

INTERNATIONALS CONNECT

March 2009

INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY HIGH SCHOOL

"No place for hate"

LaKesh Abreu,
Coordinator of Special Programs

If you were to visit the art classroom of the International Community High School recently after school you may hear loud music, laughter and boastful words of students' home countries. Over the last few weeks the Student Council at ICHS has been creating a project in conjunction with the Art department. Since the Anti-defamation league has named us as a "No place for hate" school, we were inspired to create a physical demonstration of this for us all to enjoy. We have been creating map murals on large pieces of canvas that will eventually be hung in our hallways. The maps are large panels with each country that we have a student from represented on them. They are neither to scale, or geographically accurate, with the aim of highlighting each country equally, no matter the size or placement on the globe. The project has been a sheer joy to watch develop and it has formed into a symbolic representation of our unity that exists here, as well as a display of a cohesive cultural pride. We look forward to finishing them, and hanging them for all to admire.



Students at International Community High School working together on map murals.

PAN AMERICAN INTERNATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL

Puentes

Carly Fox,
Coordinator of Special Programs

The fall Social Justice class took action on human rights violations at

the U.S.-Mexican border. Students decided to interview someone who had crossed the border and to publish a compilation of these stories to sell in order to support

border humanitarian and advocacy organizations. We hope you'll join us for the release party when the book is ready, where students will read some of their stories.

CAMPAÑA VERDE: GREEN CAMPAIGN

Thanks to the help and expertise of our Science (Anthony and Tamara) and Art (Devika and Chris H.) teachers, we are working in collaboration to raise student awareness of environ-



PAIHS Goes Green

mental issues and to encourage them to get active in saving the planet through the project "It's My Planet." In science classes, students are exploring 30 sub-topics on environmental issues, and, in their art classes, they will design a button with a message and an image that will raise awareness. Four winners (two from each team) will get gift certificates to a

store of their choice. The Campaña Verde is also launching a mural arts project which will involve painting the drab-looking grey cement walls that separate the walkway from the "field" in front of our school. We are working with student environmental activists and artists from the four other schools in our building to design and paint the murals, which we hope to unveil on earth day April 22nd 2009.

Make the Road NY just hired one of our Pan American International High School parents, Francisco, as an organizer. He will start to work with a group of parents to pressure the MTA and the LIRR to clean up and



45th Ave Elmhurst, New York

maintain the bridge behind our school. They are preparing to meet with the MTA and possibly hold a press conference.

Find us in all five

Boroughs

Brooklyn

- Brooklyn International High School
- International High School at Prospect Heights
- International High School at Lafayette

Bronx

- Bronx International High School
- International Community High School
- Pan American International High School at Monroe

Manhattan

- Manhattan International High School

Queens

- International High School at LaGuardia Community College
- Flushing International High School
- Pan American International High School

Out of State

California

- Oakland International High School

Have a Story?

If you are from one of our schools (Faculty and/or student) and would like to include your story in the following newsletter, please email me:

Janet.Parrales@internationalsnetwork.org

Subject: Newsletter

Please be sure to identify which school you are writing about.

Deadline: April 24, 2009

Our Mission

Internationals Network for Public Schools' mission is to develop and support a network of small public schools that successfully educate and graduate high school age, late-entry English language learner (ELL) immigrant students who come from around the globe.

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Internationals in the News:

Click on the links below

[*The Best Ways to Teach Young Newcomers*](#)

[*Closing gaps for ELLs*](#)

Immigrant High School Students 'Struggle to be Strong'

By Karen Yi

At the International High School at Lafayette, in Bensonhurst, Brooklyn, 86 immigrant high school students shared their stories of courage and strength in their self-published book, *Struggle to be Strong: An Anthology of Empowerment*. In the project, developed by teachers Christina Zawerucha and Leah Hamilton, each student wrote a personal memoir and interviewed their hero.

"The kids were highly motivated," said Zawerucha, "they are talking about things they genuinely care about as teenagers and that they want to hear about one another. And it's really cool to have somebody from Yemen making friends with somebody from Haiti about some sort of experience."

Teachers and parents attended the student-organized Café Night on March 12th, celebrating the book's release. Students read from their work, performed, and sang. "Struggle is," said a student in a dramatic performance, "being judged by the color of your skin." Meanwhile her classmates huddled behind her, pointing and whispering. "Struggle is," said another performer, "being immigrant in America."

At the top of their lungs, they sang: "Everything I have, everything I own. All my mistakes, man, you already know, I wanna be free, I wanna be free!"

To read the full story please click on the link: [Here](#)



Opening Doors to the American

For more information please visit our website at:

www.Internationalsnps.org

Or Email us at:

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