

IN CLASS

Paulo Intermediate to build greenhouse



Paulo Intermediate School, at 455 Huguenot Ave., opened in 1985 and is named for the late Surrogate Court Judge Frank D. Paulo. Claire Regan, for Staten Island Advance



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Councilman Joseph C. Borelli (R-South Shore) and Borough President James Oddo are providing funding to build a greenhouse at Paulo Intermediate School (I.S. 75) in Huguenot.

The elected officials are providing \$585,000 in funding from their capital budgets to build the greenhouse — with \$235,000 from Borelli and \$350,000 from Oddo.

The greenhouse laboratory will allow for integrated curriculum and year-round access to the tactile learning environment of gardens. It will serve as a hands-on center for children at the school to grow food, and learn about nutrition, efficient land use, resource management and biodiversity. It will operate as a normal part of the school curriculum.

“Learning is no longer confined to the classroom,” said Borelli. “Our local schools are engaging our children with integrated curriculum in STEM rooms, maker spaces, on class trips to museums, and in gardens and greenhouses on their very school grounds. I’m honored to have a role in bringing these academic assets to our local schools, and I’m grateful to have an enthusiastic partner in Borough President Oddo.”

Oddo said he is looking forward to seeing the impact the greenhouse will have on the nutrition, wellness and sustainability education at I.S. 75.

“There is a unique challenge in coordinating food policy and the role of nutrition and education in schools,” said Oddo. “Thus, having the ability to take a step to overcome that challenge by partnering with Council Member Borelli to bring a greenhouse laboratory to I.S. 75 is extremely gratifying.”

Principal Kenneth Zapata said the greenhouse will be a valuable asset to the school community, as it will make students more environmentally conscious while offering more co-curricular and after-school programs.

“It is more important than ever for us to educate our students regarding their responsibility to preserve the environment and ensure the health of our planet for future generations,” said Zapata. “Our science classes, as well as our after-school horticulture club, will work year-round to grow plants and flowers that will eventually be used to beautify the school campus, while learning in a hands-on environment.”

As part of our education column, In Class, we are highlighting some of the activities Staten Island students are engaged in — both inside and outside the classroom.

Here’s a look at some additional recent education-related happenings.

STEAM CAMP AT STATEN ISLAND TECH

To celebrate its third annual STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, Mathematics) Camp, Staten Island Technical High School held a showcase debuting student work.

The event took place in the New Dorp school’s auditorium in August, and featured students’ work in the various STEAM disciplines, including music production, video production and 3-D modeling. The school also hosted a robotics competition, before releasing students to the courtyard for additional entertainment, including a DJ, carnival and pizza party.

NEW DIRECTOR OF P.A. PROGRAM AT WAGNER COLLEGE

Gail Tiburzi will serve as the interim director for Wagner College’s Physician Assistant (PA) program. Tiburzi will take the place of Nora Lowy, who accepted an appointment at Fairleigh Dickinson University.

“I am very appreciative that Gail Tiburzi has stepped up

during this time of transition,” said Joel W. Martin, president of Wagner College. “She has a distinguished record of service in the program and at Wagner College.”

Tiburzi earned her bachelor’s degree in biology, with a minor in chemistry, from Wagner College. She earned her physician assistant certificate from the Bayley Seton Hospital PA program, and a master’s degree in public administration from Long Island University in Brooklyn.

She has been a practicing physician assistant for 25 years, a working educator for 20 years and a member of the Wagner College faculty for seven years. She has clinical experience in neurosurgery, plastic surgery and, most recently, occupational medicine at Richmond University Medical Center (RUMC).

“We are looking forward to working with Gail, the staff, our students and others to make the program, already a gem, truly outstanding,” said Martin. “Please join me in supporting Gail and her team as we work together to make Wagner proud.”

ST. CLARE’S WELCOMES EXCHANGE STUDENTS

St. Clare School’s STEM (Science, technology, engineering and mathematics) and Robotic Adventure Program welcomed four children from China as part of a cultural exchange program.

The students from Xiamen, China, visited the school’s summer program in July.

The summer program was divided into two sections: one group for older children in grades four through eight and one group for younger children in grades pre-K through third grade. Three of the cultural exchange students participated in the older group, with one exchange student in the younger group.

The older children were immersed in the world of robotics using building kits and programming software. Each day, students worked to solve as many challenges as possible using different attachments, motors and sensors. The younger children explored robotics in different ways such as freestyle building, cooperative play and problem solving.

3 STUDENTS GET ADL INTERNSHIPS

Three Staten Island students were chosen to participate in the Anti-Defamation League (ADL) New York/New Jersey’s summer internship program.

Jared Beltran, Allenix Shepard and Bruna Velez participated in the internship program offered by anti-hate organization ADL. The students previously completed the ADL’s “A World of Difference” peer-to-peer program in school.

The students worked for six weeks in various departments of the ADL’s national and N.Y./N.J. regional office. They also engaged in weekly professional development workshops and field trips to strengthen their anti-bias education, facilitation skills and leadership abilities.

Beltran, a junior, got involved with ADL after joining the ADL club at Curtis. He has participated in activities and events that promote self-love; educates others about bullying; and informs his peers about the ADL club. Shepard, a senior, joined the ADL club and enjoys educating her fellow students on how to become better peer leaders. Velez, a junior, has been able to express her love for advocacy after joining the ADL club.

Do you have a story idea for the In Class education column? Email education reporter Annalise Knudson at aknudson@siadvance.com.



Gail Tiburzi