

411 on the S.A.R.S.

Volume 1, Issue 1

"All the News That Fits, We Print"

April 2014

Renewing Our Playground

By Alexia Bradshaw, Shaquai Henry, Jhoanna Jerez, Arnold Martinez and Josue Rivas

Sussex Renew's schoolyard is set to be rejuvenated into a multi-use playground – including a butterfly/sensory garden, a vegetable garden and an outdoor classroom/performance area – thanks to \$1 million in contributions from area organizations.

The project, due to be completed by the start of the new school year in September, is being funded through a partnership between the Trust for Public Land's Parks for People-Newark program and Congregation Ahavas Sholom, Newark's oldest active synagogue.

"I am very excited about the construction of the playground," Ms. Gearhart, Sussex Renew principal, said. "It is extremely important that students have a safe place to play and that each and every student has access to a playground."

Work on the playground will begin this spring and will leave the schoolyard inaccessible to students until completed.

"During construction, we will not be able to use the recess area but when finished, the facility will be open to the entire school community," Ms. Gearhart said.

Students were thrilled at the prospect of all the potential uses of the new playground which will have separate sections for primary wing and older children. Highlights include two age-appropriate painted tracks and playground sets, a practice basketball court, game tables, a rain garden and an analemmatic sun clock.

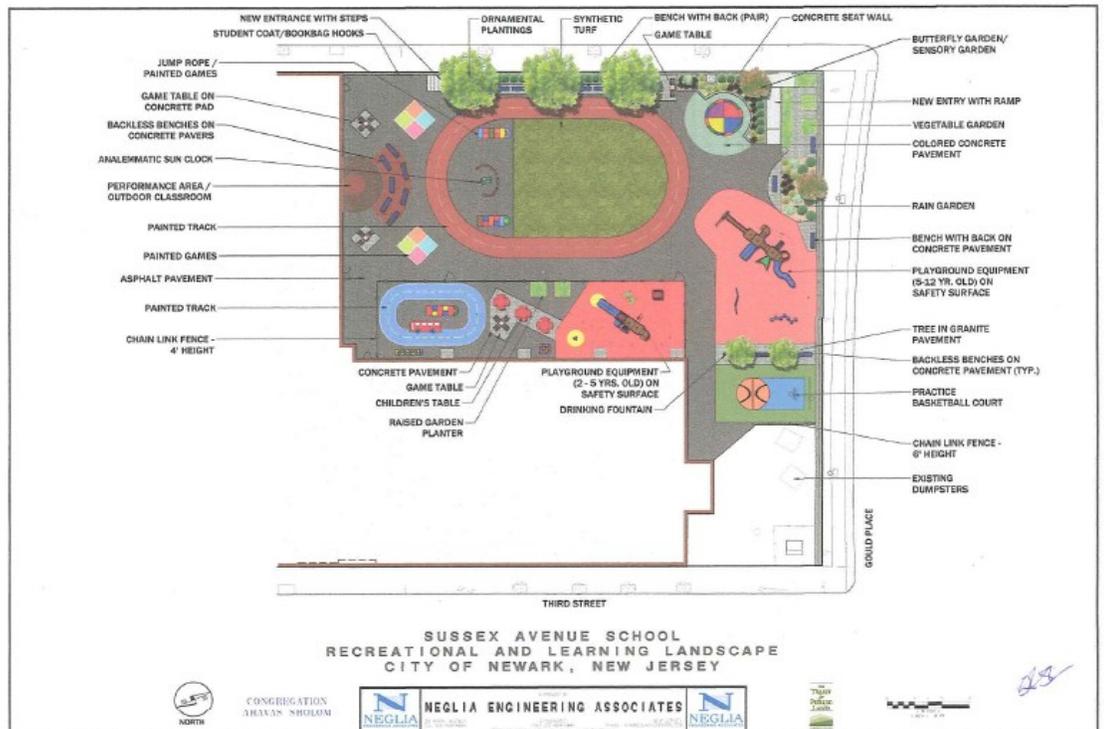
"I think it will be fun," Al-gernon Bhoomz (1-P8) said.

