



THE ABAYARDE NEWS

Volume 1, Issue 1

April 2014



“IT’S THE PERFECT ATTEN-DANCE...”

Rocking the sunglasses and just-the-one sparkly glove, school Principal Matthew Rodríguez kicked-off the last Unity with the traditional “Perfect Attendance Awards” ceremony. As usual, looks of bewilderment and the sounds of confused exuberance echoed throughout the acoustically imbalanced interiors of Barreto’s gymnasium.

One of the surprise highlights of the morning happened to be Shanayah Cal’s singing debut. Her rendition of “No-One” by Alicia Keys sent the student body into a rhythmic flurry. “I think that she has an outstanding voice!” said Sabrina Kilpatrick as the crowd cheered, clapped, and sang along.

Congratulations Perfect Attendance Awards winners!



Noel Vazquez and Mathew Rodriguez

Perfect Attendance Awards Winners

- JoJo “Silvia” Arce
- Christopher Flores
- Joshua Gerena
- Hector Hernandez
- Devontae Hollimon
- Alicea Houston
- Alex Lonzo
- Pablo Palacios
- Melanie Perez
- Magaly Roman
- Ricardo Santoyo
- Reyna Vasquez
- Noel Vazquez
- Jovahn Stubblefield
- Mercedes Tavares

THE ABAYARDE NEWS,

The Student Newspaper
of
Dr. Pedro Albizu Campos
Puerto Rican High School
The Mobile Journalism Unit

We arrive at events
snap photos – zap interviews,
capture the newest news!

We put stories together quickly
and shoot it back out as

-- **The Abayarde News** --

The Dr. Pedro Albizu Campos Puerto Rican
High School Student Newspaper!

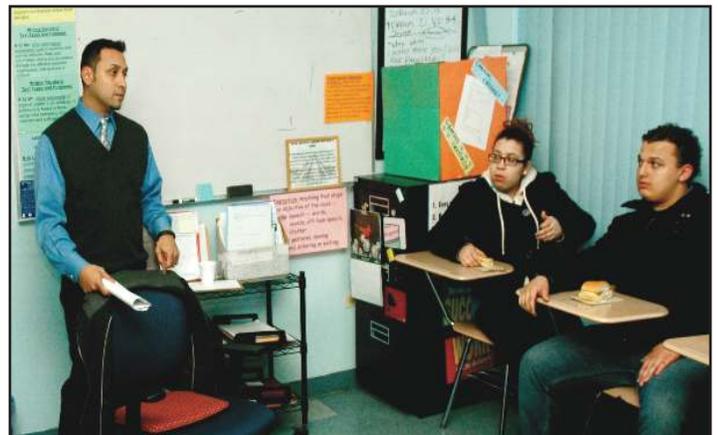


Shanayah Cal sang “No One” by Alicia Keys

THIS MEANS BUSINESS!

By Daniel Correa

On March 13th, Edgar Delgado returned to the school after graduating back in 1998. He returned with some advice for students who plan to run a business of their own. He gave students ideas on how to start working their way up and talked about how hard it can be sometimes. Edgar himself runs a consulting firm -- a business that helps small businesses succeed. Edgar told me that it was the Latino community he wanted to specifically help and that this workshop was just a start. I guess when it comes to Mr. Delgado, “This means business!”



Edgar Delgado, Jasmari Torres, Jeremiah Castro

Instituto Abayarde Spotlight

PANA Council

by Maximo Renteria

At the beginning of the school day, students engage in the “Peers Advisory for New Achievements” class, also known as PANA. Each PANA is represented on the PANA Council, where the student voice really comes out. The Council makes this small school dream big by having fun events such as homecoming, spirit week, dances, and fundraisers. With each PANA having one representative, the representative’s unique voice contributes to the year’s events.

Why do we need a PANA Council? Building a community inside the student body is one of among several goals the council is aiming to accomplish. Another goal is to have every single student’s voice heard within our small school. PANA Council also helps our school to become more youth friendly. According to our Dean of Students, Judy Diaz-Rodriguez, “You can’t have a school without students’ input.” She even went on to say, “The best ideas for our school come from our students. Why build a school and not know what the students in this school want?”



The Pana Council in action

Let’s hear from PANA Council Members..

- “PANA Council gives students a chance to voice their opinions.” —Rosemary Clinton
- “I joined because I wanted to be a leader.” — Michael Flores
- “PANA Council teaches us to be leaders in our school. It teaches us to be organized and prepares us for college. We plan to rise to the challenge – That’s part of our mission,” —Ndea Young.

Upcoming Events

Join us at Senior Prom!!!!



Prom on board the Odysse!

