The music program, student theater groups, the two newspapers, the yearbook and other publications, office equipment and supplies, student clubs, and many other Hunter needs.**

Coming off of the spectacular \$1.4 million renovation of the heating, ventilating and air-conditioning system over the summer, and the close to \$1 million planned renovations of the gym and school yard, we believe it unlikely that we will be successful in getting much financial assistance from the College for further renovations to the school. But we know they are needed! Our

Facilities Committee has identified several major projects to be undertaken this year. The most notable are renovations of the individual classrooms, hallways and the cafeteria. We have estimated the costs of these renovations at \$559,000.

So, our total need is \$876,000. While this may sound like a lot, we have developed a mechanism which we think makes it very achievable—we need each and every Hunter family to help us raise \$2.00 a day or \$730 a year for each child attending the school.

Now, there are several ways you can help:

1. Pay PTA dues of \$50 (\$75 for two children).
2. Give generously to the PTA Annual Fund. You can even spread your contribution out throughout the year with monthly payments if you want.
3. Help sell magazine subscriptions to your friends, neighbors and relatives. And 40% of every dollar spent goes to Hunter.
4. Come to the annual banquet in October.
5. Solicit donations or otherwise volunteer for the spring benefit.
6. Come to the spring benefit and purchase the donations that have been solicited.

In upcoming communications you'll be hearing about each of these areas in detail. But before then, please decide how you think you can participate. We recognize that not every family in our wonderfully diverse community is able to give in the same way or in the same amounts. Your participation in any form will be appreciated. Our children deserve an outstanding education. With your help, they will get it.

From the Desk of Mark Schneider, Fundraising Vice President

The PTA is about to embark on a greater fundraising effort than ever before. To achieve our goals and objectives we need more volunteers to serve on the fundraising committee. There are countless ways in which you can help. Some of them are:

- Solicitation of items for the auction at the spring benefit
- Grant writing and finding new funding sources
- Follow-up on annual appeal letter
- Phonathon in conjunction with annual appeal
- Mailings
- New ideas on fundraising
- Ambassadors at large to other parents (tell them how important our work is)
- Working at the spring benefit
- Serving in anyway you can!!

Hunter and the fundraising committee need you. Please call me at my office 212-433-1177 or email me at mmaa245@hotmail.com to volunteer your time and ideas.

Parent Discussion/Support Group

Looking for help in weathering the perplexities of raising a teenager? Understanding your child and Hunter culture? Finding out what other parents do? Come to the PTA's parent support group meeting on Wednesday, October 15th from 5:30-7:00 pm (prior to the general October PTA meeting). This is an opportunity to share experiences and feelings in confidence. Whether or not you are facing an urgent issue, we urge you to come, listen, and, if you want, tell us what's on your mind. Every meeting will be led by a qualified facilitator.

We are very lucky to have Hillary Colenso, mother of graduate Sean Colenso-Semple (2003), to be the facilitator for our first meeting. Hillary is the director of the Alcohol and Substance Awareness Program at Barnard College. She has graciously agreed to share valuable information and her expertise with us. Do try and attend October 15th at 5:30 and check at the security desk for the room number.

A Note From Counseling Services

by Dr. Beverly Lenny

Welcome back! After we successfully made it past all the boxes (returned August 29th from our temporary Hunter College offices), lunged over the construction debris and dust filling our hallways, stripped away the plastic-wrapped offices and found our way to our computers and telephone hook-ups, we are happy to report we are up and running, eager to welcome you to the 2003-4 school year. Whew!

We want to welcome our newest arrivals, Class of 2009. Your counselor, Ms. Carey Socol, is already out in the hallway and classrooms, ready to meet you and help you make your way. You can also find her in her office in Room 441. Parents can reach her at 212-860-1270. Feel free to encourage your seventh graders to drop in and just say hi.

