



THE EAGLE'S NEST Administrative Parent Newsletter



HOME OF THE BALD EAGLES

AMERICAN HISTORY HIGH

A Note From the Principal

It's hard to believe the 2011-2012 school year is upon us. I'd like to welcome everyone back to what will prove to be a historic and successful year. Academic life at American History High School continues to improve as we remain committed to our mission, "all students obtain the social and academic skills needed to attend and graduate from an institution of higher learning."

To this end, we have introduced new Advanced Placement and Honors Courses in addition to Career Academies aimed at exposing all students to 21st Century College and Career Readiness Standards. For more information on course offerings please refer to our new, *Courses of Study Handbook*.

The purpose of the Quarterly Parent Newsletter is

to keep you informed about our school's accomplishments, challenges, and initiatives. In this edition you will find success stories from the 2010-2011 school year while receiving pertinent information about school uniforms, lunch applications and important September dates.

You will also discover that our school was one of 4 chosen nationally to appear on the Discovery Channel as we will host a panel discussion about the tragic events that occurred on September 11, 2001, a day that altered the course of American History.

I am pleased to announce that *American History High School is ranked #6* amongst the Top 100 Public High Schools in the State of New Jersey. This ranking appeared in September's edition of, "Inside New Jersey" and was based on student achievement on the HSPA. District Factor Groups were ranked to en-

sure students were compared with like populations. While our ranking is impressive it was based on the Class of 2011's achievement on the HSPA. As you may know, the Class of 2012 outperformed the Class of 2011 on the HSPA increasing passing rates in both Math and Literacy by 10% with the same level of increase for students scoring Advanced Proficient. We look forward to being ranked higher as a result of their achievement.

We are truly looking forward to a majestic year and remain confident the legacy our students leave for those who follow in their path will be one not engraved in stone monuments, instead, woven into the lives of others. "Our story" will continue to inspire others to dream more, learn more, do more, and become more as we make and live "History"



A. Robert Gregory
Principal

because we are it.

We hope you enjoy our first edition of the Eagle's Nest, our administrative parent newsletter and look forward to seeing you at Back to School Night on September 22, 2011.

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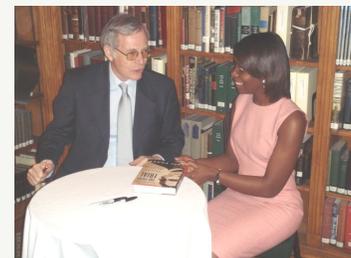
A.H.H.S STUDENT WINS 2nd PLACE IN NATIONAL CIVIL WAR ESSAY WRITING CONTEST

When Martina Harris learned about the annual Gilder Lehrman Civil War Essay Contest, she didn't groan at the thought of spending hours in the library conducting research or the prospects of countless revisions of her writing. Instead, she registered for the fall *Civil War Seminar and Writing Workshop* sponsored by the Department of History, Rutgers University, and the Institute on Ethnicity, Culture, and the Modern Experience in Partnership

with the Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History.

Every Wednesday after school she would meet Mr. Andrew Clark, an experienced history teacher from Bridgewater-Raritan High School, along with students from Arts and East Side High School in the Media Center at American History High School. Mr. Clark carefully selected Civil War secondary readings as well as primary source work from the Gilder Lehrman archive to provoke interest and generate discussions.

Mr. Clark and the students met from October 2010 through December 2010,



Martina Harris, sophomore at American History High School, pictured with the 2011 Lincoln Prize Winner, Eric Foner, during the book signing during the Awards Dinner on May 11, 2011.



HARRIS WINS 2nd PLACE IN CIVIL WAR ESSAY CONTEST (con't pg. 1)



The 2011 winners of the Civil War Essay Contest, co-sponsored by the Civil War Round Table of New York and the Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History, pictured with prominent historian Eric Foner, in the Library at The Union League Club prior to the Awards Dinner on May 11, 2011.

THOUSANDS OF HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS ACROSS THE NATION SUBMITTED ESSAYS FOR CONSIDERATION, BUT MARTINA WAS THE ONLY STUDENT FROM NEW JERSEY RECOGNIZED IN THE TOP-THREE PRIZES.

but Martina arranged to meet with staff from the Institute, and Mr. Clark in Conklin Hall on the Rutgers University-Newark campus well after the seminar ended. Martina, a sophomore at American History High School, became a fixture at the Dana Library on the Rutgers Newark campus.

At school the next day, she would greet her United States History I teacher, Mr. Gregory P. Nikitin, before school and ask if he got her most recent email. Mr. Nikitin would read countless drafts and offered suggested readings, which included

famed Civil War historian Eric Foner's writings.

