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COME TO THE APRIL 20

PTA MEETING, 7PM

Dr. Dona Matthews, Director of the Hunter College Center for Gifted Studies and Education, will speak on "**Surviving Your Gifted Child's Adolescence**" at our April 20 PTA meeting at 7 pm. Dr. Matthews, who gave a stimulating talk last year, returns to share her thoughts on a topic that concerns us all. Co-author of the recently published *Being Smart about Gifted Children—A Guidebook for Parents and Educators* and a parent herself, Dr. Matthews' observations and advice are always worthwhile. Join us.

At 6 pm: *Grade 8 Meeting*
Grade 10 Meeting
CAAP Meeting

Help Still Wanted for the Spring Benefit and Auction Join Us on May 19!

by Maria Becerra, Chair

First, I would like to thank those of you who responded to my numerous requests printed in the last issue of Hilites. Many of you sent in a donation and/or volunteered your services and time. However, we still have a long way to go. We need every Hunter parent to participate to ensure the success of this important fundraising event.

You will be receiving an invitation to the Spring Benefit later this month. The Benefit will take place on Thursday, May 19 at Rodeph Sholom, 7 West 83rd St., New York, NY. The evening will begin at 5 pm with a pre-Benefit welcome party for the class of 2011, followed by the Benefit at 6 pm. The gala event will include cocktails, hors d'oeuvres, a buffet dinner, musical entertainment by our talented Hunter students, a student art show, numerous opportunities to purchase items and gifts, and a

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Nominees for 2005-06 PTA Board Corresponding Secretary Still Needed

The Nominating Committee is pleased to announce its slate of candidates for next year's PTA Executive Board (*see page 9*). We congratulate these parents on their volunteerism and hope that you will support their candidacy.

The position of Corresponding Secretary is still open. The Corresponding Secretary oversees preparation and distribution of the directory, calendar and membership mailings, oversees our yearly membership drive, handles general correspondence and keeps track of inventory of PTA stationery and supplies. It is desirable that the candidate be able to get to school to pick up mail and supplies on a weekly or biweekly basis, but there is no need to attend lots of meetings. Work can be done according to your own schedule. If you are interested in this position or know someone who might be, we are eager to hear from you.

Nominations for all positions are open until May 1, so if you are considering running for Corresponding Secretary or any other position, please contact a member of the Nominating Committee. The Executive Board is an exciting place, where one can truly be involved in the everyday life of the school, and make a difference not just to our own children's education, but for all of our students.

The following persons have agreed to run for

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✓ Mark Your Calendar:

• **Parent-Teacher Conferences on Wednesday, April 27, 1-3 and 5-7 pm.**

• **Report Cards and conference sign-up sheets will be distributed April 21.** There is **NO SCHOOL** on April 22 or 25, so be sure your conference requests get to school on Tuesday, April 26.

Letter from the PTA President

Jolie Schwab

Some random thoughts about Spring: Spring comes and my thoughts invariably turn to the Spring Benefit and Auction. Maria Becerra and the Spring Benefit team deserve our appreciation and help. Please do what you

can to help make this very important fundraising event a success. Whether you solicit donations, work during the event itself, or make a donation, your help will be very much appreciated. But above all, please come, have a good time and spend a little money to benefit the school. Don't forget: May 19 at Rodeph Sholom, West 83rd St. between Central Park West and Columbus Ave.

We had a fabulous meeting in Queens last month. Social Studies Department members Susan Meeker (chair) and Martha Curtis gave a great talk about the department and the opportunities the department offers to students. I've included a summary of that discussion in this issue—please be sure to take a look at it. Many parents were amazed at the large number of extracurricular and elective offerings the department had. Maybe because I'm such a great movie fan, I was particularly struck by a suggestion Ms. Curtis made about helping your student become stronger in Social Studies by watching historical movies together. Spring is a very slow time for "quality" new motion picture releases. So I'm going to try her suggestion and rent a great old movie to watch and talk about with my kids. It might even beat "The OC."

We're very lucky that Hunter is located in such a good neighborhood. Surrounded by museums, shops, other schools and a neighborhood full of children, we exist in relative safety. We've had few safety-related incidents to concern us, but as the weather turns warmer, we need to be a bit more vigilant. Unfortunately, as Abra Levine, our Safety chair writes in this issue, there have already been two muggings that involved Hunter students. As our kids take off their coats and walk the streets with their iPods and phones in hand, they should remember that they could be targets. Please remind them to keep money and valuables out of sight when they are on the street. This is important not only to avoid tempting would-be muggers, but also to ensure that they stay aware of their surroundings, rather than "zoning out" and becoming easy targets.

Spring also brings safety to mind because that's when some of the older students will be playing "Killer", a very popular game that could lead to trouble. See page 7 for a word about that.

Finally, for the last several weeks, it seems that everyone at Hunter is talking about David Bauer, our very own Intel Winner. I'm sure David won't mind the PTA adding its voice to the many congratulating him. I also want to add a collective thanks from the whole PTA to the many fine teachers and men-

tors David has had along the way. All of our students are the beneficiaries of their dedication to their profession.

See you at the April PTA meeting,

—Jolie

PTA Policy on Use of E-mail and Endorsements

It has recently come to our attention that one or two tutoring organizations have somehow obtained e-mail addresses for some Hunter families and have sent out e-mail notices advertising their services. Please note that the PTA has a policy of not endorsing individual tutors and tutoring organizations and we definitely don't share your personal information (including phone or e-mail addresses) with them. We ask all parents, especially our grade reps who regularly send you school and PTA related e-mails, to be protective of this information. Please don't share your family directories or school calendars with people who may want to use it to sell their services. Grade reps have been asked to make every attempt to blind carbon the recipients of their e-mails so no recipient is able to use the class e-mail list for purposes that might be deemed intrusive by the others on the list and so that no one may forward them (even inadvertently) to someone who may want to use the list for non-school related purposes.