I would like to invite each of you to join in celebrating our Seniors by attending our Senior Prom. This year, Prom will take place at the Odysse Chicago Cruise Ship on May 23, 2014. Tickets cost \$90 and, yes, we have a payment program for staff and students. We need to arrive at the Navy Pier by 7:00 pm sharp. The ship will depart at 8:00 pm and return to the pier by 11:15 pm.

Prom will be a beautiful experience for all of us as we celebrate, together, the achievements of this particular Senior Class. Please let me know ASAP if you plan to attend, so we can have an idea of the number participants.

-- Zoraida Tañon, Prom Party Planner

Celebrate PANA Challenge Winners!

The Abayarde News would like to extend congratulations to Zoraida's PANA for winning the February PANA Challenge! Zoraida's Pana rose to the occasion by averaging 83% attendance, thus clinching the trip to see the Chicago Bulls.

On a brisk Friday evening, the students from Zoraida's PANA embarked on a trip to the United Center to see the Bulls play the Memphis Grizzlies. In a van filled with 15 to 20 students, all were excited to see the game.

"Going to the bulls game was a good experience for me because it was my first time just being in that building. I felt good vibes seeing all of those different people rooting for the team. It made me really enjoy sports." -- Sikarra Nicholas

"I honestly am not a sports fan; yet, I never had so much fun in my life. Being able to be a part of an audience that was cheering with so much energy and excitement was truly amazing! At first, I thought that it was going to be boring and I did not want to go. But, I decided to try something new and see what experience I would receive from going to the Bulls game. My peers were all excited, talking, laughing and they all had so much fun. I am glad it was an event I attended with my peers. All the excitement and happiness that I experienced is truly a memory that I will always remember." -- Erica Oquendo, Senior



Zoraida and her students at Michael Jordan's feet

"It was fun, I had a good time...Zoraida is a funny lady. I had a good experience" -- Jawun Scott

Arts & Entertainment

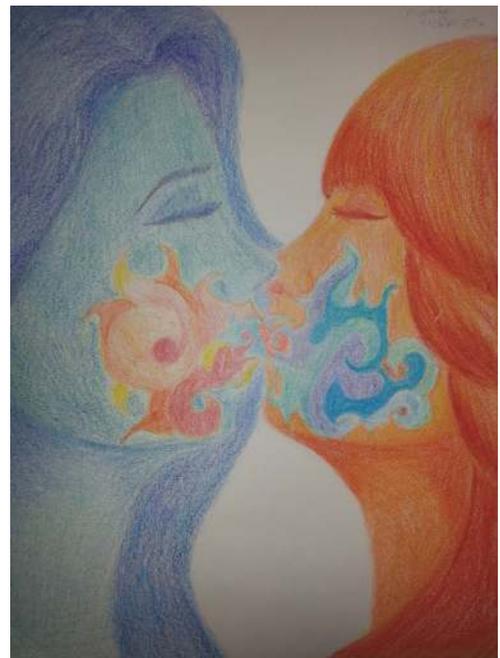
From the surprising to the sublime...

Student art captures our eyes in the hallways and in the classrooms.

Sometimes, amidst our day-to-day routine, it's easy to take for granted the almost infinite potential that lies within ourselves and the individual sitting across from us.



Francisco Vazquez



Evette Morales

Sports

Toe-to-Toe Match Up!

By Evette Morales

Tuesday evening at the Boys and Girls club wasn't a normal night for locals and students alike. At the heart of the building, its gym, two teams duked it out for the victory. Or, shall we say, played a fast-paced game of basketball that was as entertaining as it was exciting to see! It was our very own Abayardes facing the Olive Harvey Middle College Panthers in a match that had various outcomes. Starting off strong, our team kept a quick pace and immediately gained well deserved footing along with the lead. But by half-time, things became a little murky as the competition caught up and the pressure weighed heavily in the room. With tension



Chaz Montgomery fends off OHMC Panther while Ronnie Henderson blocks.



Coach Fito gives instructions to the Abayardes during a time-out.

in the atmosphere, members of the audience could have easily swayed for Home or Guests as the score board told the story through it all.

The fourth and final quarter did, in fact, hold the result of the arduous match betwixt the two worthy teams. Unfortunately, our brave hearts lost this round. Despite their loss, they have indeed won something -- a new angle on how to improve their game.

"We played decent, but I think we need to improve our boxing-out skills and our defense awareness," explained point guard Chaz Montgomery, "We're small, and this is a defensive team."

Though defense wasn't what held down the fort today, their team spirit and sportsmanship, as well as composure, showed us that what you lack can be made up with practice and discipline.

