

VOLTAGE

Science Park High School

260 Norfolk Street, Newark, NJ 07103

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Parent Profile: PTSA President Ms. Crawford by Philann White



We have all certainly heard her during the morning announcements.

Ms. Crawford has been a part of the Science Park High School community since the early 2000s. She started her participation in Newark Public Schools because of her daughter but continued because this community became her family.

When the P.T.A. was first formed, Ms. Crawford was voted as the president by majority vote in 2006. She served for two terms of two years each until she stepped down and the first ever male president was chosen.

Even when she was not president, Ms. Crawford did not stop her work as a member in the P.T.A.

Instead, she became part of the fundraising committee and continued working for the students. A few years later, she was offered the president's seat due to unforeseen circumstances of the acting president. The fact that everyone acknowledged her ability and love for the school touched Ms. Crawford, and she was extremely honored.

Ms. Crawford has the utmost respect for Science Park and its students. To her, Science Park is a family school, and she considers herself a true Charger. It's not her job to tell students what they should do or the choices they should make, but rather she feels as if she is there to give advice and wisdom, to pass on her knowledge.

Just by listening to her talk about the students, you can tell that she honestly cares about them. To all students, she says, "You open the door, you make the decisions to walk through that door, and I am here to help you." She believes in every student and wants to see everyone's Charger spirit.

The P.T.A. has been very busy this year, starting the school store and organizing the Boston Cake Sale. Everything that it does is for the benefit of the students and the school. All the money goes toward the students, for the P.T.A. does not profit from it. For instance, every year the P.T.A. tries to award scholarships to a number of students and as it fundraises and plans, it will be able to expand its scholarship program to include more students and a greater amount of money to each student.

Future fundraisers that it has planned include the sale of chocolate roses in February and the continuation of the school store. The goal of the P.T.A. is to raise enough money to help support the senior class with its dues and to lessen the financial burden placed on the parents of seniors.

Movie Review: Big Hero 6

by Philann White

Big Hero 6 is an action-packed animated adaptation of the same-titled superhero comic that's likely to attract those who are already fans of the Marvel universe. The movie is an unconventional origin story that focuses on the power of brotherhood, friendship, and using your gifts, in this case your genius, to help others.

Set in a futuristic universe combining San Francisco with technologically advanced Tokyo, the world is full of fighting robots and teleportation.

The story begins with a typical 14-year-old boy named Hero Hamada who is anything but average. He is, in fact, a genius who has already graduated high school, yet has no ambition to do anything else in his life. It takes his older brother Tadashi to inspire him to do something great and allow him to meet new friends and future fellow superheroes.

But as soon as Hero accomplishes his dream, tragedy strikes and Hero is left to pick up the pieces. His passion is gone and now only revenge and anger take its place. It takes the puffy robot Baymax to help heal the hurt that plagues him. Between boy and machine a bond develops and allows Hero to find the will to not only live but to fight back.

Hero does what every kid dreams of: he becomes a superhero, fighting bad guys and forming his own team. Now Hero embarks on a journey to find solace in the face of tragedy and eventually peace.

Hero's drive to seek revenge begins to warp his actions, leading him to turn a personal healthcare companion into a rampaging robot.

Viewers are now left to wonder what actually makes a boy and what makes a machine when it is Baymax who was designed to heal not hurt, and Hero who is overriding everything his brother set out to accomplish.

But like any good friend, Baymax won't give up on Hero and shows him what Tadashi had always dreamed of: a world where robots could help people and care for them.

His moral code influences other characters in positive ways and leads to Hero developing a better understanding of his brother and what it means to be a friend.

What really pulls the whole movie together are the graphics and design. Animation comes to life on screen with the detailed drawings and almost life like actions of the characters.

The story is brought full circle by the character development and their almost life like reactions throughout the film.

Even though this movie is for the younger generation it is easy for anyone to enjoy it because of the combination of grief, comedy, action, and adventure that come together to give viewers a heart warming story of finding your true self and embracing all of life's challenges.



Meet the Voltage Executive Council



VOLTAGE

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Club Profile: Games with Mr. Buonadonna

by Sofia Amorim

After school, the halls become empty and quiet, but by the second floor atrium, the faint smell of popcorn catches your senses. You follow it to room 235, and see Mr. Buonadonna walking around and students standing around desks or raising their arms in victory.

This is what happens every Thursday in the Chess and Gaming Club.

Board games teach you a lot about yourself and your friends; I learned this very valuable lesson from a very intense and friendship-threatening game of monopoly with my best friends last year. The idea for this club came from Mr. Buonadonna himself, thinking back to his high school days and how he would love to have had a club like this where every kid has a safe place to hang out after school.

The intellectual competition in a game of chess, the finesse of Jenga, even the simple patience needed to play Dungeons and Dragons--all of these things make make this club worthwhile for Mr. Buonadonna.