Help Wanted: *Second Editor for Hilites for 2005-06*

If you enjoy basic editing and can dedicate a few hours every other month to Hunter, this job is for you. *Hunter Hilites*, published monthly, is put together by two editor-designer teams, who alternate issues. The smooth production process, developed over a number of years, is efficient for everyone. Articles are written by a set group of PTA officers and others and submitted to *Hilites* on a regular deadline schedule. The issue's editor edits them, puts them in order, and sends them to the designer who does the layout, which the editor reviews.

The process is easy to learn. Editor Heidi Waleson and designer Anna Veltfort will be continuing in their roles for the foreseeable future, and will provide all necessary guidance and assistance. We welcome Jonie Fu (7th grade parent) as the new designer member of our team. We would like to have our second editor on board soon, so both new team members can learn the ropes on the May and June issues.

Hilites is the PTA's most important communications tool. Working on it is a great way to help Hunter and to stay in touch with current events and issues, all from your own home or office (internet and e-mail access are a must). Contact Heidi Waleson at 212-316-5148 or hwopera@nyc.rr.com if you would like to join the team or for more information.

The PTA writes, produces, and distributes *Hunter Hilites* to all Hunter families and the HCHS faculty and administrators. Editors: Heidi Waleson (phone: 212-316-5148; e-mail: hwopera@nyc.rr.com) and Alice Pisciotta (phone: 718-747-2084; e-mail: alicep1222@hotmail.com). Design: Bernadette Evangelist. 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. *Hilites* submissions e-mail: hunterhilites@hotmail.com. Deadline for the May issue of *Hilites* is Sunday, May 1.

PTA NEWS

PTA Executive Board Meeting Highlights—4/5/05

Dr. Laurenson's Report:

Calendar: Dr. Laurenson expects that the calendar for the 2005-06 school year will be confirmed on April 7. Next year, school holidays will be more closely aligned with those of Department of Ed schools.

Legislator Visits: Dr. Laurenson will make a brief presentation to the Manhattan Delegation of the City Council on April 22 to support our request for Member Item funding of mobile computer labs. Dr. Laurenson will be joined by Richard Barr of the Political Action Committee.

Parent-Teacher Conferences: Parent-teacher conferences will take place on Wednesday, April 27. Scheduling this year will be tight. Progress reports will be issued on Thursday, April 21, and school will be closed on Friday and Monday, April 26, the day we return to school, is the sign-up for conferences on the 27.

Incoming 7th Grade: Next fall, 224 students will enter HCHS. Seven students declined the school's offer of acceptance, and seven students were taken from the wait list.

Commencement: Bobby Lopez, composer and writer of Avenue Q, will be honored at commencement. Mr. Lopez is the first male to be so honored at Hunter.

Learning Differences

Two of the co-chairs of the Learning Differences Advocacy Group, Judith Steinhart and Anne Harris, made a brief presentation on how HCHS could better accommodate the needs of dually exceptional children, meaning those identified as gifted but with diagnosable learning differences. Although some after-school resources are available, Judith and Anne felt more could be done. For example, there should be a central place where students can get assignments, support documents and other materials handed out by teachers. Blackboard would be ideal. Judith and Anne requested the help of the administration and faculty leaders to raise awareness among teaching staff about the need for services and accommodation. For example, while the school is required by law to make accommodations for students who have been diagnosed with learning difficulties, some staff seem to interpret those accommodations (such as allowing more time during testing) as optional. Dr. Laurenson said that would do what he could to move these issues forward by the end of the year.

Nominating Committee

The slate of candidates was announced and will be formally presented at the April PTA meeting on April 20 at 7 pm. A copy of the slate is included elsewhere in this issue. The Nominating Committee still needs to fill the post of Corresponding Secretary.

Facilities Committee

Delays continue to plague the plans for renovation of the cafeteria, auditorium and school yard. The cafeteria meeting has

been rescheduled to April 15 at which time we will be presented with the final plan. The auditorium project has been delayed by the college. As to the yard, as the weather improves, it is hoped that the scaffolding will come down so that the new surface can be poured. Work on the façade has moved to the Park Avenue side of the building.

Admissions Committee

The college has approved moving ahead with certain initiatives outlined in the SPI involving increasing the number of economically disadvantaged positions from 30 to 40, planning an outreach program to be in place by the start of school in the fall, and establishing a research snapshot of each admitted class. Dr. Prisco will look into getting grad students to do the work we need in conjunction with the admissions office staff. Also, the Admissions Director, Tracy Fredericks has resigned and taken a position at the College.

Safety Alert

by Abra Levine, Safety Committee Chair

Safety Patrol is gearing up for Spring, as incidents of larceny increase when our students spend more time outside. On March 23, at approximately 8 am, an HCHS student was a victim of a larceny at Park Ave. and 93rd St. On March 24, at approximately 4:40 pm, two HCHS students were victims of a theft on 94th St. between Madison Ave. and 5th Ave. It is important to advise your children 1) to travel in groups when possible, and 2) not to "flash" wallets, iPods, cell phones or other devices, which can be invitations to theft. Ms. Mosco is distributing the booklet "Safety Tips and Crime Prevention Information" to 7th and 8th graders in their Official classes and to 9th-12th graders at their weekly assemblies. All incidents must be reported to HCHS Public Safety, the administration, and the 19th Precinct. In addition, please report all incidents to PTA Safety Committee Chair Abra Levine at aplrott@nyc.rr.com.