"For our next game we're going to come out stronger," said Team Captain Jawun Scott, "we're going to make things right."

FINAL SCORE:

ABAYARDES (29) – OHMC (39)

=====

ABAYARDES YOUNG WOMEN'S VOLLEYBALL
GET INVOLVED! * MAKE IT HAPPEN!
YOU CAN DO IT!

•
WHERE: BARRETO BOYS AND GIRLS CLUB
CONTACT: MATTHEW MIKULSKI
•

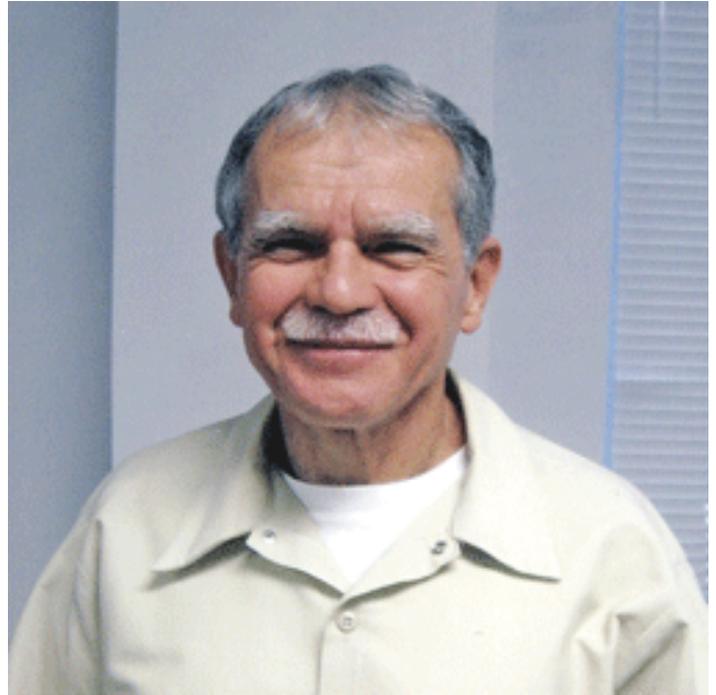


Our Community

Student Actions to Help Free Oscár López-Rivera!

Students from Dr. Pedro Albizu Campos Puerto Rican High School are working to free our most important Puerto Rican political prisoner, Oscár López-Rivera. This is year 33 that he has been held in Federal Prison. We remember that Oscár López-Rivera was a founder of our school. We are always grateful for his vision to start our school more than forty years ago! Also, by being in prison, he has brought world-wide attention to the many calls for justice for Puerto Rico. Now, it is time for us to give back to Oscár, by calling for justice for him!

The Jayuya PANA, with Dr. Virginia, has been trying to raise awareness of things to do to help free Oscar. Please join this effort -- Go to the Jayuya classroom to get petitions to send President Obama. And plan to join the event on May 29, 2014, when the community will walk to the many organizations around Chicago that Oscár assisted or founded. This event will end at the beautiful new housing center for senior citizens that will be named for Oscár López-Rivera.



Comics

Long after the Battle of Abyss, in the year 2114, there once grew a diverting wall that separated a thriving civilization. The perfect human within the wall, shining in the light. And the outkasted outside of the wall, wallowing in darkness.



Art by Evette Morales
Story by Daniel Correa

Poetry & Reviews

I Am Batman

By Daniel Correa

I'm Batman
Not Superman
Don't trust my Bros
Why should I when I can't
Even trust those -- Next to me
I think logically
While they think commonly
I reflect -- While they react
I move forward
But they keep looking back
I am Batman
I figured myself out and know what I gotta do
Everyone else is Boy Wonder cause they
Sit and wonder what will become of them
I am Batman
Because I have real eyes that
Realize real lies
World's Greatest Detective
I'm Reflective
Relentless
I'm Determined because I refuse
To be forgotten and lost in the
World of nothingness
I am Batman
An honest man
Not a Two-Face
Life is a test not a race, not who's the best
I'm not a Joker
Don't bluff, Play my cards
Right, like playing poker
I am Batman
I see the unseen
I see things others can't see
Such as truth
Cause even a Black Mask can't
hide those things
I am Batman
Bringing justice in a city full of injustice
Even without the League
I am Batman
The Dark Knight
Protecting the city at night
I don't kill, but I will hold
Criminals against their will
They fear me --But never hear me
Even the Scarecrow
Is scared of me
Batman at night
Fighting the criminally insane
But by day I am Bruce Wayne



By Michael Flores

This game isn't very well known, but it is a great game to play. Rocksmith is a game that teaches you how to play an electric guitar or bass guitar. I, for one, owned a guitar for about a year and a half. I've tried learning how to play guitar through YouTube and realized that it wasn't working out for me that well. So, I just stopped playing my guitar for months.

