

Long Awaited Playground Opens At P.S. 24



Photo Dr. Dan Miller

Councilmember John Liu (c.) was joined by the principal, assistant principal, teachers, parents and students for the official ribbon cutting ceremony at their new state-of-the-art playground at P.S. 24, 141-11 Holly Ave., Flushing. Liu's office was instrumental in securing the funding for the school, which has not had an outdoor play area for its students since portable classrooms were installed to accommodate the rising student population in Flushing schools. Following the ribbon cutting ceremony dozens of happy children began using the new equipment.

Queens Students Dominate Safran Awards



The Association of Assistant Principals (AAP) of New York City, the professional association that represents the city's 3,000 school administrators, has announced the winners of this year's Martin Safran Community and School Service Awards.

Applicants write an essay describing their community service activities, the best of which are selected by their assistant principal and sent to the Safran competition. "These awards are announced at the end of each school year and awarded at a dinner and reception sponsored by the Association of Assistant Principals at Marco Polo Restaurant", said Sandy Trapani, president of the AAP.

This year's award winners are: Shannon Keane, P.S. 47, Mary Theresa Nelson, assistant principal; Sidnye Stepanov, P.S. 99, Kew Gardens; Nicholas Sforza, assistant principal; Caitlin O'Grady and Joseph Spitaleri, M.S./P.S. 207, Howard Beach, Maria Lipschutz and Laura Loucas, assistant principals.

Each of the winners, along with their parents and the assistant principals who nominated them, were guests at the reception, and were given a \$100 savings bond and plaque for their services to their school and/or community. *Photo Dr. Dan Miller*



TMLA Junior Wins ACS High School Chemistry Award

Alexandra Ossa, The Mary Louis Academy Class of 2007, received the American Chemical Society, Long Island Region, award for excellence in high school chemistry at an awards dinner at St. John's University on June 1. Ossa (second from r.) is shown with (l. to r.) Megan Rohan, her teacher, who recommended her for the honor, Welita Chua, TMLA science department chairperson, and TMLA Principal Sister Kathleen McKinney, CSJ.

Assemblymember Promotes Summer Reading

Assemblymember Jimmy Meng was joined by Principal Anastasia Schneider and Carolyn DeSimone, from P.S. 499; and Lois Lee, director of the Chinese Planning Council Inc. Queens School Age Day Care Center for the Assembly's Summer Reading Challenge.

P.S. 20 is also taking part in the reading challenge this year as they did last year.

Since the program was such a success last year, Meng wants to ensure every student has the opportunity to participate in the program this year.

Meng stated, "Wherever you are this summer, at the beach or park, in the car on the way to see friends, or traveling across the country, it's a perfect time to open a book and read about any subject." He continued, "I encourage parents to read at least 30 books with their children this summer."

The New York state Assembly helps children and parents pick up the reading habit through its annual Summer Reading Challenge program. To earn a New York state Assembly Excellence in Reading Certificate, children must read with a parent for 15 minutes a day, for at least 40 days

during July and August.

"It's probably less time than a youngster spends getting dressed in the morning," Meng said. "Kids can learn about dinosaurs, the American Civil War, or read the biography of their favorite baseball player. Reading improves speech, vocabulary, pronunciation and listening. It's a good way to spend time with family and friends."

Libraries can help families participate in the Reading Challenge. The legislature's 2006-2007 budget includes \$5.7 million for libraries to keep their resources current. It also provides \$14 million for capital projects to help local libraries modernize facilities and invest in new educational technology. "Public libraries connect students to knowledge," Meng said. "Reading matters. Children who read do better in other subjects, and can better analyze, think and cope in our increasingly complex world."

For more information about the Assembly's 2006 Summer Reading Challenge, e-mail mengj@assembly.state.ny.us or call 718-939-0195.

Community Service Awards Conferred

The Bay Terrace Community Alliance has announced the winners of the Bay Terrace Community Alliance Fourth Annual P.S. 169 School Community Service Award. Lauren Block and Alexander Karras were both awarded a certificate and a U.S. Savings Bond for their voluntary civic service to the school community. The recipients are selected by the teachers.

The Bay Terrace Community Alliance takes great pleasure in giving these awards as part of its commitment to P.S. 169 and the Bay Terrace community. The presentations were made during graduation ceremonies on Thursday, June 22.

Bay Terrace Community Alliance President Warren Schreiber said, "These outstanding students represent the future. It's important that we acknowledge their hard work and achievements. The Bay Terrace Community Alliance applauds all of this year's graduates."

The Bay Terrace Community Alliance is a neighborhood coalition of co-ops, condominiums and concerned citizens committed to preserving their quality of life. The BTCA's mission is to improve the quality of life of Bay Terrace residents and encourage their active involvement and support in community affairs.