Paulo Intermediate to build greenhouse

Annalise Kessler

Councilman Joseph C. Bonelli (3-South Shore) and Borough President James Oddo are providing funding to build a greenhouse at Paulo Intermediate School U.S. 70 in Huguenot. The elected officials are providing $480,000 in funding from their capital budgets to build the greenhouse — with $250,000 through oddo's capital budget and $230,000 from Oddo’s.

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 students 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 Bonelli. “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 L.S. 70.

“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-by-step challenge that by partnering with Council Member Bonelli to build a greenhouse laboratory to L.S. 70 is extremely gratifying.”

Councilman Oddo said the greenhouse will be a valuable asset to the school community, as it will make students more environmentally conscious while offering more-curriculum 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 Zepeda. “Our science classes, as well as our after-school agriculture club, will have year-round access to plots of flowers that will eventually be used to beautify the school campus, while learning in a hands-on environment.”

As part of our educational column, in this issue, we are highlighting some of the activities in our Island students are engaged in — both inside and outside the classroom. Here’s a look at some additional recent Island-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 hold a showcase debuting student work.

The event took place in the New Dorp High School 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 (P.A.) program. Tiburzi will take the place of Navea Lowe, who accepted an appointment at Fairleigh Dickinson University.

“I am very appreciative that Gail Tiburzi has stepped during this time of transition,” said Neil W. Martin, president of Wagner College. “She has the 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, working in education for 10 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’s School’s Science, technology, engineering, and mathematics and robotics Adventus 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 engages in three through 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, the 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 following building, cooperatively play and problem solving.

5 STUDENTS GET ADL INTERNSHIPS

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

Jared Beltran, Alexis Shepard and Bruno Velez participated in the internship program offered by anti-discrimination 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 offices. 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 reforms 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.

Davies has a very idea for the In Clear education column.

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