

BETA Alternative Press

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GENEROSITY PROJECT— *Light a Candle*

Character is the sum of all those qualities—good and bad—that make up an individual. In the month of giving and sacrifice, it is fitting that GENEROSITY be designated the character trait for the month of December. To commemorate this quality the Character/ Communications Club is planning a “generosity project”. With the help of Mrs. Van Wagner’s design, we hope to decorate the school with holiday “generosity candles”. For each student there will be a candle in a window or on a wall of their classroom.



Care, Share, Grow

GENEROSITY

The candle’s “flame” will be added when the student

submits his/her act of generosity on the back of the flame. It can be something as simple as babysitting for a sibling while parents are out Christmas shopping or possibly spending time cleaning house for an elderly family member. Any number of activities along these lines would qualify. Each of us is to decide what act of generosity he wants to do in celebration of the season. Candles should be ready to go up in the beginning of December. **As each student performs an act of generosity, “flames” will be lit in our windows.**

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Interact Officers Nominations



On **December 3** Interact members will nominate a slate of officers to serve in the 2009-2010 school year.

Five offices are to be decided, that of President, Vice President, Publicity Secretary, Parliamentarian,



and Record-Keeper. Elections will be held later in December, on a date to be decided. Officer inductions will be in January on a date

to be announced.



Field Trips



ART at New Paltz

Ms. VanWagner and Ms. Straebler led a group of sixteen students on a tour of the New Paltz College campus. They were met at the Fine Arts Building by a college art student who showed them around the art studios for woodworking, ceramics, jewelry, and photography.

For the main attraction, our school group went in to see the **priceless collection of Hudson River paintings** currently on display in the Dorsky Museum. These paintings were loaned to the college by the New York Historical Society. Many of them had been in storage for fifty years or

more and had not been viewed by anyone during that time.

Beautiful landscape settings of the Hudson River and surrounding areas are the dominant subject in the paintings. Gorgeous skies, tree-filled hills, boats on the river, farmhouses, early settlers, dirt roads, and other **images of our area over a hundred years ago were depicted in breathtaking oil paintings.**

As the displays of artwork at New Paltz College are constantly changing, another trip will be organized to return to the campus.



Historical Walkway Trip

Ms. Reed's Geography and U.S. History classes started off the school year studying facts surrounding Henry Hudson's voyage from Manhattan (New Amsterdam) to Albany (Fort Orange). Students read articles, watched videos and researched various information. When



View from the Walkway

the "Walkway Over the Hudson" opened, the classes were abuzz with the historical background of the railroad bridge. Staff gave their recollections of the bridge and the fire that destroyed it.

Ms. Reed and Ms. Maraglia's classes took a field trip to the Walkway on Oct. 23. They started from the Highland side and walked across to Poughkeepsie, reading the informational signs along the way and looking at breathtaking views.

After the walk, everyone enjoyed a picnic lunch and more sight-seeing with Ms. Parker and Ms. Cunningham. Several pictures were taken by Ms. Orozco, which can be seen outside the cafeteria.

Students who participated were: Quintin, Anthony, Zack, Janet, Alissa, Scott, David, Ashley, Steven, Keenan and Bryant.

Dec. 15



STUDENT Photographers WANTED

A study of student photography is planned for one of the bulletin boards upstairs. If you are interested in participating in this project, you can submit to be displayed one or two photos that you have taken.

Subjects can be pets, nature, objects, (others ideas?) and these may be submitted in color or black and white 4" x 6" studies. All photos should be submitted to Mrs. Como **with your**

name and the title of your photograph on the back. **The deadline for this activity is**

December 15.

Share your interests!

