

Dr. Pedro Albizu Campos Puerto Rican High School

Parent/Guardian Newsletter March 2013



Fourteen students were rewarded with a trip to play Whirly-Ball. These students' PANA group (homeroom) had the highest attendance percentage in the school with an average of 82% in the month of February! See inside for message from one of the winning students.



Please feel free to contact us at any time for questions, concerns or comments. You can call 773.342.8022 or come visit us in person, 2739 W. Division St., or on our website, www.pedroalbizucamposhs.org

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Spring has arrived! Our fourth quarter has begun!

Thank all of you who were able to attend our mid-quarter progress report card pick-up. Connection between school and family is **CRITICAL!**



Join Us!

3rd Quarter Report Card Pick Up

Friday 4/12/13

Anytime from 11am - 7pm

Meet your young person's teachers, their mentors, their principal and assistant principal!

Learn about opportunities for parents to get involved with the school!

Enjoy refreshments and snacks!

Where: 2739 W. Division Street

Please schedule an appointment time with Michelle Oquendo by calling 773.342.8022

Message from a Parent who “has been there”: Your child will succeed!



Two years ago I was facing some of the same challenges that parents are facing today, with my teenage daughter. She was struggling with high school, failing classes, cutting school, and arriving late. To top it off, she had no support from her teachers or staff. Most importantly, she was about to become a teen parent. Not knowing what our next steps would be, my daughter was referred to Dr. Pedro Albizu Campos High School. I did not know what to expect. I remember asking myself, “How is this school going to be any different?”

When my daughter began attending Albizu Campos, we had some problems with her transitioning. I was thankful that there

was a staff at the high school that had a “we don’t give up on students” type of attitude. Albizu Campos not only showed my daughter

individual support, but they also showed our family support. The school offered several programs to engage my daughter in the school community. Programs such as after school programs, tutoring, employment opportunities for the students and even college readiness classes for the parents were offered to all students and their parents or guardians. One thing that consistently stood out was the way they always tried to include the parents and keep us updated and engaged in being a part of our child’s school life.

For those parents still struggling with the question of whether this school is the right school for your child, there is only one way to find out. Get involved in our school, ask questions, pick up your child’s progress reports and report cards, and continue showing your child the support they need at home and at school. If you have access to the Internet, check on your child’s attendance and progress through PowerSchool. To all of our parents here at Dr. Pedro Albizu Campos, I encourage you to “Rise to The Challenge” as we have asked your child to do. For those of you already involved in this transformation, we thank you and appreciate all you do. Keep up the hard work.

No one said it would be easy, but the best feeling in the world is watching your child cross that stage at graduation with pride. With the help and support from you and your new extended family here at Dr. Pedro Albizu Campos High School, your child can and will SUCCEED in life.



Parent Michelle Oquendo (right) with her graduating daughter at 2011 Albizu Campos graduation ceremony.

Dr. Pedro Albizu Campos Puerto Rican High School – ABAYARDE support for parents

Puerto Rican Cultural Center Homeless Prevention and Rental Assistance Program

Do you qualify for rental assistance?

- Homeless?
- About to be homeless?
- Falling behind in rent?
- Need a security deposit and first month’s rent?

Eligibility for Assistance:

- Resident of Humboldt Park or Logan Square
- Seeking housing in the Humboldt Park and Logan Square community
- Behind on rent

**For more information, contact Juanita García:
312.532.2602.**



PANA challenge winners: Best Attendance in the month of February!

On March 13, 2013, a group of eleven students and three staff members enjoyed a pizza dinner and an evening of fun at Whirly Ball Chicago. The event was the reward for the January PANA Attendance Challenge Champions. Below Francisco Meza (sophomore) reflects on the experience.

Student Francisco Meza buckles up before an intense game of Whirly ball with his peers, as they celebrate their February attendance victory.

Whirly ball is a rare sight to behold, a combination of lacrosse, basketball and bumper cars. At first, I was hesitant. I thought, "If I've never heard of it, chances are it sucks."

Man, was I wrong. If you have a history of not wanting to try new things, you should put that history aside and give Whirly ball a chance.

As the 14 of us made our way to Fullerton, between Damen and Clybourn, I was pessimistic. I kept saying, "When I get there, I'm just going to sit down and be grumpy." When we arrived I was pleasantly surprised by the three Whirly ball courts, multiple pool tables, arcade games, and FOOD! I played a few arcade games and was convinced by a few friends to play just one game of Whirly ball. I will leave out the extremely fun details in the hopes that you will be pushed to try it out yourself.

I will just say that Whirly ball was really funny and fun. I would love to go again because it made my day. I'm inspired to improve others' attendance to go again.

(Francisco has since started multiple PANA TIPS with other members of his PANA group in order to help them improve their attendance.)

April PANA Challenge = Highest Average Star Score Gain

Four steps for students to increase Star Test score

Testing during week of 5/13/13

1. DO NOT MISS SCHOOL!

- If you do, GET MISSING WORK so that you can stay on top of learning.