The club is still pretty small as a lot of the same kids show up every week, but when new students stroll in, even if it is initially just for the popcorn, they quickly get wrapped up in the competitive spirit of the room and start to play a game or two.

It's a club where you can have casual fun and some friendly competition.

However, there is one thing that Mr. Buonadonna has taken away from this new club: namely that "Board game pieces roll very far on school floors."



Science Park



Mr. Alston for Winning the Coach of the Year Award for Debate

Dr. Allgood and Mr. McMiller for Running the Holiday Concert

Mr. Schwartz for Setting up the Comedy Show

Mr. Gironda and N.H.S. for Organizing the Toy Drive

Sunhee Simon for Being Selected to the USA National Debate Team

The P.T.A. and Mrs. Gaylord for Organizing the Food/Clothing Drive

All the Seniors Who Have Already Been Accepted into College

Staff Profile: Coach Malik by Ines Borralho

When it comes to dedicating one's time and efforts in order to instill a positive mindset in the ever-changing minds of our youth, coach Malik's work ethic and habits certainly surpass those of most people.

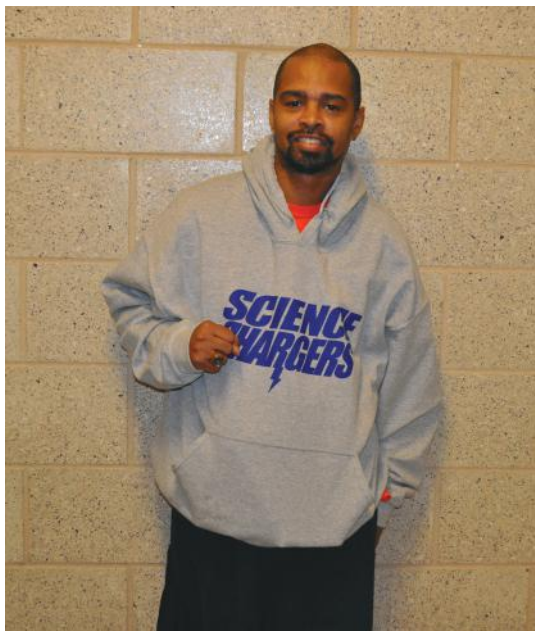
An alumnus of Science Park, he takes great pride in coaching the Boys Basketball team.

A product of his childhood, his passion for basketball is seemingly comparable to "a first girlfriend," he good-spiritedly claims.

It was in 1987-1988 after coach Malik had graduated from Rutgers University (Newark) that he had volunteered as a coach.

Since then, he has pursued this career at Science Park as well as "J" Crew Youth Program, where he coached children ranging from five-years of age to college-level. "I'm a stickler for perfection.

Some people say 'there's no such thing as perfection.' But that's not true," Coach Malik stated.



Aside from that, however, his extended knowledge and love for the sport alone easily entitle him to such a position.

When asked what his expectations were for the 2014-2015 SPHS Boys Basketball season, coach responded: "If you play an entire game without a missed shot, that's a perfect game. If you play an entire game where you defend every shot, that's a perfect game. My guys have to strive for perfection."

He also shared the following: "The most important thing is repetition—constant repetition and hard work. The result is perfection. You learn how to make mistakes and then you learn how to not make them. That's perfection."

With a mentor and motivator like Coach Malik, it is safe to expect a successful, record-breaking season for the SPHS Boys Basketball team!

Student Profile: Irina Acha by Sofia Amorim

Irina's friendly smile is a familiar face in the hallways, and she never hesitates to greet you personally and with a genuine smile. I've had the pleasure of sharing classes with her throughout our years here at Science Park High School, and have been lucky enough to get to know her. Irina embodies all the valued traits of a Science Park Student: well-rounded, intelligent, ambitious, courteous and respectful.

She is one of the most gifted and intelligent students in the Senior class, but just like everyone else, she struggled with some classes, especially PreCalculus. Math can be challenging for a lot of students, but she suggests that the best way to get through it is to get help, "The only possible way to get through them is studying and practicing, practicing, practicing until you are sure that you've got all the concepts down. Another very important thing that was helpful in getting me through these classes was looking for help, sometimes that's all you really need. A little help from a teacher or a friend on a concept that you don't understand can go a long way."

Her overall performance in school has been quite remarkable, being both a member of the National Honor Society, Spanish and Portuguese Honor Society, and the Science Honor Society. She still maintains her good grades, even during her hectic Senior year, with "a lot on her plate," but is optimistic that soon everything will settle down. Irina is looking to study Biology in order to become a Physician's Assistant, a job that would suit her given her friendly demeanor. She has recently been accepted into Rutgers University, her current dream school. Even though, come June, she'll be receiving her diploma, she encourages the rest of Science Park High School to work hard, and enjoy themselves in their remaining time here at Science Park:

"Go along the lines of work hard but don't forget to enjoy yourself along the way, or in other words don't let the stress consume you. You don't want to regret not being a part of the high school experience in your future. Always strive for success and all the while strive for happiness too."