"It will be exciting, fun and awesome," Nallely Diaz (5-301) agreed.



Principal Gearhart

Public funding for the project is being provided by NJDEP's Green Acres Program and Newark's Community Development Block Grant Program, according to Essex News Daily.



SG President Reflects on Term; Suggests Longer School Day

By Kenia Rivas

Like President Barack Obama, Sussex Renew's Student Government President Ellis Brown is on the tail end of his two terms in office. Ellis is set to graduate in June and sat with *411 on the S.A.R.S.* to discuss his presidency and the state of the school.

"We should have a longer school day so students have the opportunity to participate in more programs," Ellis said. "Kids will like the idea."

But not everyone agreed with Ellis' assessment.

"I don't think other kids will like the idea," Sherlyn Santana (5-300) said. "We can learn more if we get a test, but it's not okay for us because we need to have a break to go home and lay down."

"If you make it too long then that's going overboard," Tamiyah

Dock (5-301) added.

Tamiyah's classmate Mar-caylah Thomas offered a different perspective.

"Some people aren't focused on school," Mar-caylah said. "If we stay longer, that will make our brains function on the right path."

President Brown's other proposals weren't as controversial.

"I want to hold a Teacher Appreciation Day and a Student Fun Day," he said. "I want students to have fun while learning to appreciate their education and the great things teachers do for them."

Ellis also said he wants to help our community with the school clothing drive "because there are people who need clothes on their backs and need support."



SG President Ellis Brown

The president ended by stating he felt like he accomplished everything he wanted to during his time in office and revealed his personal goals.

"My plan for the future is to be a varsity basketball player and play college basketball and be in the NBA," Ellis said. "Or get a degree in law and become a civil rights leader and influence people and help Newark."

411 on the S.A.R.S.

Sussex Avenue Renew School's
First Student Newspaper

Staff:

Carissa Bhoomz, Alexia Bradshaw, Kyirra Fuller, Alterick Hardy, Shaquai Henry, Johanna Jerez, Arnold Martinez, Charisma Middleton, Janari Newsome, Masiyah Perry, Josue Rivas, Kenia Rivas

Faculty Advisors:

*Ms. Marflak
Mr. Ross*

Principal:

Ms. Gearhart

Pow! Bam! Wham! Career Day A Big Hit

By Janari Newsome, Arnold Martinez and Josue Rivas

Sussex Renew students of all ages were treated to a highly successful Career Day fair which received rousing reviews from school and community members alike.

The fair featured professionals from a wide range of careers including doctors, accountants, construction workers, engineers, animal control officers, entertainers, attorneys, educators and a superhero with a *very* souped-up car.

"Our children need to see a variety of career options that they could pursue and get up close and personal with these professionals," Ms. Green, guidance counselor and event organizer, said. "The community also benefited by being able to meet children and educate them, which will create relationships and hopefully

jobs in the future."

Besides presentations in classrooms on all floors of the building, younger students had the opportunity to interact with Batman, firefighters and an ambulance crew in the schoolyard. Batman remained mum on his true identity but rumor had it that he was working closely with the Newark Police Department.

"I liked seeing Batman, the fire truck and the ambulance," Joelys Rojas (K-P9) said.

Joelys and others were excited to check out the Caped Crusader's music-playing Chevy Camaro version of the Batmobile. But that was just one of many highlights.

"My favorite part of Career Day was having the actors speak to us," Aaliyah Harris (5-300) said.

Classmate Nelly Reynoso agreed.

"The actor was funny," Nelly said. "He taught us how to do a fake slap."

"Meeting a cop was my favorite part because he told us what inspired him to be a cop," Jamani Link-Pledger (4-203) said.



"I liked when the dentist told us how to make fake teeth because I could help people who need teeth so they won't get made fun of," Ashley Rodriguez (3-204) said.