Interact Groups

Student Mentoring	Green Committee	Helping Hands	BETA Spirit	Communications Committee
<p>Utilizing concepts from "Rachel's Challenge," this pilot program will provide familiar, friendly faces to students that have just begun their classes at BETA. Student "mentors" will use their insight and experiences to introduce our school and discuss its strengths and weaknesses. Staff will provide guidance, but the intent of this program is for it to be student run. We have several student volunteers but if anyone would like to donate a little of their time and their kindness to helping someone, please see Mr. Plant, Mr. Smith, Ms. Garrison or Ms. Urbanak.</p>	<p>Ms. LeClair tells us that the Green Committee had its first meeting and brainstormed ideas on ways to recycle in school and to fundraise for various projects. Some ideas were to continue to collect paper from classrooms, to have a used clothing drive and to recycle plastic bottles and cans from the cafeteria. The next meeting will take place after the Thanksgiving break.</p> <div data-bbox="391 1024 630 1325" data-label="Image"> </div>	<p>Helping Hands, Interact Club of Beta began assembling shoe boxes for the homeless during 3rd period in room 247. How can you help? Donate any of the items listed below to Ms. Rivals in Room 247 or Ms. Mikalojeski in Room 245. Sign up to come to help decorate the shoeboxes. We will continue to collect items for the boxes until the second week of December and then deliver them a local homeless shelter. Needed items: Shoeboxes, Shampoo, Conditioner, Toothpaste, Toothbrush, Washcloth, Sanitary products, Deodorant, Soap, Hand sanitizer, Band-aids Hair brush or comb. Lotion, Disposable razors/shaving cream.</p> <div data-bbox="673 1171 954 1379" data-label="List-Group"> <p><i>Optional</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Deck of cards o Gift cards to grocery stores o Fruit roll ups or similar snack o Notebook and pens for journals o Dice o Book or magazines </div>	<p>The purpose of the the Spirit Club is to improve school climate. The first meeting of the Interact Spirit Club was Wednesday, November 18. Instead of a traditional Spirit Week, students decided that they liked the idea of "Spirit Days". Our first scheduled day is Nov. 24, designated "Mismatch Day". Other planned dates are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 11/29 Crazy Hat Day 12/22 Dress Like Your Favorite Movie, TV, Book Character 1/20 Twin Day 2/12 Red, Pink, White Hearts, Cupids for Valentine's Day 3/4 Sports Day 3/25 Music Representation Day 4/21 Bright or Neon Color Day 5/21 Formal Attire Day 	<p>This Newsletter is a result of our efforts! We meet with our editors Ms. White and Mrs. Como, during 5th period. We will be responsible for making posters and printed communications. If you have news, give it to one of our reporters Matt M, Kayla M, Rich W, Felisa, Jetlyn, Angie, Shequell, Communications will also be promoting Character with posters and projects for the school.</p> <p>Come join our committee! Student submissions of stories, poetry, drawings, news, comments, or pictures are always welcome.</p> <div data-bbox="1333 1276 1442 1367" data-label="Image"> </div>

HALLOWEEN

Unscramble the words below:

1. heasr _____
2. iirtps _____
3. acidve _____
4. eusdttn _____
5. cldean _____
6. wyaakwl _____
7. elchagnel _____

Classroom Happenings



- Mr. Moran lost his Foosball championship to Justin C.
- Mrs. Fishberg is doing hang-man emotions.
- Mrs. Straebler's students are making Nichos shadow boxes.
- Marist student, James Rose, was visiting in Ms. LeClair's classroom for a day. He is in the Education Program at that school.
- Mr. King is trying out a Smart Board and reading Hunger Games.
- Mr. Blair is going to NYC on Dec. 16th.
- Ms. White's students are investing in the stock market.

INCENTIVE Trip

Wednesday, 12/16

A trip is planned to New York City to the Museum of Natural History and the Hayden Planetarium. It is a Level 3 Incentive Trip, and will also be open to a limited number of Alternative High School students. Letters need to be in December 4 to request consideration for this trip.



Alternative High School students should return letters to Ms. Sassaman by Dec. 4th.

Student Opinion by Felisa

There is too much pressure to look perfect because of the models on magazines, catalogs, and TV. *Inside Edition*, a TV program, revealed that editors use *PhotoShop* and other computer programs to make the models look perfect in print and video. *Sports Illustrated* magazine showed the "real" girl with stretch marks, blemishes while the after picture had her perfect, including whiter teeth. My teacher pointed out that touch-ups have been around for a while. The Greek statue *Adonis* has muscles chiseled where it is physically impossible. My advice is to **BE YOURSELF !**

At the age of 6, Ms. Thomas attended a basic school in Jamaica and was very impressed by her teacher, who was looked up to as an educated woman. When she would return home from school, pots and pans became her students. Her mother and grandmother always knew that she was meant to be a teacher.

After she came to this country, she went to Poughkeepsie H.S. In 10th grade, she had Ms. Nichols for Social Studies, who is now in administration in Poughkeepsie.

Ms. Thomas last book was *Other People's Children* by del Pitts. Her favorite book is *The Coldest Winter Ever* by Sister Souljah. When asked what she does in her spare time, Ms. Thomas said, "What spare time—I'm a MOM!"

Introducing Ms. Thomas

Meet Mr. Blair

My name is Mr. Blair. I came to BETA after working in New York City for 3 years as a consultant or coach. I have always enjoyed the teaching relationships that I have developed with high school aged students over younger students. I feel that high school is a pivotal and challenging time in young people's lives, and the rewards it poses for me keep me invested in trying to help students prepare for their next steps after high school.

I love pumpkin ice cream and a few weeks ago, my class and I made homemade ice cream in class. I like to incorporate cooking and food into my classroom. *A Confederacy of Dunces* by J.K. O'Toole was the last book I read. It is a hilarious account of the protagonist Ignatius J. Reilly's attempts to fit into a world that he finds materialistic and socially awkward.

I look forward to getting to know the community here at BETA and continuing to have fun with my students.