Please be advised that all parents are required to cooperate with instituted safety measures. This includes displaying photo IDs to the officer at the security desk as well as signing in and out of school at the security desk. The administration will notify the security desk of school events and meetings. Otherwise, parents will not be allowed access to the school without an appointment, which will be confirmed by the security officer with the appropriate administrator or teacher.

In the event of a citywide emergency, the administration is requesting that all students keep three bottles of water and non-perishable food (such as granola bars) in their lockers. Both students and parents are asked not to leave backpacks or packages unattended in the lobby or hallways.

HCHS takes its security seriously. Compliance with safety measures will benefit the entire HCHS community!

Fundraising Corner

From the Desk of Mark Schneider

Fundraising Vice President

We are in the home stretch of our school year and with it our 2004-05 fundraising efforts. With that in mind, there are two or three steps that you can still take to help your PTA fund all the programs that benefit our children.

- If you have not yet contributed to the Annual Fund and can, please do. We hope that the vast majority of our families that can afford to give something will do so. Your participation is very important! For details see Eric's Annual Fund column.
- Come to the Spring Benefit!! For details see Maria's column.
- Go on line to Hunterpta.org and order a few magazines. Call me or email me at 212-433-1177 or MMAA245@hotmail.com to finalize your Annual Fund contribution.

Annual Fund—Eric Frost, Chair

At the PTA meeting in Queens, a 100 % match was offered for any donation that came in. Seven parents responded, donating a total of \$1150. Their donation was matched, raising a total of \$2300 for the PTA. Hooray!

Since the last issue of *Hilites* went to press, we have received 24 donations, for a total of \$7445. This brings our grand total for the year to \$351,888. This is an impressive figure, but the alarming fact is, as has been the case in previous years, only about half the parents have made donations. For the sake of our children, I just know we can do better.

This year, we have money pledged to match any increase over last year, which is a big help. So if you didn't make a donation last year and make one now, or if you make a bigger donation now, it will have double impact. Download the donation form from the website, or just send your check (with your child's name and grade on it) made out to "HCHS PTA Annual Fund" to our treasurer, Christine Govan, at 675 West End Avenue, #8B, New York, NY 10025.

I am very gratified to report that the Korean Parents Association has just completed a phonathon to its members. I'm sure we'll see results from this in our next *Hilites* report. I want to extend my heartfelt thanks to KPA president Michael Jo and to Annual Fund Co-Chair Susan Na for organizing the phonathon.

This is what we parents all need to do: *Pitch in together*. Let's keep it up and complete the job we have started for our children! Questions or suggestions—please email or call me at frost1722@aol.com or (212) 242-4345.

HCHS Donors

We thank the following donors to HCHS since our last issue of *Hilites*.

One anonymous donor
 Morgan Stanley (Peter K. Bell, 04-05)
 Raymond K. & Shook Ching Chan
 United Way of New York City (Robert Dawson & Vicki Papadeas, 04-05)
 Abby Ehrlich
 United Way of New York City (Kathleen A. Gallagher, 04-05)
 Eugene Glickman & Nancy Hoch
 Andy Goodman & Roslyn Murov
 Howard Hankin & Carol Braham
 Stanley Kao & Judy Hsieh
 Chul H. (Carl) & Sook J. (Jane L.) Kim
 Christia Mercer
 Richard & Alice Pisciotta
 Xinde Sheng
 United Way of New York City (Chen-Fa Sun, 04-05)
 Morgan Stanley (Connie L. Tiu, 04-05)
 Shiu Sen & Rose Tsai

March 16 PTA Meeting

Highlights Social Studies and More

At the March 16 PTA meeting, held in Queens, the focus was Social Studies. Over 100 parents met at the Nan Shan Senior Center in Flushing to hear Social Studies Department Chair Susan Meeker and Social Studies teacher Martha Curtis talk about the Hunter Social Studies program. Most came away astonished at the breadth of elective offerings in the department, as well as how many extracurricular opportunities there are for students interested in Social Studies. Ms. Meeker spoke about the curriculum and some of those opportunities, while Ms. Curtis gave some hints on how parents could help their students get through the demanding social studies curriculum.

Ms. Meeker noted because Hunter is a six-year high school, we don't have to cram everything our kids need to know into four years. Our students and teachers have the luxury of an extra two years of instruction, the first two of which are incredibly important to skill development. The curriculum in grades 7 and 8 is both knowledge-based and skills-based. Students learn skills in research (library and internet) and organization (how to take notes and budget their time) as they study across various disciplines such as history, economics, government and geography. There is also an emphasis on group activities and having the children learn from one another. Hunter also has the luxury of being able to offer two and a half years of Global Studies, rather than the two years that New York State requires, a good thing, since the world is too big a place to study in depth in just

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P T A N E W S

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two years. Global is studied in grades 8, 9 and the first half of 10. After Global, our 10th and 11th graders spend a year and a half on US History. In fact, we don't offer a separate class in AP US History, since our curriculum is equivalent to an AP course. About half our students will take the AP US History test and do quite well.

In 12th grade, our students have completed their requirements and can choose electives such as AP Economics, AP Psychology, International Relations, Archeology, Philosophy, Constitutional History and Law, and some years, European History or Asian History. Juniors are also eligible to sign up for electives, though seniors get priority.