With the deadline for submitting her entry looming in late February 2011, American History High School was notified that Mr. Danny Balaban, a student in the Rutgers Graduate School of Education on the New Brunswick and a graduate assistant with the Rutgers Newark Office of University-Campus Partnerships would be available every Friday to tutor our students. Once again, the valuable partnerships with Rutgers University and the Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History would offer our students academic support. Arrangements were made for Martina and Mr. Balaban to finalize her essay entitled "Masqueraded History". Martina's determination and academic support from educators paid off since Martina was awarded Second Prize in the 2011 Civil War Essay Contest, along with \$750.

She and her family were treated to an all expensed paid trip to New York City for a private tour of the Gilder Lehrman Collection at the New-York Historical Society and the Awards Dinner on May 11, 2011 at the Union League Club. Martina made history herself, as she became the first American History High School stu-

dent to win the Civil War Essay Contest.

Thousands of high school students across the nation submitted essays for consideration, but Martina was the only student from New Jersey recognized in the top-three prizes. Students must identify a topic, conduct research using primary and secondary sources, document their sources in footnotes/parenthetical notations and a bibliography, develop a thesis statement, and write clear, cogent essay of no less than 1,500 words.

Martina's success has generated a great deal of interest in the Civil War Essay contest amongst her peers with several students planning to submit entries next year. They will have steep competition since Martina is already working on possible topics for next year. More importantly, the award has ushered in a series of contacts with prominent professors from prestigious colleges throughout the country for Martina. She has received scholarship offers, as well as suggested readings from generous professors who appreciate her enthusiasm and love of history.

AHHS DEBATERS AND COACH MAKE HISTORY

On Thursday May 19, 2011 Newark celebrated its win as NAUDL Champions in a Press Conference held at the Rotunda of City Hall. Many notables were in attendance to recognize students from University High School and American History High School.

The press conference's Mistress of Ceremonies was Marion Bolden, former superintendent of the Newark Public Schools. During her tenure, debate became a driving force in the city schools. Following the press conference both teams along with their families and school officials were honored at a reception held at Rutgers University themed, "Made in Newark." During the reception notable city figures equated the performance of our debaters to other historic accomplishments in the city of Newark. Our very own juniors, Jazir Beckford and Quamir Johnson, placed

5th in the National Competition. They were the only juniors to make it to the quarterfinals where they were defeated in a 2-1 decision to Metropolitan Corporate Academy. University High School eventually beat Metropolitan Corporate Academy for the National Title largely due to the coaching they received from Jazir and Quamir whose efforts portray the level of consciousness and commitment to excellence that define American History High School students.

Our debate team's success is quite an accomplishment as our team is only 4 years old. Both Jazir Beckford and Quamir Johnson are believed to be courted by some of the nation's most powerful collegiate debate teams, including Stanford University. In addition to our debaters being honored, our debate coach, Celia Laricchia was named



A.H.H.S. Debaters recognized at City Hall

Coach of the Year. As coach of the year Ms. Laricchia was recognized for her unwavering time and level of commitment to the debate program at American History High despite not having a high school or collegiate debate experience of her own. It should also be noted that Ms. Laricchia has established the second largest debate program in the city of Newark in just 3 years.

All of our debaters were in summer debate camp on college campuses nation-wide. We are looking forward to a great year in Debate!

Celia Laricchia, JUDL Debate Coach of the Year.



LEADING LADIES PROVING TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE

The **Leading Ladies** of American History High celebrated their 1st year at their Awards Banquet on Saturday, June 12, 2011. Leading Ladies is a club designed to provide teenage girls with the leadership and life skills necessary to become responsible, productive and successful women. The club meets monthly to discuss and participate in activities on topics including self-esteem, healthy relationships, financial planning, appropriate attire and community activism.

At the banquet, the ladies were adorned with butterfly medallions, symbolizing their com-

mitment to remaining a Leading Lady, promoting positive change, producing quality products in any capacity, dressing appropriately at all times, and "leading the world, one lady at a time." Next year, the club seeks to expand its horizons, having more outreach activities and partnerships with the community, increasing its membership, and changing the stereotypes of teenage young women in the city of Newark

For more information or to get involved, contact Ms. Meshele Scipio of American History High.



AHHS Leading Ladies Founder Meshele Scipio with her Ladies.



proud of all of our teams' accom-

PRINCIPAL GREGORY FEATURED ON CAUCUS NJ

If you tuned into NJN or Channel 13 during the month of February you may have noticed our own Principal, Robert Gregory on Caucus New Jersey. Principal Gregory appeared along side other educators in the city of Newark to discuss educational reform in the city of Newark with the Governor, Chris Christie.

This season Caucus New Jersey, a talk show hosted by Steve Aduato Jr., is featuring a series of conversations with Governor Chris Christie. Principal Gregory provided a number of insights but drove home the message that all students, if ex-

pected to perform and achieve at high levels, must have excellent teachers and administrators. Gregory emphasized that quality education plays an essential role in destroying poverty in America.

Also featured on the show was Marshea Alston, CEO of the Newark Charter School Fund, Ivan Lamourt, NPS Advisory Board Member, and Malcolm Terrell, 8th grade Math teacher at George Washington Carver School.