For our seniors, there is a very busy fall ahead of you. College Representatives have begun to sign up for visits, as early as next week. Please check the calendar and our website for specific College Representative visit dates. In fact, check our website for a great deal of information that will prove helpful throughout this year:

www.hchs.hunter.cuny.edu/departments/counseling/

Seniors, please keep an accurate check on the calendar, specifically test registration deadlines. Make an appointment with your college counselor by the end of the first week.

For all the classes in between and for all members of the Hunter community, we welcome you and hope your school year is a great one. We should all breathe a little easier this year!!!

HCHS Safety Committee Update

The Safety Committee is continuing its efforts to ensure the safety and security of students, faculty and staff in the event of a school or city wide emergency.

Established safety procedures may be found at the HCHS website, (www.hchs.hunter.cuny.edu.) In addition, if you are interested in assisting at school in the event of an emergency, or if you live in Manhattan and would be able to house students in the event of an emergency, please contact Abra Levine at APLGott@nyc.rr.com. Parents of incoming 7th grade students are needed and welcome!

Attention 7th & 8th Graders—Middle School Sports

The PTA helps run a Middle School Sports Program to provide opportunities for our 7th and 8th graders to participate in organized extra-curricular sports. The year opens with a Soccer season which runs from approximately 9/15—10/28. Practices begin the week of 9/15 with games starting the week of 9/29. Girls' practices/games are generally Tuesdays and Thursdays. Boys' practices/games are generally Mondays and Wednesdays. Practices are in Central Park and games either in Central Park or on Randall's Island. Forms will be available from the PE Dept. within the first weeks of school. If you or your child is considering middle school soccer, please contact Barbara Wallitt at bhwallitt@aol.com (preferably) or 212-662-9064.

Baseball and Softball start in late March and it is possible that there may be an Indoor Track as well as an intramural basketball club during the winter.

In our Middle School Sports program, everyone plays, regardless of experience or ability. This is a great way for 7th graders to meet classmates from outside their travel classes and a chance to participate in a non-academic school activity.

AN INTRODUCTORY MIDDLE SCHOOL SPORTS MEETING WILL BE HELD AT 6:00 PRIOR TO THE FIRST PTA MEETING ON SEPT 17. We hope to see you there.

Barbara Wallitt, Robyn Lee
Co-chairs, Middle School Sports Committee

7th Grade Orientation

Thank you, Thank you, Thank you!!

Everyone who came out to help our incoming 7th graders at Orientation on Friday, the 5th—again thank you!! We can't tell you enough how welcome you made our class feel, and how terrific it was of you to take the time to offer us a helping hand. Special kudos to: Karen Adler, Kip Davis, Jim Essey, Won H. Baik-Han, Lucy Innis, Nancy Peng Kong, Mark Schneider, and Jolie Schwab.

Sezelle Haddon, *7/8 grade rep.*

GRADE & SCHOOL NEWS

8th Grade News Potluck Dinner—October 2nd, 6 pm

We've planned a potluck dinner for the 8th grade for Thursday, October 2, at 6 pm, and we hope you'll attend. Ms. Martin, Ms. Hollander and Dr. Laurenson have all been invited, so please put the date on your calendar. Bring a dish—main, salad, dessert or beverage—to share, and leave the kids at home. This is a terrific opportunity to bring up your concerns, and to learn what's happening in the class—both from the administration and other parents. We would also like to confirm email addresses, to enhance our communication, so please respond that you'll be there to:

Sarita Gupta: gupta@ny.care
212-686-2747

Wendy Zhang: wzhang4@nyc.rr.com

9th Grade News

There are two important dates for 9th grade parents to mark on their calendars:

- Friday, September 25. 6 pm. Grade 9 Potluck Dinner. HCHS cafeteria

This is a good opportunity to meet with other parents and a few faculty members.

- Wednesday, October 15. 6 pm. Grade 9 Information Meeting. (Before the PTA meeting) Classroom on the 2nd floor. Another opportunity to find out what is going on at school and discuss issues.