Ms. Green was assisted by Jehovah Jirah Outreach liaison Tonya Greene, teachers Mr. Marin and Ms. Pakos, and Marilyn Gaynor, president of the My Block, My Family, My Village community organization.



"The goal of Career Day was to expose and present to students careers and professions that they may never have considered," Ms. Gaynor said. "The more we come together as a community, the stronger everybody is."



Art Education: A Priority at Sussex Renew

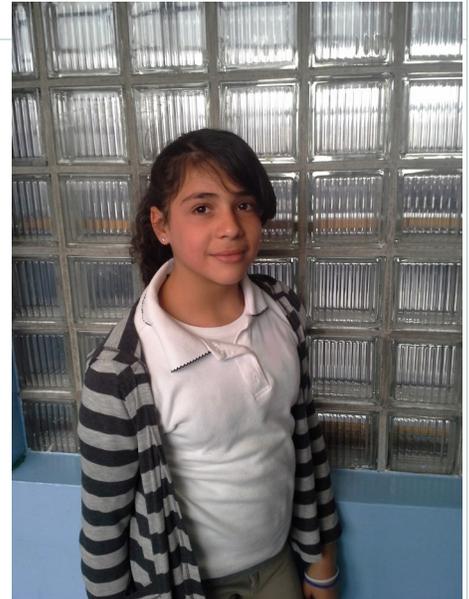
By Kenia Rivas

In some schools across the country, art education is suffering due to "shifting priorities and budget cuts," according to a National Assembly of State Arts Agencies report by Sandra Ruppert, director at the Arts Education Partnership. Despite this, the arts remain a priority at Sussex Avenue Renew School.

Students need art education because it helps them improve in other subjects and reach their goals. Art is a place where students who struggle elsewhere can shine. Involvement in the arts has been shown to increase academic performance in all the subject areas, including math, science, and English.

The arts can help students bring their grades up by expressing what they think and how they feel inside so they start thinking positively. Many students like art class because research has shown "that what students learn in art may help them to master other subjects, such as reading and also math," according to Ruppert's report "Critical Evidence: How the Arts Benefit Student Achievement."

Drama can help literacy by helping students connect letters, words and phrases with sounds, sentences, and meaning. Music helps students understand math by developing the ability to "understand relationships be-



SG Vice President Kenia Rivas

tween objects and ideas in space and time," according to Ruppert. With art education supplementing the general curriculum, student grades may improve.

The arts can help students to improve in "emphasizing active engagement, disciplined and sustained attention, persistence and risk taking, among other competencies," Ruppert suggests.

A student motivated by a well-rounded curriculum which includes art education is less likely to drop out of school.

Art is not just painting and drawing. It is also a place to express your emotions, thoughts, and ideas dramatically, musically, graphically, and many other ways. Art is a very important part of improving grades and motivating students to learn.



Art teacher Nelson Alvarez

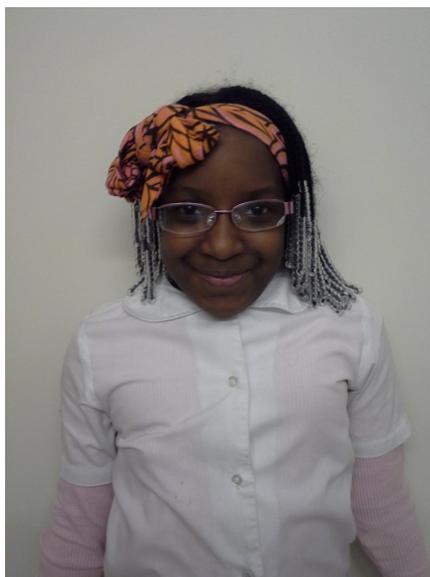
Kids in the Hall Interviews

Question: What would you like to see added to Sussex Renew?



"Better food and more food."