2. Know what this test is ABOUT!

- Our school uses this test to measure whether or not students are learning the skills necessary to advance through high school.
- Our school uses this test to place students into their classes, so that students receive the support they need to build academic skills.
- Chicago Public Schools (CPS) uses this test to measure the success or failure of our school.
- We need students to take this test seriously!

Student Jacqueline Martínez studies hard for her classes and her exams. Students will need to study hard to make improvements on their Star test.

3. Come after school and STUDY!

- Our after school program meets everyday of the week and has tutors who can help students until 5:00pm!

4. Use your classwork, assignments, quizzes and tests as PRACTICE!

- Your teachers take time to prepare you to be successful on this and other exams that you will take.
- If you finish classwork, ask for additional work so that you can continue your learning.



Improving Literacy Amongst ALL Students

The first Pedro Albizu Campos trip to Barnes and Nobles occurred nearly three years ago, as part of a literacy initiative to create a love of reading and a culture of literacy. The idea was to have after school field trips to Barnes and Nobles in which each student would be provided with 15 dollars to purchase books.

The first trip of this school year took place on March 7, 2013 and was eagerly anticipated by students. An overwhelming number of students signed up to go in their PANA classes, but, as there were only twenty-five slots available, student attendance was decided on a first come, first serve basis. We had many students who were unable to attend this first trip but who are on the list for the next trip.



Upon arriving at the bookstore, the four staff members and twenty-five students were greeted and made welcome by the friendly staff, after which we were encouraged to browse freely. Students discussed book choices with their peers and many were undecided when it came to choosing just one book. When it was time to check out, students received their books on the bus and many began reading on the bus ride back to school.

It is clear that students made excellent use of the opportunity. The trip's capacity to inspire students as readers was demonstrated by Marlene Flores who said, "I love the Barnes and Nobles trip because I can actually read now instead of just being on Facebook reading my news feed. My reading has been totally enhanced." The trip also served to further the love of reading some students already possess as demonstrated by Nicholas Murphy, who said "I really enjoyed the Barnes and Nobles field trip because I love reading books and I am an author myself and I love learning from others."

The next trip will be scheduled for April 28th afterschool from 4-6 p.m. and will hopefully be as successful and inspiring as this one. We encourage parents/guardians to come out and join us on this day. For more information, please contact Danette Sokacich or Christina Camacho.

ON APRIL 23 & 24, THE STUDENTS LISTED BELOW WILL BE TAKING THE PSAE/ACT. ATTENDANCE IS **MANDATORY** FOR THESE STUDENTS AS THE PSAE/ACT IS A **GRADUATION REQUIREMENT**. FOR THOSE STUDENTS **NOT** TESTING, THESE ARE NON-ATTENDANCE DAYS. PLEASE HELP US GET YOUR CHILD TO SCHOOL AT 7:30AM. A SPECIAL BREAKFAST WILL BE SERVED ON BOTH DAYS. PRIZES WILL BE RAFFLED FOR THOSE STUDENTS WHO ATTEND BOTH DAYS OF TESTING.

- Acosta, Stephanie
- Aguado, Lucia
- Alvarado, Celia
- Andraus, Joshua
- Arce, Christian
- Arrieta, Omar
- Bahena, Abygail
- Balbuena, Emmanuel
- Barnett, Jakita
- Barrera, Karina
- Brinson, Lona
- Cruz, Jose
- Davila, Jennifer
- Dejesus, Elizabeth
- Delgado, Jacqueline
- Delreal, Stephanie
- Dominguez, Desiree
- Duarte, Geovani
- Flores, Miriam
- Gallardo, Sergio
- Garcia, Amber
- Garcia, Kassandra
- Gonzalez, Roberto
- Gutierrez, Pedro
- Hernandez, Dolores
- Jackson, Shantia
- Jara, Eric
- Jenkins, Andrea
- Johnson, Jabari
- Lewis, Tamara
- Lopez, Franshesca
- Martinez, Alfredo
- Martinez, Keymilee
- Mendez, Lisa
- Mundo, Mario
- Murphy, Nicholas
- Naranjo, Elena
- Nunez, Abraham
- Olivares, Karla
- Oquendo, Erica
- Ortiz, Karina
- Palencia, Jessimir
- Perez, Milagro
- Ponce, Kayla
- Quintana, Mariela
- Ramaza, Arleen
- Ramirez, Rosa
- Rivera, Jean
- Rivera, Mariah
- Rodriguez, Javier
- Rodriguez, Lourdes
- Rollins, Nikka
- Roman, Magaly
- Sanchez, Guadalupe
- Santana, Isaiah
- Santoyo, Ricardo
- Solorio, Karina
- Stamps, Aaliyah
- Straughter, Jonathan
- Torres, Christine
- Turbe, Jashlee
- Valadez, Maria
- Valle, Emily
- Vargas, Giovanni
- Vazquez, Diamond
- Vazquez, Edwin
- Velez, Tashira
- Villagrana, Elizabeth
- Villegas, Maria