If there are topics you would like to have discussed at either the potluck or the information meeting, please email them to Cecilia Chien or Elaine Kirsh. If you can help set up or clean up at the potluck, please email Elaine or Cecilia. As soon as we get confirmation of the administration and faculty members coming to these events, we will let you know. If you have changed your email address over the summer or you are not sure we have your email address, please contact us by email. Cecilia Chien (cchiencpa@hotmail.com), Elaine Kirsh (troyfamily@aol.com).

To Parents of 10th Graders:

We are the 10th grade representatives this year and will serve as liaisons between our class and the PTA Executive Board. We would like to establish a complete email list of all 10th grade families in order to send important school announcements, as well as for notification in case of school closings and emergencies. If you have not already done so, please email us with your name, your child's name, and your email address, and send it

to Hunter10th@aol.com, so that we can include you. If you do not have email access, and would like to be notified of events and/or emergencies by telephone, call us with your name and telephone number. We are also available to help you with respect to Hunter issues and direct you to appropriate resources. Feel free to contact us, and have a great beginning to the school year!

Some 10th Grade Announcements:

PSAT

Kaplan is offering a free practice PSAT test to Hunter students on Saturday, October 4th, at 11 am. The address is 16 Cooper Square (3rd Ave at East 5th Street) in front of Cooper Union on the first floor—Here's the procedure for this year: To register call 212-590-2800, then press 4 -already enrolled. When someone answers, tell them your child wants to take the October 4th practice test and use this code: PKMV3006 to register. You have until Oct 2 to register—Kaplan is closed on Fridays.

The PSAT test will be given at Hunter on October 18th. Registration information will come home with your child, so keep an eye out for it. The test lasts three hours, and your child should bring two #2 pencils.

POTLUCK DINNER—OCTOBER 30TH

The 10th grade potluck dinner is planned for Thursday, October 30th at 6:00 pm in the Hunter cafeteria. Please email Hunter10th@aol.com if you are coming and if you can bring a dish. Also email suggestions for special guest(s) you'd like to have on hand for questions or a presentation.

10TH GRADE SOCIALS

Some Hunter 10th graders have suggested these social activities for the coming year:

- Pre-Halloween Dance, with costumes optional
- December Winter Dance
- Valentine Dance
- Bowling (sometime in March or May)
- Spring Dance
- June End-of-the-Year Dance

Please email us with your opinion, suggestions, and if your building has space for parent or other get-togethers (Hunter10th@aol.com).

Thank you,

Karen Soren (Ari Peña's mother) 212-222-0091

Patricia Hennesy (Christopher Hennesy's mother)
718-885-3351

Linda Barr (Johanna Barr's mother) 212-877-2694

GRADE & SCHOOL NEWS

11th Grade News:

PSATs: There is a free PSAT practice test available at Kaplan on Saturday, October 4 at 11 am at the 16 Cooper Square location. Call 212-590-2800 to reserve a space.

The PSAT/NMSQT will be given at Hunter High School on Saturday, October 18. You will be able to sign up through the counseling department or on www.collegeboard.com.

Potluck Dinner: Thursday, October 9 at 6 pm. Sheila Garcia (counseling) will give an overview of the college process for 11th grade and will be there to answer questions. We plan to have a speaker TBA. Please RSVP your food contributions to Sudha Ram at sram@ny.hodes.com (212-737-1408) or Golde Richter at drichter@nyc.rr.com (212-580-3336).

Email: Informational emails go out on a regular basis from grade reps. We are trying to update and complete our list. Please send any changed or new email addresses to Karen Adler at ksa9@aol.com.

Borough Parties 2003

It's that time of year again!—September always heralds the arrival of a new class to HCHS, and the opportunity to get to know our new community at the Borough Parties. These are being held this year on Sunday, September 21, from 3 to 5 pm. The following parents have offered their homes for parties (as of 9/1/03):

Manhattan:

Neil Kamsler and Molly Warner
415 Central Park West, PHS
212-222-3205

Tracey and Phillip Riese
140 Franklin Street, #5B
212-219-0498

Lori Bores
525 E 82nd Street, #5G
212-650-0241

Elise and Michael Leopold
1760 Second Avenue, Apt. 26C
212-831-8020

Leslie and Gregg Solomon
250 W 88th Street, Apt 807
212-580-0884

Queens:

