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Issue 1

Simon Baruch Pride

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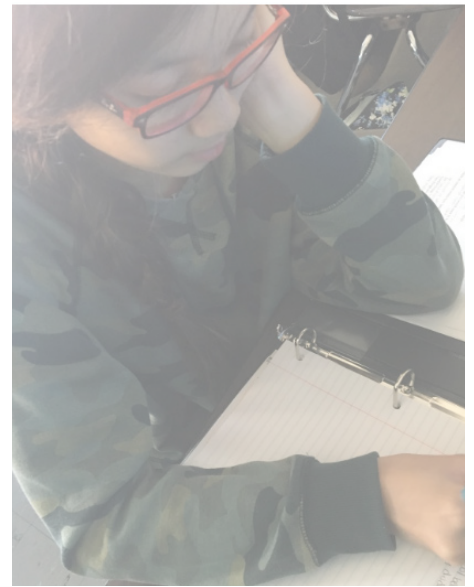


SIMON BARUCH MAKES ELA, MATH TEST SCORE GAINS

BY ANNA MINTZER

Students at Simon Baruch showed significant improvement in their state testing performance in 2017 compared to 2016. The average Baruch student's ELA score increased by about five percent this year, and math scores improved by about two percent. This was the largest annual increase for Baruch students on both tests for the past five years.

Overall, the school's administration was pleased with the improved performance.



Delilah H. reviews test prep questions
PHOTO BY ANNA MINTZER

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VOLLEYBALL TEAMS WRAP UP SEASON

BY JASMINE YU

The girls volleyball season ended in November.

At the beginning of this season, Ms. Lin, coach of the varsity team, and Mr. Ko, coach of the junior varsity (JV) team, both thought that the new teams would do well.

"We are definitely going to make playoffs," stated Ms. Lin back in early September. She added, "Our

team works well together."

Also back in September, Mr. Ko said, "I am hopeful they will" make it to the playoffs.

Mr. Ko also said then, "I think that they still need a lot of work, working together...for each other and not just worried about themselves and them getting over mistakes. I think that is a big thing."

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ANIMALS LEFT HOMELESS BY HURRICANE IRMA FIND HOMES IN NYC

BY ARIELLA STEIN

On August 31, 2017, Hurricane Irma blew across the Caribbean as well as parts of Florida. Homes and businesses were destroyed. Local animal shelters could not withstand the severe conditions. Sadly, hundreds of dogs and cats were left homeless after the incredible devastation of this hurricane.

Shortly after the hurricane struck, the Bideawee animal shelters in New York and Westhampton sent vans to Florida to retrieve animals that were living in their now destroyed shelters. Dogs and cats were divided amongst the two shelters according to their available space.

Katelyn Lombardi, the Bideawee Dog Shelter Volunteer Coordinator, was broken-hearted when the shelter received animals that were displaced and in need of severe medical attention.

Ms. Lombardi said, "I know we have had a few that have been adopted and brought in. Unfortunately, I don't know the exact number of animals that were brought. There were a number of cats and dogs from Florida. Some animals had problems with their parasites and some have diseases. Those are being taken care of and the healthy ones are going to soon be put up for adoption and will soon have a new home."

Hillary Berryman, the Bideawee Adoption Center Matchmaker, is someone whose job it is to match prospective adopters with shelter animals.

Ms. Berryman said, "Thankfully all of them have been adopted, which is really great. And there were some great personalities and some adorable ones that came up."

As a person who interacts with dogs all day, Ms. Berryman was upset when she found out that many of these poor puppies and dogs were hurt and ill, but she was relieved when she had people come to the shelter wanting to adopt these special pets and give them a lov-



Pete Rock: rescued and adopted
PHOTO BY SHAINA STEIN

ing home.

Shaina S. is 16 years old and a Bideawee volunteer who plays with and cares for dogs. Shaina is a big dog lover and has a big heart for dogs. She also owns a nine-year-old Yorkshire Terrier named Rusty.

Shaina said, "I think me or any other dog owner would be devastated if their dog was injured in such a natural disaster. Not only my dog but I feel for all of those other dogs that have been in this situation. A lot of them have been separated from their families and a lot of them have been

brought to different locations that they are not used to and it is just a bad situation in general."

Isabella L. from class 752 is also a dog lover. Although her building doesn't allow dogs, she would love to own a dog.

Isabella said,, "I love dogs and I would definitely want to adopt a dog that got hit by Irma...They have been through so much and I would love to care for them."

Tess J. from class 792 is a Bideawee volunteer and the owner of a one-year-old French Bulldog named Remy.

Tess said, "I would be crying, I would be so upset because I honestly love my dog and I would just be really sad."

When Tess found out that dogs all over Florida and the Caribbean islands were hurt and in need of help, she responded, "I was really upset because that even affects people here in New York City. It affects people all around the world and I was really devastated."

The animals that were transported to the Bideawee shelters have all been nursed back to good health and adopted, including one lucky pup named Pete Rock (pictured). This shaggy little dog with big brown eyes and a mellow personality has luckily found his forever home.

FANS CHIME IN ON HOW YANKEES CAN IMPROVE

BY JONAH FRIEDMAN

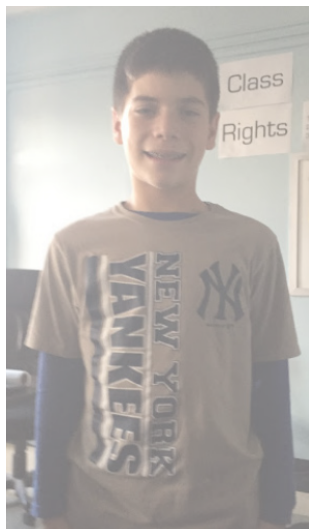
After coming off an incredible season, the New York Yankees are hoping for an even better one next year. The Yankees had a winning record with 91 wins and 71 losses, ending the regular season in second place in their division behind the Boston Red Sox.