There are many extracurricular activities for the student who is interested in Social Studies. Many of these are already listed in the Umbrella as clubs or teams and the department will soon be posting all of them on the official Hunter High School website. They include a philosophy class for 7th and 8th graders taught by Dr. Laurence Splitter during two lunch periods a week, Debate Team (this year, 7th graders asked for a junior debate team, which has just started), Washington Seminar, Hunter UN (Model UN), Mock Trial Team, Quality of Life Contest, Saturday Academy at the New York Historical Society (sponsored by the Gilder Foundation), the Fed Challenge and various opportunities to submit writings and essays (Concord Review, History Day, Essay Contests), etc.

Ms. Curtis said that some students struggle in social studies (more so than Math and Science) because they are afraid of a subject where there is no right or wrong answer. One has to be bold and take a stand to do well in Social Studies. Also, some students have difficulty managing their time well. Many assignments in the department are given long in advance of the due date because they will take time to complete correctly. Students who wait until the last minute to do their work will have difficulty. Some younger students, when asked to take notes or outline, have difficulty paring down their focus and take too many notes. Note taking and outlining are acquired skills. If you see your child struggling with these skills, you should reach out to their teacher.

Ms. Curtis gave parents some tips to help their children become stronger in Social Studies:

- 1)** By 9th grade, have your child read the NY Times every day. Even 10 minutes a day scanning the headlines and reading the Op Ed page and Letters to the Editor will pay off. It will become addictive! (You can subscribe for 35 cents a day through the Social Studies Department office.)
- 2)** On Sundays, have them read the Week in Review section of the Times. It will help them learn about the world and how to structure an argument.
- 3)** In 10th grade, subscribe to the Economist (discount student subscriptions are available, or better yet, subscribe through the PTA magazine drive, which is now available year-round through the PTA website).

4) Watch historical movies with your children. Get the list of the 100 Best Movies of all time and watch it together. You'll have fun, bond and give them a context for much of what they learn in school. (See list below.)

5) Make sure you have an atlas at home.

After the meeting, Ms. Curtis shared the "100 Best American Movies" of all time list from the American Film Institute. You can find the complete list on the AFI website, but here are some of the many films that can enhance your student's understanding of history—and you'll have fun watching them:

Casablanca (1942)
The Godfather (especially Part 2) (1970s)
Gone with the Wind (1939)
Lawrence of Arabia (1962)
On the Waterfront (1954)
Schindler's List (1993)
The Bridge on the River Kwai (1957)
The Grapes of Wrath (1940)
Dr. Strangelove (1964)
Apocalypse Now (1979)
Mr. Smith Goes to Washington (1939)
High Noon (1952)
To Kill a Mockingbird (1962)
The Best Years of Our Lives (1946)
Dr. Zhivago (1965)
The Birth of a Nation (1915)
Amadeus (1984)
All Quiet on the Western Front (1930)
*M*A*S*H (1970)*
Ben Hur (1959)
The Gold Rush (1925)
Dances with Wolves (1990)
Mutiny on the Bounty (1935)
Patton (1970)

Dr. Laurenson gave a report on a number of exciting awards being won by Hunter Students, the most prominent of which was the first place Intel award to David Bauer. In the last 15 years or so, the only two Intel winners from New York City have been Hunter High School students, and we are very proud. Hunter continues to dominate state math contests and we continue to do outstandingly in the Scholastic writing and arts awards (*see articles on page 6*).

Jolie Schwab, Jim Essey and Mark Schneider gave an update on PTA business, including the status of the principal search, news of the incoming class, a facilities update and an update on fundraising. An anonymous donor offered to match any donations made to the PTA annual fund at this meeting and, as a result, \$2300 was raised to help fund PTA programs.

Many thanks to Yee Ling Sham, June Wu, Jennie Liu, Mrs. Sung and Mr. Wang for arranging the space and setting up the night of the event and to Yee Ling Sham for arranging refreshments.

Scholastic Writing Awards Winners

Congratulations to Hunter's regional winners in the Scholastic Writing Awards contest. This year 41 winners received 50 awards. An awards ceremony will be held on May 11 at NYU.

The Gold Key winners will now proceed to the national level, with those seniors in the portfolio contest competing to win up to \$10,000.

Gold Keys

Garrett Adler—*James B. Reston Portfolio*
 David Andersson—*James B. Reston Portfolio*
 Lior Bassell—*Personal Essay/Memoir*
 Annabeth Bondor-Stone—*Short Story*
 Tony Cheng—*Journalism*
 Joshua Cohen—*James B. Reston Portfolio*
 Gillian Collins—*Short Short Story*
 Chiara DiLello—*Poetry*
 James Ding—*Journalism*
 Michael Grotell—*Poetry*
 Frederica Hill—*Poetry*
 Rachel Graham Kagan—*Writing Portfolio*
 Sam LeDily—*Poetry*
 Nicole Levy—*Poetry*
 Karry Lu—*Humor*
 Esra Padgett—*Poetry*
 Chandra Pytowski—*Short Story*
 Chandra Pytowski—*Short Short Story*
 Diana Shen—*Short Short Story*
 Sarah Thompson—*Short Short Story*
 Michelle Ting—*Poetry*
 Katie Uva—*Poetry*
 Christina Vuong—*Short Story*
 David Watson—*Poetry*
 Unikora Yang—*Personal Essay/Memoir*