Ruth and Charles Elfassy
108-34 68th Ave., #PH,
Forest Hills
718-268-3980

Caryn and Spencer Gale
85-03 Wareham Place
Jamaica Estates
718-657-1989

Diana and Richard Mosher
35-36 79th Street, Apt. 31
Jackson Heights
718-335-7836

Gail Tishcoff and Jim Kettig
34-47 75th Street
Jackson Heights
718-565-1255

Alice and David Chodkowski
68-22 64th Place
Glendale
718-417-5668

Vincent Pupplo
23-30 127th Street
College Point
718-539-5816

Brooklyn:

Yalena Siwinski
2683 E 21st Street
718-616-0531

Dan Cantor and Laura Markham
728A Carroll Street
718-369-4868

Bronx:

Stephen Kaminsky and Lisa Wilson
5204 Delafield Avenue
Riverdale
718-543-1734

RSVP's are necessary, as locations are subject to change. Hosting families need to know the number they are expecting, and what you will contribute. Please bring desserts to share and hosting families will provide beverages. Remember, Borough Parties are a great way for both kids and parents to get to know other HCHS families in your neighborhoods. So even if you are not an incoming 7th grade family, please try to attend.

Student Writers

Would you like to share your view of life at Hunter during your senior year? *Hunter Hilites* needs one or more student writers for the coming school year. Any seniors who would like to write for *Hilites*, please send a writing sample to our new email address: hunterhilites@hotmail.com.

12th Grade News

College Trip—You will be receiving information via email on the College Tour which is scheduled for September 19th–20th. We plan to be visiting Yale University, Wesleyan University, Harvard University, Tufts University and Boston University. If you are not interested in these colleges, the administration has decided to designate September 19th, 12th Grade college visitation day. You can visit a college on that day (with your families) and don't have to miss school.

Glick Scholarship—We are now in the final stages of planning the Danny Glick Scholarship. This scholarship will be awarded to at least one graduating student (2004) in memory of Danny Glick. If you want to know more details on the process, please contact Carey Socol who will have the criteria and the amount of the scholarship very soon.

Email List—Please make sure that your email address is current and that you are able to receive emails from the 12th Grade reps. We will be contacting you regarding Senior activities on a regular basis and don't want to leave anyone out. If parents don't have an email address, we will certainly send the information to the child. We are 95% there...but would like to be able to contact that last 5%.

September 17th Grade Meeting—As you know from the recent mailing the 12th Grade will hold an informational meeting on September 17th (prior to the PTA Meeting). We will discuss the senior schedule and go over any questions you might have. The editors from *Annals* will also be in attendance to give us a brief overview of their process. Please try to make this meeting. The PTA meeting is also important—since Dr. Laurenson will be speaking to the parent body.

Make sure you send in your Senior Dues. We need 100% participation.

By Elizabeth Ginsburg

I don't really know where I was or what I was doing when the blackout occurred. That may sound odd. I'm sure everyone in the city remembers the lights going out. It is a rare event in our area. But I was not in the city. I was up in Rockland County on my camp's overnight on that Thursday. The fact that I, along with my fellow day camp counselors, had to be told that there had been a power outage as opposed to merely noticing it made me appreciate the environment in which I spent my summer, a place where once we were off the bus in the morning, we utilized almost no electricity.

My camp is divided into four units. My unit slept over that Thursday so only a quarter of all the campers were still at camp when the power went out. The other three units were supposed to come to camp on Friday morning. The camp director informed us that if power were not restored by nighttime, it was a possibility that the rest of the camp would not be joining us the next day. And sure enough, the next morning, after listening to many tantrums from upset children who did not get the Froot Loops from the cereal variety pack, we were told that the city was still without power and that we would be alone at the campgrounds for the day. To a poorly paid teenager, this translates into the rest of the staff members getting a day off with pay while we, still covered in the previous day's dirt and sweat, help eight year olds change for swim. The city sounded like so much fun and we could not believe we were missing the chance to see it with absolutely no lights.