The Yankees entered the postseason as a wildcard and won the play-in game to move on, and then beat the Cleveland Indians in five games in the American League Division Series (ALDS). After winning the ALDS they went on to the American League Championship Series (ALCS) against the Houston Astros and were defeated in seven games. The Astros went on to win the World Series.

Looking back on the Yankees season, they had a great hitting lineup with 241 home runs, but their pitching gave up 192 home runs.

The Yankee pitching staff is inconsistent. CC Sabathia is getting old and might not play. Masahiro Tanaka was injured during the season and missed a lot of games.

Travis I. of class 752 is a huge baseball fan. He



Jonah F. is proud to wear a New York Yankees T shirt

PHOTO BY TRAVIS IRWIN

said, "The Yankee pitching staff has so much potential, but they don't know how to use that potential."

Assistant principal and Yankee fan Mr. Comparetto disagrees with Travis. He said the Yankees should trade players like "Brett Gardner and Chase Headley for young good starting pitchers like Yu Darvish and Jake Arrieta."

Bob Arteche, a longtime Yankee fan and Bronx native, agrees with Mr. Comparetto. He believes they should trade for an ace or a number two starter.

Mr. Sabo, one of our deans and another big Yankee fan thinks that they need "three guys and solid starters."

With big bats such as rookie phenom Aaron Judge and catcher Gary Sanchez, the Yankees team batting average this past season was .262.

Mr. Sabo said, "The Yankees need a more balanced lineup. They need guys who can get on base before Judge and Sanchez. They should move Judge down the lineup to get more guys on base before him."

Concerning next season, Mr. Comparetto said, "I don't think that the Yankee lineup will go downhill. If anything it will stay the same. I think it will get better because of Clint Frazier and Gleyber Torres."

Gleyber Torres and Clint Frazier are young players with some major league experience who are currently in AAA.

It was a great and exciting season this year for the Yankees this year. Hopefully next year, they can get back into the playoffs and win it all.

VOLLEYBALL, FROM PAGE 1



Karmen L. Lin serves
PHOTO BY JASMINE YU

Ms. Lin said at the time, "No team is perfect so I feel like there's always things to work on no matter how good they are. So, could be serves, could be hits, it could be anything."

Michela is one of the team's hitters. This means it's her job to hit the ball over the net after it has been set to her. She said, "I want to improve

my skills. Volleyball is what I want to continue in high school, college and for as long as I can."

Daria is a setter. She tries to set the ball so that the hitter can spike the ball over the net as well as possible. She said, "I would like to get some new friends and that's always great to meet new people, and also it would be really nice if I made it on the varsity team in high school."

The varsity team were eliminated in the second round of the playoffs. The JV team did not compete in the playoffs.

M.S. 104 Assistant Principal Ms. McCaffrey praised the school's teachers, noting that they "have done a nice job embedding a lot of practice questions within the curriculum."

Ms. McCaffrey also observed that teachers have incorporated test preparation into their teaching throughout the year, rather than simply concentrating on the exams in April.

Teachers' efforts to encourage positive learning environment in the classroom may have also contributed to the improved test performance.

Ms. Boelson, a sixth grade ELA teacher, explained: "I see a lot of growth with students when they get to a place themselves...where they feel comfortable and confident and willing to take safe risks in their work with both reading and writing, and speaking and listening."

M.S. 104 students also expressed pride in their school's improvement.

Kara M. from class 871 said, "The [state test] grade represents how we learn, so if that grade goes up

then students will look better."

Students also described their own techniques for improved test performance.

Travis I. from class 752 pointed out that avoiding extra assignments during the testing period and trying to be calm helped him perform better.

Claire S. from class 871 said that she benefited from doing work outside of school and taking many practice examinations.

M.S. 104's improved performance on the state tests was also largely reflected in the pass rate for the exams. The number of sixth and seventh grade students passing the ELA exam, which means getting at least a 3.0 out of 4.5, increased by approximately seven percent in 2017. The eighth grade ELA passing rate went up about four percent.

The pass rate for the math examination showed a more mixed picture by grade. Sixth and seventh grade pass rates improved by one percent and five percent, respectively, while the eighth grade pass rate decreased by about one percent.

Comparison of 2016 and 2017 Passing Rates for MS 104						
Year	Sixth Grade		Seventh Grade		Eighth Grade	
	ELA	Math	ELA	Math	ELA	MATH
2016	57.7%	67.9%	63.3%	68.9%	66.0%	38.0%
2017	63.4%	68.2%	69.7%	73.9%	70.3%	37.3%

End of the First Marking Period!

CREATED BY YIQI ZHOU

BENCHMARK PERIOD
 CALCULATE NERVOUS
 REPORT NEW
 CARD UNIT
 FIELD QUIZ
 TRIP RELIEF
 GRADES TEST
 MARKING TRYOUTS

N P D L E I F M S P I L Y G S
 E W E U N I T U R E P O R T T
 W V J R B Z O L S Q T A S Y U
 A N X E I V P I B I D E P G O
 V Q D L R O E D Y E T G G U Y
 B E X E R W D P S B H T R I R
 E U N Q P D C G E N Q A E U T
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 C I S D G X C I L I Z C I C O
 S Z H P R H X I O G K E E N O
 X G C I M A T G R U P R F L E
 L U Y A Q G C R V M I Z A P O
 C F R S D X P T I X K I A M D
 I K T I D H V I V P R U S A Y
 Y J E T A L U C L A C Q W I K