Silver Keys

David Andersson—*Short Story*
 Allison Bayani—*Science Fiction/Fantasy*
 Daniel Benjamin—*Poetry*
 Angela Cheng—*Short Short Story*
 Tony Cheng—*Poetry*
 Sinnae Choi—*Poetry*
 Joshua Cohen—*Dramatic Script*
 Alyssa Greenberg—*Personal Essay/Memoir*
 Rachel Graham Kagan—*Short Story*
 Zachary Kolin—*Short Story*
 William Lee—*Short Story*
 Karry Lu—*Humor*
 Raphael Magarik—*Poetry*
 Katherine Oshman—*Short Story*
 Sarah Pasternack—*Dramatic Script*

Puja Paul—*Poetry*
 Jason Perlman—*Short Story*
 Ariella Silberstein—*Poetry*
 Shannon Sun-Higginson—*Poetry*
 Sophia Veltfort—*Personal Essay/Memoir*
 Sophia Veltfort—*Short Story*
 Anna Wang—*Short Story*
 David Watson—*Dramatic Script*
 David Watson—*Journalism*
 Richard Yang—*Poetry*

And congratulations to their teachers: Kimberly Airoidi, Joye Cook, Lori D'Amico, Richard Fulco, Ariel Levenson, Barbara Miller, Lois Refkin, Kelly Rotman, Richard Roundy, Lisa Siegmann, and Kip Zegers.

Scholastic Art Awards Winners

Congratulations to the five Hunter students who won 10 Scholastic Art Awards for the New York City region.

Anjum Bothra (9)—**Gold Key**, *Drawing*
 Alyssa Greenberg (12)—**2 Gold Keys & 2 Silver Keys**,
Digital Photography
 Dorian Kusyk (9)—**Gold Key**, *Drawing*
 Richard Yang (11)—**Silver Key**, *Drawing*
 Becky Zhao (9)—**2 Gold Keys**, *Painting*, **Gold Key**, *Drawing*

MATHCOUNTS

by Sheila Krilov, Coach

The good news is that the Hunter MATHCOUNTS team finished in third place at the New York State MATHCOUNTS Competition at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute on Saturday, March 19, only two points behind first place Todd Middle School of Dutchess County. The great news is that seventh grader Michael Thaler finished third in the state and will go on to represent New York State at the National MATHCOUNTS Competition in Detroit on May 5-8. This is the third year in a row that a Hunterite has been on the National team!

The team members were Kevin Kwok, captain (8), Michael Chan (8), Michael Thaler (7), and Guanqun Shi (8). Guy Tabachnick (8) and Harriet Li (8) competed as individuals and did extremely well. Congratulations to the entire team on a job well done!

The mission of MATHCOUNTS, a national middle school program for students in grades 6-8, is to increase enthusiasm for and enhance achievement in middle school mathematics throughout the US. The program is supported by national

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Congratulations to David Bauer ('05) on winning first place in the 2005 Intel Science Talent Search!

GRADE & SCHOOL NEWS

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sponsors, including the National Society of Professional Engineers. The competition is growing: 13 Manhattan middle schools attended the chapter competition at Columbia University on February 12, 2005, where our team (Kevin, Michael, Guan and Michael) won first place and earned the right to compete on the State level. Our second team (8th graders Levina Li, Alex Bores, Harriet Li, and Guy Tabachnick) would have come in second had they competed officially! Not only were these kids great as teams, but they also shone as individuals. Kevin, Harriet, Guy and Guan were the top four individuals in the chapter.

There was a Countdown Round for the top twelve individual scorers at the chapter meet and seven of our students made the Countdown! They were: Michael Chan, Kevin Kwok, Harriet Li, Levina Li, Guan Shi, Guy Tabachnick, and Michael Thaler. The Countdown Round was quite exciting: In the last round, to everyone's surprise Guy beat Kevin to finish in first place in this unofficial round! Guy, Kevin, Guan, and Harriet went home with the top four Countdown trophies.

Interested students or parents can see the Problem of the Week, this year's Chapter Competition and State Competition at the website www.mathcounts.org and learn more about the Manhattan chapter at www.mathm.org.

What Parents Should Know about "Killer"

"Killer" is a game played by a good number of Hunter 11th and 12th graders (and some younger students) for a two-week period in mid- to late May (after AP exams). It is played at other schools as well, sometimes under the name, "Assassin." Teams of students use play guns (colored so as not to be mistaken for real guns) to "kill" one another. The last student standing wins for his or her team and divides a significant pot of money to which all players have contributed. In other words, they pay to play.

Students caught playing the game near school will be subject to strong disciplinary action including suspension, and for seniors, loss of senior privileges. However, the PTA wants you to know that there are other dangers to playing this game, on or off school grounds. Some players stay out late at night, stalking the homes of others, in an attempt to hit them unawares. Students have been caught breaking into apartment buildings and climbing through windows. They look suspicious and have been stopped by the police. Several years ago, before the guns were colored, a police officer nearly shot a student.

Please be aware of where your children are during this period. If they ask to sleep out or stay out late, please ask a lot of questions. The kids think this game is their right—many wait for years for the chance to be old enough to play and think of it as a school tradition—but one of these days, especially given heightened security alerts, someone is going to get hurt.

8th Grade News

We hope that everyone had a relaxing break. Slowly but surely Spring will arrive bringing the students new energy. We hope to see many of you at our Grade Meeting on April 20. Read on:

Join us for a Special Event! 8th Grade Meeting on April 20 at 6 pm: Join your fellow 8th Grade Parents as we gather for wine and cheese and a special evening with Dr. Dona Matthews, Director of the Hunter College Center for Gifted Studies & Education and co-author of the book, *Being Smart about Gifted Children — A Guidebook for Parents & Educators*. We will have the special pleasure of having Dr. Matthews join the 8th Grade Parents for an informal reception prior to her talk to the entire PTA at 7 pm. Her topic for the evening will be **"Surviving Your Gifted Child's Adolescence."** Please join us for what promises to be a fascinating evening.