The next day though, I came home to much less than what I had expected. There was no water, which meant no showers, and no food. My parents had spent the previous night climbing dark stairways with only a flashlight to guide them and assisting the elderly residents in my building. I, on the other hand, had spent hours at the pool, because there was nothing much else to do, and watched my kids perform in our camp talent show. Possibly the most interesting part of my experience was the fact that we were not allowed to let the kids find out that there had been a blackout. When we were first informed of the power outage, the staff was told that we had an even greater responsibility than on usual overnights. Many of us thought that at least a few kids were bound to pick up on something. But, on the contrary, my fellow counselors and I accepted the responsibility and handled the situation with complete and total ease. We were mature and did not discuss what had happened in front of the kids even though we had to return to our kids immediately after being informed without any time to digest the information or ask questions.

Only afterwards did I appreciate the timing of the blackout. Every day of my summer job was a learning experience in responsibility, but none so much as those two days I spent up at camp. We had to be mature and stay calm because if we didn't, we would have had one hundred upset eight-year-olds on our hands. It got me thinking about the coming year and all that I will have to do in a short amount of time, namely, applying to college. Instead of trying to keep information secret, I have to let the admissions officers know as much about me as I can fit in an application. I can't say that my camp experience has made me feel prepared for what's to come, but it has reassured me in that I have an idea of what I am capable of in a situation that requires responsibility and maturity.

CALENDAR HILITES

September

September 14	Chinese PA Welcoming Party for Grade 7 Families	
September 17	Middle School Sports Meeting	6:00 pm
	Grade 12 Meeting	6:00 pm
	PTA Meeting	7:00 pm
September 20	Korean American PA Welcoming Party for Grade 7 Families	7:00 pm
	Grade 12 College tours—PTA	
September 21	PTA Boro Parties for Grade 7 Families	3:00 pm - 5 pm
September 24	Student Faculty Softball Game	6:00 pm
	CAAP Welcoming Party	6:30 pm
	Facilities Committee Meeting	6:30 pm
September 25	Grade 9 Potluck Dinner	6:00 pm
	Library Committee	6:00 pm
September 26	Grade 7 Picnic	
	Registration deadline for November SAT (+language tests)	
September 29	Fundraising Committee Meeting	6:30 pm

October

October 1	Half Day—Periods 1-4	
October 2	Grade 8 Potluck Dinner	6:00 pm
October 3	Raindate for Grade 7 Picnic	
October 4	PSAT free practice at Kaplan for Grades 10 & 11	11:00 am
October 6	Religious Holiday	school closed
October 7	PTA Executive Board Meeting	6:00 pm
October 8	Deadline for Club and Teacher Grant application to PTA	
October 9	Spirit Day	
	Grade 11 Potluck Dinner	6:00 pm
October 10	Spirit Day (raindate)	6:30 pm
	Student Life Committee—Lunch	
October 11	SAT I & II	
October 13	Columbus Day Observed	school closed
October 14	Computer Advisory Committee	7:30 am
	Cultural Diversity Committee	3:20 pm
October 15	Internship Seminar	3:30 pm
	Parent Support Group	5:30 pm
	Meetings: Grades 9 & 12, CAAP, Political Action Committee	6:00 pm
	PTA Meeting	7:00 pm
October 16	Internship Seminar	3:30 pm
October 17	Open School Day	
	GO Club Open House	
October 18	PSAT	
October 20	Hunter Scholars Meeting—Lunch	
	Magazine Drive begins	
	Grants Committee	6:00 pm
October 21	Arts Day	
	PSAT (for Sabbath Observers)	
October 22	Grade 8 CT Trip	
October 23	Library Committee	6:00 pm
October 24	PTA Annual Banquet	
October 27	Grants Committee	6:00 pm
October 30	Last day of First Quarter	
	Grade 10 Potluck Dinner	6:00 pm
October 31	Grade 7 & 8 Halloween Dance	3:30 pm
	Registration deadline for December SAT	