The show has aired multiple times on NJN and PBS. To see future airings log onto to Caucus NJ at

www.njn.net/television/series/caucusnj/.



Principal Gregory seated with Governor Chris Christie and other featured guest.

AHHS TO APPEAR ON THE DISCOVERY CHANNEL

On September 13, 2011 the Discovery Channel will feature students from American History High School in classrooms across the nation as our school was one of 4 schools selected in the country to participate in a panel discussion with heroes, historians, and survivors from the infamous September 11th attacks on the World Trade Center. The Discovery Channel selected American History High School based on a recommendation made by Superintendent Cami Anderson.

Our students will have the opportunity to engage in dialogue with individuals whose

lives were altered by the events on September 11, 2011. While this will prove to be an emotional discussion it is of grave importance that our students understand how the events on September 11th altered the course of our nation's history.

Notable politicians and historians have been invited to the event. Taping will occur from 12:30 P.M.—1:30 P.M. at the school followed by a reception. The discussion will appear in classrooms across the nation.

The Discovery Channel will also host discussions with schools in New York City,

Arlington VA, and Shanksville, PA..

Moderating the discussion at American History High School will be renowned historian, Dr. Clement Alexander Price from Rutgers University. For more information please log onto our Website.



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LEADING LADIES IS A CLUB DESIGNED TO PROVIDE TEENAGE GIRLS WITH THE LEADERSHIP AND LIFE SKILLS NECESSARY TO BECOME RESPONSIBLE, PRODUCTIVE AND SUCCESSFUL WOMEN.



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WE'RE ON THE WEB



www.nps.k12.nj.us/his/site/default.asp

LUNCH APPLICATIONS MUST BE COMPLETED ONLINE

As you may know all parents who have a child in the Newark Public Schools must complete a lunch application annually. Parents, the Newark Public Schools has changed its procedures regarding lunch applications. All parents must log onto to www.school lunchapp.com in order to complete a application for your child. You can log onto the district's website @ www.nps.k12.nj.us and click on the icon that appears below to complete your lunch application. All students will be charged full price for lunch if you have not completed a lunch application. No student will be fed if they do not have money to pay for lunch. Concerned parents should ensure they complete a lunch application online.



<http://www.school lunchapp.com/>

MRS. KERESSE DORCELY GOVERNOR'S TEACHER OF THE YEAR

The class of 2011 was so nice they were #1 twice! This was largely due to their phenomenal advisor and our Vocal Music Teacher, Mrs. Keresse Dorcely. She made sure that the Senior class of 2011 had a year like no other.

vice for living well by the illustrious Mikki Taylor of Essence magazine who was the keynote speaker at their commencement ceremony.

These were just the major events! Mrs. Dorcely went so far above

Her commitment to excellence did not begin or end with her class advisor duties. The students in her vocal music classes demonstrate her work ethic in their concerts, the songs they write and the videos they make.

**IMPORTANT DATES
SEPTEMBER 2011**

FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL	9/6
9/11 DISCOVERY CHANNEL TAPING	9/13
PTSA MEETING	9/15
SCHOOL FORMS DUE	9/16
BACK TO SCHOOL NIGHT	9/22
LUNCH APPLICATIONS DUE	9/22

The Seniors were well dressed in their "I'm a Leader, Follow Me" & the HIStory/HERstory t-shirts. They were well travelled after their class trip to the Baltimore Harbor. They were well fed at their October Senior Luncheon and again at their Senior Awards Banquet where they were also acknowledged for doing well socially and academically.

They were well spoken at their Senior Farewell Assembly and they were treated exceptionally well at their prom where they all looked stunning and were enchanted by the "Midnight in Paris" theme.

Finally, they were given great ad-



*Keresse Dorcely
AHHS' Teacher of the Year*

and beyond the call of the duty for the Class of 2011 that all class advisors in the future have tough shoes to fill but a great blueprint to follow.

She is a distinguished teacher who also wrote our school's Alma Mater in addition to ensuring every child who walks through her vocal music class has an appreciation for music history and theory while engaging in the authentic work of vocal musicians.

It is this work ethic that made Mrs. Keresse Dorcely the American History High School's recipient of the 2011 Governor's Teacher Recognition award. Mrs. Dorcely is an example of what great teachers do differently. Congratulations Mrs. Dorcely for doing an exceptional job!

**SCHOOL UNIFORMS
ARE MANDATORY !!**

Female Uniform Description

- * Khaki Skirts, Skorts, & Pants
- * Red, White, or Blue Long or Short Sleeve Polo Shirt
- * Navy Blue Blazer

Boys Uniform Description

- * Khaki Pants
- * Red, White, or Blue Long or Short Sleeve Polo Shirt
- * Navy Blue Blazer



UNIFORMS ARE AVAILABLE AT KIDS PLACE: 311 Ferry St. in Newark NJ and 126 Broad St. in Elizabeth NJ or School Uniformity in Belleville