Interested Parents Needed: 9th Grade Reps and a PTA Corresponding Secretary are needed for the 2005-06 school year. Are you looking for a way to get to know more HCHS families, feel more connected and make sure that your voice and those of other parents are heard? VOLUNTEER! If you are interested in serving as 9th Grade Rep or PTA Corresponding Secretary, please contact Sezelle Haddon, Chair of the Nominating Committee and current 7/8 Grade President at sezscreen@aol.com, or contact Leslie (lbsolomon5@aol.com) or Vicki (vpapadeas@earthlink.net).

Note new email address for Vicki: Please note that Vicki Papadeas' email address has been changed to vpapadeas@earthlink.net. Please direct any questions or correspondence for Vicki to this new address.

— *Leslie Brooks Solomon* (lbsolomon5@aol.com)
Vicki Papadeas (vpapadeas@earthlink.net)

9th Grade News

We need volunteers to help with a telephone tree. The PTA has asked us to establish a tree, to use only in the event of a real emergency, so this will not require a lot of time, but is vitally important to our children's safety. We need 24 tree leaders; each will be notified by one of us (your Grade Reps), and will in turn make approximately 10 calls. Please be in touch ASAP if you are willing to help with this. Thanks so much.

— *Evelyn Laufer (William)*, attiaev@pi.cpmc.columbia.edu
Erika Moore (Hal), ekmwttw@aol.com
Mary White (Steven), marywhite@gmail.com
Wendy Zhang (Dean Guo), wzhang4@nyc.rr.com

10th Grade News

Fundraising: February and March were busy months for 10th grade fundraising. Along with 10th grade term council president, Qianqian Lin, the force behind the 10th grade fundraising effort following the tragedy of the tsunami, the 10th graders raised a total of \$500 toward tsunami relief. The 10th grade was also very creative with their other effort to raise money for their grade: During homeroom on Valentine's Day, lucky students were handed candygrams, which could be a lollipop, candy or a rose with a friendly message, sent by other students. Approximately \$500 was raised through this fun fundraiser which will be used to support 10th grade activities. Another bake sale is planned for April, and a combined 9th/10th grade dance is being discussed for this spring for which expenditures and profits will be split between the two grades.

Grade Issues: In recent term council meetings, 10th grade leadership was part of discussions that focused on a number of issues including the G.O.'s role in the principal search, graffiti problems in the bathrooms and the traditional turning over production of the yearbook to the 10th grade as they begin their move into 11th grade.

Grade Meeting on April 20: If you are interested in more discussion of the above-mentioned issues, as well as other issues, please make note of a very important meeting. On April 20 at 6 pm at HCHS, the 10th grade parents will meet prior to the general PTA meeting at 7 pm. Both 10th grade advisors will be there. We will all finally have a chance to meet, in person (!), our new 10th grade counselor, Hillary Hartman who has jumped right into the thick of things since Dr. Lenny's departure. Irving Kagan, the 10th grade term advisor, is looking forward to meeting 10th grade parents, joining our discussion and answering any questions.

College Process: As we approach the last quarter of the 10th grade, 10th grade parents start to think about the college process and what students can do now to help in the college admissions process. We have been told that the most important things our kids can do now for college are what they are already doing: developing themselves intellectually and personally. In 11th grade, the college process will accelerate, as the students prepare for their first meetings with their college counselor and think further about their interests and strengths.

Earlier in the year, we were invited to a very informative college night along with the 11th grade. This valuable evening highlighted for each grade how to approach entering the college application process. We received information manuals containing, among other things, the all-important timeline to help keep the process manageable. Those manuals are available in the Counseling office and will be reviewed at the April 20 grade meeting. Also, see Ms. Hartman's column below.

As always, please remember to send us updates to your contact information.

—Your 10th grade reps,
Dolores, Jan, Ye and Hillary

A Note from 10th Grade Counselor Hillary Hartman

Recently, there have been a few questions from parents regarding college admission tests and the 5-semester plan. Many students do not take any of these tests during 10th grade. For the most part, if students do decide to take any tests this year, they take the SAT II subject tests in chemistry and/or world history because they will have completed those courses by the end of the year.

If your child is planning to take AP Chemistry in 11th grade, she should wait until next spring to take the SAT II in chemistry in order to be even better prepared. If your child plans to take an SAT II subject test this spring, she should talk to her subject teacher to discuss how prepared she is, find out what amount of independent study will be necessary and review some practice tests in the subject. Please remember that any College Board tests your children take will become part of their permanent record that will be sent to all colleges. It is recommended that they only take tests that they are well prepared for. It is also important to remember that each student's individualized testing plan should be determined by that student's strengths, weaknesses, and personal schedule.

If your children would like to sit down with me to formulate their 5-semester plans, please encourage them to make appointments. My walk-in hours and directions for scheduling an appointment can be found on the door of my office in Room 436. I am also happy to answer any of your questions, so please feel free to call me at 212-860-1272.

I have enjoyed meeting and speaking with many 10th grade parents already and look forward to seeing many of you at the April 20 10th grade parent meeting.

—Best,

Hillary Hartman, 10th grade Counselor

11th Grade News

11th Grade Semi-Formal is Friday, April 15, at the Crane Club.