However, while searching for games, I stumbled upon Rocksmith the 2014 Edition and the slogan "The fastest way to learn guitar." After reading the slogan, I decided to see how the game worked and eventually bought it. When I started playing Rocksmith, I was amazed by how well it worked. It has the same look and feel of Guitar Hero or RockBand, but what makes this game even better is the fact that you use an actual guitar. In just about 2 weeks, I mastered three songs: "Everlong" by Foo Fighters, "Hypnotize" by System of a Down, and "Savior" by Rise Against.

Furthermore, Rocksmith has a wide selection of rock songs ranging from Classic Rock to Metal. Rocksmith is not only a way to learn guitar, but you can also learn to play bass! In fact, the game has a multiplayer function that allows you to play as a duo using 2 guitars or as a guitar-and-bass combo. Therefore, if you want a fast way to learn guitar or bass, pick up Rocksmith and you'll be playing guitar like a pro in no time.



Ironic Texts



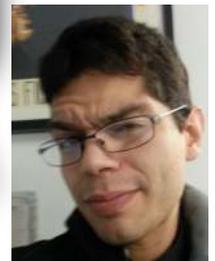
Did you hear that Ben Affleck is the new Batman?

Yeah, so?



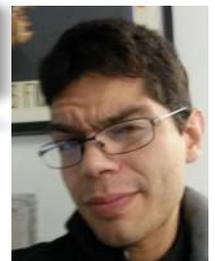
Given your obsession with the Dark Knight, I wondered if you felt the same disapproval that all the other Batman fans have been livid about lately.

Don't be silly. There are more important things in this world to worry about besides some trivial superhero character that doesn't even exist in real life. We've got international conflicts happening all around us, a crumbling economic situation to attend to, and I, for one, have to focus on guiding the minds of today's youth.



Warner Brothers hasn't responded to your hate mail have they?

They can't ignore me forever!



WIN BIG! CONTEST QUESTION: "Which type of irony is demonstrated above?"

E-mail your answer to Gustavo Colon-Braña: gustavoc@pedroalbizucamposhs.org
ONE winner will be selected from among all correct entries received by Friday April 25th!
PRIZE AWARDED AT UNITY!

The Abayarde News Mobile Journalism Unit (MJU)

-- Meet the Issue #1 Crew --

Daniel Correa:

I am the one and only, the most famous, but not so famous, Daniel Correa, but please call me, "Danny." This is my first year at the school. As most (or some) of you, may know — I am an actor and a poet. I am also now a part of the new school newspaper team. I will be contributing my writing skills to help report the local news along with my creative thoughts for storytelling in our new comic.



Evette Morales:

I'm a returning student to the school. I, a Junior and fellow student, am one of the writers for our school's newspaper. As some of you know, I'm an aspiring artist and, of course, a writer who will be reporting on local news and contributing artwork-- and for those who didn't, well now you do.



Michael Flores:

I listen to Electronic Dance Music (EDM) and metal. What I listen to depends on my mood. I'm a beginner EDM DJ; I play guitar; I fix computers; I'm a multi-console gamer. I contribute to the newspaper by reviewing games and other new tech.



Dr. Virginia Boyle:

I'm the new English teacher at the school. Newspaper writing is a blast! It is also so important for youth to write your own stories. Our community needs to know your perspective. What are you interested in? Writing, photos, artwork can all take you wherever you want to go! So, let's go places together as the Mobil Journalism Unit!



Gustavo Colon-Braña:

It is a great honor to be the Black and Latino Literature Teacher here at Dr. Pedro Albizu Campos Puerto Rican High School! I love a good story, whether it is a novel, an article, or even a feature film. I am excited with the direction we have taken with creating this first newspaper, and I look forward to seeing this endeavor evolve into something greater in the near future.



The Abayarde News needs photographers, artists, interviewers, event scouts, and yes -- writers!

Join us on Tuesdays and Thursdays after school in the Main Building. If you have any ideas to contribute, contact either of us via e-mail

Virginia Boyle:

virginiab@pedroalbizucamposhs.org

Gustavo Colon-Braña:

gustavoc@pedroalbizucamposhs.org



Dr. Pedro Albizu Campos Puerto Rican High School's mission is to provide a quality educational experience needed to empower students to engage in critical thinking and social transformation, from the classroom to the Puerto Rican community, based on the philosophical foundation of self-determination, a methodology of self-actualization and an ethics of self-reliance.

Check us out at:

www.pedroalbizucamposhs.org

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