Isaiah Blakewood 2-210



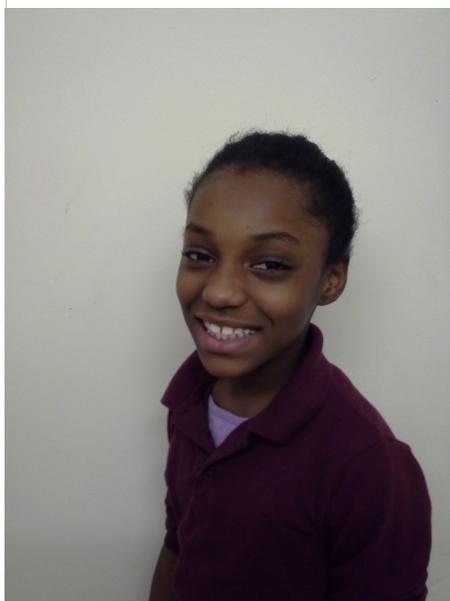
"Jump ropes."

Lamya Jones 4-201



"More work."

Tariq Davis 2-210



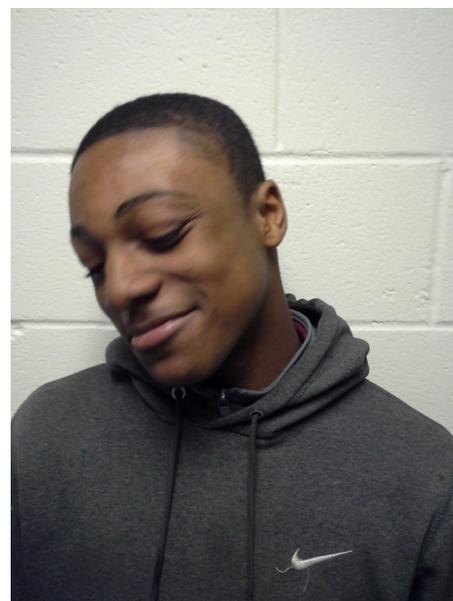
"More math classes."

Tytionna Walker 4-201



"Freshen up the bathrooms."

Yakia Goines 5-300



"An elevator."

Zyhhir Houser 7-306

Horoscopes

By Alterick Hardy

Aries – March 21-April 20 – Lady Gaga, The Undertaker, Ms. Jara – Keep a positive outlook and you will find love where you least expect it.

Taurus – April 21-May 21 – William Shakespeare, Adele, Mr. Alvarez – Grab the bull by the horns. If you wait for results, you might wait forever. The time is now.

Gemini – May 22-June 21 – Kanye West, Carmelo Anthony, Ms. Harris – If you wear your heart on your sleeve, you run the risk of messy sleeves. A little mystery is a good thing.



Kanye West, Gemini

Cancer – June 22-July 22 – Nelson Mandela, Selena Gomez, Ms. Green – Be prepared for anything. Challenges are less intimidating when you are ready for them.

Leo – July 23-August 22 – President Obama, Whitney Houston, Mr. Constantino – You are known for your strong voice. Use it wisely and with compassion.

Virgo – August 23-September 23 – Beyonce, Pink, Mr. Marin – The one you are thinking about is thinking about you but may not be thinking the same thing.

Libra – Sept. 24-Oct. 23 – Lil Wayne, Trey Anastasio, Ms. Cano – Sometimes it is appreciated when you weigh in on a situation, but be intentionally vague. This isn't who it would be if it wasn't who it is.

Scorpio – October 24-November 22 – Lorde, Pele, Ms. Gearhart – You have the right team around you. Now is the time to lead them to peaks they've never known.

Sagittarius – Nov. 23-Dec. 21 – Jay-Z, Taylor Swift, Ms. Pakos –



Taylor Swift, Sagittarius



Alterick Hardy, astrologer

Sometimes you realize all that you have by imagining life with something else.

Capricorn – Dec. 22-Jan. 20 – Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Michelle Obama, Mr. Witt – You are passionate about the important things. Don't forget the little things.

Aquarius – Jan. 21-Feb. 19 – Shakira, Justin Timberlake, Ms. Cunha – Now might not be the time for major changes. Wait until a plan is outlined and it feels right.