Any questions, contact Karen Soren (Peña), ks23@columbia.edu.

Next **SAT I and SAT II** (subject) administration: Saturday, May 7. For the June 4 SAT I and II, register by April 29.

GRADE & SCHOOL NEWS

12th Grade News

As we near the end of Senior Year, there are some dates and activities we should remember:

June 1 CAAP Graduation Party

June 9 Senior Prom

June 10 Senior Breakfast

June 23 Graduation

You will be hearing shortly about the senior gift. As mentioned earlier, the cost will be \$105. Information will be going out shortly. Watch for emails on these events.

Note: The May 5 Potluck is Cancelled.

Online Shopping Supports Hunter

Hunter is missing out on an easy way to earn extra money for the PTA because so many of us are not logging onto www.schoolpop.com before shopping online. Last quarter, fewer than 20 families used schoolpop before shopping online! Before making ANY online purchases visit www.schoolpop.com and select from over 300 well-known merchants then shop as you normally would. Stores include Dell, Staples, Gap, Barnes & Noble and hundreds more. It takes just a minute, costs you nothing extra and whenever you make a purchase using the www.schoolpop.com link Hunter earns a commission.

HELP STILL WANTED FOR THE SPRING BENEFIT AND AUCTION

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chance to win a Sony 42" Plasma Flat Panel TV in our super raffle.

There are many ways you can support this event.

Purchase a ticket and join the festivities: Your presence at this event will help Hunter financially, while you enjoy a great meal and entertainment. By purchasing your tickets in advance, you will help us in planning for the evening. You can wait for your invitation, or complete and return the response card printed in this issue of *Hilites*. (*Please Note: Tickets purchased for this event will not be mailed. Ticket holders' names will be available on a list at the door.*)

Purchase Raffle tickets: Enter our raffle and win a Plasma Flat Panel TV. Tickets are \$25 each or 5 for \$100.

Volunteer your time: We need volunteers to work the day and evening of the event. Contact other parents from your grade and volunteer as a group to work on one aspect of the Spring Benefit. This is a great way to meet other parents and help Hunter at the same time.

Donations: Make a personal donation, or solicit donations from friends, family, business associates and local merchants. A donation form, as well as a solicitation letter, can be printed from the Hunter website <http://www.hunterpta.org/benefit.htm>,

or email me and I will forward a donation form that you can complete and email back to me – it only takes a minute! You can also use the donation form printed in this issue of *Hilites*. All donations are needed as soon as possible to be included in the auction catalogue.

Any donation that fits in a small envelope can be mailed to HCHS or brought to Room 240, the office of Sonya Mosco, Assistant Principal for Student Affairs. Larger items (or any donation) can be dropped off at my office, Millennium Collection Ltd., 150 West 25th Street, 7th Floor, Monday through Friday between 10 am and 4 pm. We can also make arrangements to pick up your donation. Please call or email me.

The Spring Benefit is a wonderful opportunity to come together as a community, to have fun, meet new and interesting people and celebrate Hunter and its students. Plan on joining us for an important and fun-filled evening on May 19.

Contact me at mbecerra@millenniumcollectionltd.com or 212/242-4877. I look forward to hearing from you.

NOMINEES FOR 2005-06 PTA BOARD

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office. Child's grade as of 9/05 is in parentheses after each name.

President: Jim Essey (9)

1st VP (Fundraising): Mark Schneider (12)

2nd VP (Internal Affairs): Peggy Edelson (10, 7)

3rd VP (External Affairs): Maureen O'Connor (9)

Treasurer: Louis Goldring (9); *Assistant:* Qiang Li(8)

Recording Secretary: Pam Fuchs (10)

Corresponding Secretary: Open

At Large:

7/8: Janet Kraus (8); *Assistant:* Audrey Korelstein (7)

9/10: Molly Warner (9); *Assistant:* Susan Na (10)

11/12: Hillary Weisman (11)

Communications: Ana Ignat (12)

Administrative: Julia Whitehead (8)

Student Affairs: Phillip Riese (9)

Please note that in order to provide assistance to certain board members and better continuity for the future, we have added a non-elected, non-voting "assistant" position this year. This new addition allows parents who have limited time or are unable to come to Board meetings to get more involved, alleviate some of the demands on the board, and possibly assume leadership positions in the future.

The Nominating Committee

Sezelle Haddon (chair): 347-680-7085, sezscreen@aol.com

Karen Adler: 212-724-9523, KSA@aol.com

Jan Fogel: 718-638-5458, pjazz1@earthlink.net

Ye Cheng: 718-793-8762, cheng19@msn.com

Sanghee Kim: 718-423-2548, Shkim1211@aol.com

Student Edition

by Amanda DiSanto

While waiting to pay for my final installment of Advanced Placement study guides in my not-so-local Barnes & Noble over spring break, I came across a book called *New York City's Best Public High Schools: A Parents' Guide*. Naturally, I first looked for Hunter, which often isn't listed in high school guides, as we start in seventh instead of ninth grade. Surprisingly, Hunter was listed. So was Stuyvesant. I found both articles to be strange assessments of the schools. Stuyvesant was portrayed as a competitive, rigorous environment where students were still caring enough to decorate one another's lockers on birthdays. Hunter was described as an almost stifling, highly intellectual environment in a graffiti-infested building.

