

# Second Floor Scoop

## THE SURVEY SAYS...



STUDENTS: You Will Complete Your Survey in School on Tuesday, April 21.

Surveys will be filled out during third period.

THIRD PERIOD TEACHERS: Thank You for Managing Student Surveys.

You will receive Student Surveys in your mailbox, give them to the students in your third period class, collect them at the end of the period, and bring all completed surveys to The Program Office ASAP. Thank you.

PARENTS: Please Submit Your 2009 School Environment Survey.

Our progress report grade depends on your feedback, so be sure to use the School Environment Survey to communicate your feelings about your child's experience at LaGuardia. Parents of future prospective students will benefit from your efforts.

The survey was sent directly to your home. It should be completed and mailed before Friday, April 24 to ensure that it is processed properly.

TEACHERS: Submit Your 2009 School Environment Survey.

The 2009 School Environment Survey will be in your mailbox on Monday, April 6. We strongly encourage you to complete your survey and submit it before the deadline of Friday, April 24.

## FOOD FOR THOUGHT



PARENTS: Your Palate-Pleasing Meal Pleased Pedagogues!

The sustenance that members of the Parents Association provided to educators on Open School Night gave teachers the energy they needed to convey information to a large number of parents.

Faculty members are grateful that parents continue to take such an active role in education. Members of the Parents Association are truly going above and beyond in efforts to maintain excellent communication between parents and teachers. Thank you.

## CLASSROOM CORNER

Featured Class: Spanish 6 Honors



Señora Lorca lends her Spanish flair to a lesson on the subjunctive.

## KNOW YOUR CUBISM



TEACHERS: Contribute to the LaGuardia Scholastic Guide!

We are looking for Art History teachers who are willing to contribute to the LaGuardia Scholastic Guide. This student manual is filled with helpful information about study skills and academic expectations. We recently added resources relating to music, but we want to include more information that will aid art students. Teachers are encouraged to bring vocabulary lists, museum report expectations, or grading rubrics to Room 203. Thank you!

## ALGORITHMS IN AUGUST



TEACHERS: Teach Summer School at LaGuardia!

The summer school online application system will start to accept applications on Monday, April 6, 2009. Any application received after the close of business on Tuesday, May 12, 2009 will be considered late.

## VISITING US OVER VACATION?



TEACHERS: Let Us Know If You Plan to Enter the Building Over Spring Break.

Any staff member who plans to be in LaGuardia Arts High School over the vacation should speak with Ms. Fogel in Room 237 by Wednesday, April 4 to complete paperwork.

## EXTENDING THE LIFE OF THAT PROJECTOR



TEACHERS: Please Secure Classrooms and Equipment.

- Make your department chairperson aware of any changes in classroom materials or equipment, such as graffiti or a broken projector bulb.
- At all times when a classroom is not in use, the lights must be turned off and the door closed and locked.
- Students may not be in a classroom unattended.
- Make sure that items are not left on the radiator or desk.
- Store classroom sets of books in the cabinet or on a bookshelf in the room.
- If you notice that any item has been left in a classroom for more than two days, please bring it to your assistant principal or to the Lost and Found in the Deans' Office.

## TECHNOLOGY INTERVISITATION



TEACHERS: Take Advantage of Technology Intervisitations!

Be sure to take advantage of this opportunity to learn from your colleagues from Tuesday, April 21 through Thursday, April 23. The schedule will be posted on the white board on Tuesday, April 7.

If you have any questions regarding information on this page, please call Ms. van Keulen, AP of Data and Technology, at X3203 or Mr. Sommers, AP of Organization, at X3237.

# Data for Decision Making

## THIS WEEK'S FOCUS: THE BENEFITS OF THE AP PROGRAM

### AP Success Stories (Continued)

In December, Ms. van Keulen invited every educator to join the school's Advanced Placement Committee and enter into an ongoing conversation about the AP program in our school.

The majority of the educators that met agree with the College Board's definition of success, "an AP exam grade of 3 or higher, which represents the score point that research finds predictive of college success and college graduation."

Most of the AP teachers present recognize the need for our students to grow more competitive as future college applicants and then to excel in future academic pursuits; therefore, greater student exposure to AP level classes is a desired goal.

Our AP teachers shared through a survey more information regarding these specialized classes, such as their belief that students who would like to take AP classes must be equipped

with the skills and qualities listed below before registering for the class:

- a desire to be challenged
- good writing skills, which include note-taking skills and the ability to write research papers
- willingness to work hard (30-45 minutes per day to study that subject alone)
- reading comprehension at an adequate level
- willingness to thoroughly understand concepts rather than merely memorizing rules
- a solid knowledge of English grammar and syntax

The CFI Team will continue to work with departments to support an even greater emphasis on developing the skills and qualities listed above, focusing in particular on the following: note-taking, conceptual understanding, writing in the classroom, a research paper, and a final term thesis paper. Students will then be even better prepared for AP and

college classes.

The AP teachers unanimously agreed that with more students taking AP classes, the student population with which they are working is more diverse in skills; this necessitates time-intensive work to differentiate instruction, to plan, to implement highly challenging lessons, and to give students meaningful feedback. Ideas were shared, each of which will be considered by the school for the next academic year.

LaGuardia intends to organize an AP Fair this year that will enhance student awareness and understanding of Advanced Placement classes. Once our young people comprehend the extent to which these rigorous courses can benefit them while also comprehending the considerable challenge they present, students will be better able to make informed decisions about scheduling for the year ahead.

## Preparing for the Renaissance and Baroque Festival

Celebrating the advancements of the Renaissance and Baroque periods at the school-wide level encourages us to come together and meet students' needs as a community, discovering commonalities among disciplines in the process. Indeed, The LaGuardia Arts Renaissance and Baroque Festival may provide scaffolding for future interdisciplinary work. Every department is involved with the fair, and some plans overlap.

The English Department will celebrate The Festival by analyzing literature from the Renaissance and Baroque time periods. Ninth grade students will either continue to learn about Shakespeare's *A Midsummer Night's Dream* or will study a Renaissance theme, poet, artist, or composer. Some tenth grade students

will compare a Renaissance poet, composer, or artist to one from the Harlem Renaissance; others may consider how a literary renaissance is defined and connect Renaissance and Baroque poets with writers of the Harlem Renaissance. Eleventh grade students will study a Shakespearean text, such as *Hamlet* or *Macbeth*. Twelfth grade students will explore a Renaissance artist, composer, painter, sculptor, or writer.

The Foreign Language Department will also study the Renaissance and Baroque periods with enthusiasm, focusing on several facets of those rich times. Students will learn about famous paintings and background information about the artists. Some will compare Renaissance and contemporary art. Other students will learn

about linguistic changes that took place, philosophical developments of the time, or the spirit of exploration that led to the discovery of the Americas.

Like the English Department and the Foreign Language Department, the Social Studies Department will help students to understand how these exciting times still matter in the twenty-first century. For example, some students in Global 2 will complete a Renaissance Project. This project involves each young person choosing an artistic masterpiece from the Renaissance and then creating his or her own original masterpiece in a similar style. Students will present their Renaissance-inspired creations to their classmates on the day of the Festival.