Pisces – Feb. 20-March 20 – Queen Latifah, Justin Bieber, Ms. Vecchione – The very moment you think you missed the boat is actually the right time to make your move.

Delgado's Diversity Door Deemed Dutifully Decorated

By Carissa Bhoomz, Alexia Bradshaw, Shaquai Henry, Charisma Middleton, Janari Newsome and Masiyah Perry

Ms. Delgado's second grade class finished first in Sussex Renew's second annual Diversity Door Decoration Contest held in February. The contest celebrates the cultural diversity of Sussex students and staff.

Ms. Fortune's and Ms. Cano's kindergarten classes came in second and third, respectively. Ms. Delgado's door featured a giant box of colorful crayons topped with photos of her students and handwritten acronym poems which spelled out "diversity."

"Even though the crayons have different colors, they all serve the



same purpose," Ms. Delgado (2-210) said in explaining the design's theme. "We are all different cul-

tures but we come to school to learn the same things."

While Ms. Delgado's students were excited to win a popcorn movie party in the Sussex Renew Playhouse Theatre, they also expressed enjoyment of the work itself.

"I enjoyed decorating the door because we got to color and create," My-niyah Little said.

"Diversity is special," Teriq Davis added.

Judges for the contest were Ms. Gearhart, Ms. Jara, Ms. Cottle and Mr. Witt.

Yu Han Ren Wins

By Janari Newsome, Arnold Martinez and Josue Rivas

Second grader Yu Han Ren won the Aspire Higher second quarter school wide drawing. Due to his outstanding positive behavior, and a little bit of luck, Yu Han's Aspire Higher Flyer was randomly selected out of hundreds of tickets earned by hundreds of students.

"My parents were very proud," Yu Han (2-208) said. "I felt good."

Yu Han's teacher, Ms. Vec-

chione, praised her student.

"He is very good," she said. "He stays quiet and does his work."

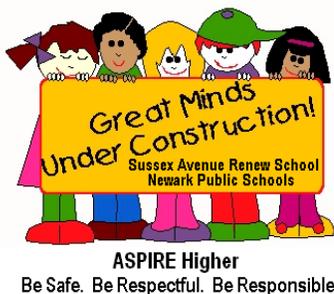
The winning ticket was given to Yu Han by his art teacher Mr. Alvarez.

"Yu Han has shown great motivation in winning tickets," Mr. Alvarez said. "He has been working hard to earn tickets and demonstrates good behavior and self-discipline. In the beginning he wasn't motivated but he turned into a student with high qualities."

The first quarter school wide Aspire Higher winner was Kaytie Zumba (7-308). Kaytie earned the ticket in Ms. Marflak's class.



Yu Han Ren 2-208



Sussex Renew Kids Build Home Libraries

By Kyirra Fuller, Charisma Middleton and Masiyah Perry

Scholastic's "My Very Own Library" book fair continued at Sussex Renew last month as students in all



Azel Bishop

grades selected their fourth, fifth and sixth books for their home collections.

The program gives ten free books a year to every child. Students will complete their home libraries this spring when the book fair returns for its third visit.

"It's awesome that kids get to pick out free books," Ms. Cunha, physical education teacher and book fair coordinator, said. "The selection was nice."

Students were excited to browse hundreds of new books in the gymnasium and the primary wing.

"There are lots of cool books," Elian Fernandez (4-203) said.

His classmate agreed.

"There are action books, horror, drama," Tyshyne McGill said. "You



Chamierra Middleton

have different choices."

Kindergarten teacher Ms. Fortune was thrilled that primary wing students had an opportunity to build their own personal libraries.

"It's wonderful because the children get to read books and bring them home," Ms. Fortune said.

Attention 6th graders!

411 on the S.A.R.S. is looking for talented writers to join our newspaper staff next year!

Speak to Ms. Marflak or Mr. Ross if you are interested in becoming a student news reporter when you begin 7th grade in September.