While Hunter, like any other high school, has its flaws, I couldn't help but feel slighted by this supposedly unbiased article. Quotes from students and parents definitely conveyed Hunter's academic strength and focus on writing, but the overall image of Hunter was skewed. No writer outside of Hunter, or in Hunter for that matter, can adequately convey the essence of the school in a page or less, but the article made me wonder how much of Hunter's faulty reputation comes from a mere lack of knowledge and how much stems from a biased view of our school. Either way, I've begun to see the goals of Hunter misunderstood more frequently lately, and wonder how this will affect the school in the future.

At a recent college orientation, I spoke to a mother whose son attended elementary school with me. We got onto the subject of Hunter, and I mentioned that one of the things I loved about the school was the intimate class size. The mother, whose school affiliation shall remain nameless, promptly accused me of being spoiled and assured me that her son found his classes of 30-plus students to be a whirlpool of intellectual ideas. Classes of 30 are only a problem, she told me, if the students are not up to par. Lately, I've encountered several mothers of my friends who deride Hunter at every opportunity and take a sort of sadistic pleasure in obsessively following Hunter statistics and trying to prove that not every Hunter student is Yale- or Harvard-worthy.

Ideas like these insult not only Hunter but my own pride in my academic accomplishment. I resent that many people seem to view our school as an elite sort of private school housed in a miserable building and ignore the fact that students from all economic classes often travel more than an hour each way to come here. I feel that perhaps my non-Hunter friends' parents (and even many of my non-Hunter friends) assume that at Hunter, opportunities are given to the students, while at regular high schools the students have to work to prove themselves, which is a ridiculous view of Hunter and demeans students' accomplishments.

While Hunter is at times a fierce place, I am beginning to feel that a large part of the standardized test craze and college mania comes not from Hunter students' competition with each other, but rather from the desire to prove themselves to outsiders and justify their decision to spend six years at a brick prison on the Upper East Side. As Hunter students, we probably do have something to prove to ourselves and to the community, even if it's the mere assertion that we aren't always reading Nietzsche and can decorate lockers as well as the most social of schools.

HUNTER COLLEGE HIGH SCHOOL



Name(s) _____

Address _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Student's Name and Class _____

Telephone _____

Email address _____

I would like to purchase:

_____ Tickets @ \$40.00 each in advance (\$50 at the door) \$ _____

_____ Tickets @ \$40.00 each to pay for a teacher to attend the event \$ _____

_____ Raffle Tickets @ \$25.00 each/5 for \$100.00 Buy a Raffle Ticket for a Sony 42" Plasma Flat Panel TV! \$ _____

Please accept my cash donation of \$ _____

Total amount: \$ _____

Check is enclosed (please make checks payable to: HCHS PTA)

Please charge my credit card

Amex Visa Mastercard Discover

Card Number _____ Expiration Date _____

Card Holder Name _____

Billing Address _____

Billing Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Signature _____ Date _____

Please send a PDF file of the auction catalogue to the above email address prior to the auction

Kindly respond by May 6, 2005

Mail to:

Maureen O'Connor
39 East 2nd Street
Brooklyn, NY 11218



Spring Benefit & Auction

SPRING BENEFIT
HUNTER COLLEGE HIGH SCHOOL
71 EAST 94TH STREET NY NY 10128

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PLEASE COMPLETE THIS FORM FOR **EACH** ITEM THAT YOU ARE DONATING AND RETURN IT TO HCHS AT THE ABOVE ADDRESS OR FAX TO 212.645.4993
PLEASE RETURN ON OR BEFORE APRIL 22, 2005.

PLEASE TYPE OR PRINT CLEARLY (ATTACH A BUSINESS CARD IF APPLICABLE)

ITEM INFORMATION

ITEM	ESTIMATED VALUE \$
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RESTRICTIONS OR INSTRUCTIONS	
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EXPIRATION DATE <i>(UNLESS OTHERWISE STATED, VALID FOR ONE YEAR FROM DATE OF BENEFIT)</i>	
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DONOR AND HUNTER CONTACT INFORMATION

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OFFICE USE ONLY: TRACKING #: ____ CATEGORY: ____ RECEIVED: ____ ACKNOWLEDGED: ____.

CALENDAR HILITES

April

April 14, 15, 16	Classical Theater	
April 15	Junior Semi-Formal	
April 18	Fundraising Committee Meeting	6:30 pm
April 19	Health Fair	
April 20	Grade 10 Meeting	6:00 pm
	CAAP Meeting	6:00 pm
	PTA Meeting	7:00 pm
April 21	JCAC Performance	
	Report Cards distributed to Students	
April 22	April Holiday	School closed
April 25	Religious Holiday	School closed
April 27	Half Day	Periods 1-4
	Parent-Teacher Conferences	1:00-3:00/5:00-7:00 pm
	G.O. Candidate Bake Sale	
April 29	Registration Deadline for June SAT	

May

May 2-13	AP Exams	
May 2	College Fair at UNIS	4:30-6:30 pm
May 3	PTA Executive Board Meeting	6:00 pm
May 4	Half Day	Periods 5-8
	Math & Foreign Language Placement Exam for Incoming Grade 7	
May 5-6	Grade 7 Taconic Trip 1	
May 7	SAT I and II	
May 10	Computer Advisory Committee	7:30 am
	Grade Rep/Student Issues Meeting	6:00 pm
May 12-13	Grade 7 Taconic Trip 2	
May 16	HSP Lunch	
May 17	Arts Day	
May 19	Spring Benefit	6:00 pm
May 19-20	Grade 7 Taconic Trip 3	
May 22-25	Washington Seminar	
May 23	HOLA Performance	
May 25	9th Grade Meeting	6:00 pm
	CAAP Meeting	6:00 pm
	PTA Meeting	7:00 pm
May 30	Memorial Day	School closed