

# PASSAGES POST

## Principal's Message

Provided by Yvette Baxter-Sweet

### SY 2015/2016 Review

Yes, we made it!!! The school year has come to an end for the vast majority of you. Many of you will be sailing/flying off to faraway lands, some right in your own backyard. You have worked hard this year and you truly deserve rest and relaxation. But, before you go, I want to share our data for this year with you and some of the plans for next year.

We had overall Regents pass rate for June 2016 of 49% compared to June 2015; the overall Regents pass rate was 51%.

Individual site Regents performances for June 2016 are as follows:

Site	Belmont	Bx. Hope	Bruner	Crossroads	Horizon	Ryer	S. Ozone	S.I.
Total exams taken	21	14	1	12	14	4	7	1
Total exams passed	10	6	1	8	4	1	6	1
Passing Rate	48%	43%	100%	66%	29%	25%	86%	100%

In comparing our Regents performance from school year 2015 (45%) to school year 2016 (49%), we increased our Regents pass rate by 4%.

Regents Performance for School Year 2016 Pass Rate by							
Belmont	Bx. Hope	Bruner	Crossroads	Horizon	Ryer	S. Ozone	S.I.
47%	39%	100%	68%	31%	25%	86%	100%

One of the fundamental purposes of our program is to support our high school students in earning credits and passing Regents. It can be seen that we are working towards the right direction to increase student positive outcomes around Regent exams. Our next goal is to support students in earning credits.

Next year we move to trimesters. The objective is to give students additional opportunities to earn credits and qualify to take Regents quicker. We will be working with a 7 period day in order to move to trimesters. In addition to that change, the SBO Option for the school schedule passed:

- A daily start time of 8:20am for all Passages sites.
- Student dismissal at 2:40 Monday-Friday.
- Mon, Weds and Thurs staff will have a 25-minute meeting focusing on student needs, from 2:40-3:05 at all Passages sites.
- Tuesdays will have an 80-minute professional development block from 2:40-4:00 at all Passages sites.
- Friday will be a 2:40 dismissal for students and staff.

Also, please see attached the Academic Calendar for school year 2016/2017. This calendar reflects the trimester schedules, dates for progress reports, holidays, parent teacher conferences, etc.

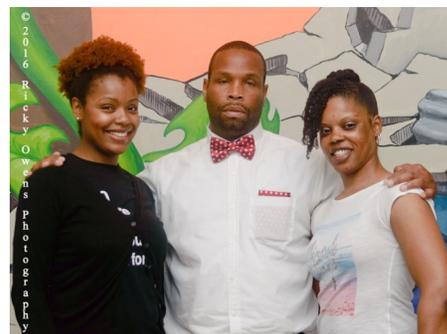
In conclusion, I think we had a really good year. Once again, I would like to thank all of those individuals that worked on special projects, initiatives, graduations, special programs, etc. to support our students. To everyone who has the summer off, be well, get plenty of rest and relaxation because you have earned it.

## Bronx Hope Highlights

Provided by Allison Trevaskis

On June 8<sup>th</sup>, Bronx Hope hosted a Pop Up Youth Male Summit initiated by Ms. Woods, School Social Worker, and Ms. Martin, Reading Specialist. The day focused on the current state of young Black and Latino males in NYC. The tone of the day was started in Advisory with a discussion, video clip and writing assignment.

Throughout the day, students from NSP and NSD met with numerous successful and positive male role models, including: Rodney (personal trainer), Kai Smith (GRAAFICS), Casper Hill (author, From D.O.C to C.E.O), Mr. Herman (CEO of Beautiful Men and Women), and Mr. Harrison (entrepreneur, Marksman Luxury Line). Thank you to all of the Advisory teachers for supporting the program, and a special thanks to Ricky Owens (photographer), who captured the speakers throughout the day.



## Bruner Highlights

Provided by Brendan Daly

Bruner Avenue was the second LSP Passages site to open this year, and, like it's Ryer counterpart, also saw its share of exciting events this year. Bruner is the largest-capacity site, with both LSP and ISP settings.

Special recognition goes out to Ms. Walsh and Ms. King, for juggling the workload of 3 different class groups at once, and to all the Sheltering Arms staff who helped and supported us throughout the year.

## Crossroads Highlights

Provided by Erica Addy and Vanessa Thrash

The Staff of Crossroads would like to congratulate Ms. Baker on being one of the District finalists for the 2016 Big Apple Teachers' Award. Ms. Baker was one of 200 teachers from across NYC who was invited to participate in the District Finalist Round. This extraordinary achievement puts her among a very special group of educators. We want to commend her for the impressive contributions she has made to the school community. Thank you Ms. Baker for all that you do for your students every day.



At Crossroads we are so proud of our students for taking and passing the Algebra I, English, and US History Regents this June. In Algebra I, we had a 75% passing rate, and overall passing rate of 66%. Special thanks to Ms. Hart, Ms. Addy, Mr. Alexandre, Ms. Lin, Ms. Smith, Mr. Johnson, and Ms. Waiters for their support conducting after school and Saturday prep classes.

This year, the commencement ceremony was held at Crossroads. The key note speakers included Mr. Encarnacion and Mr. Edwards. They provided beautiful messages of hope and encouragement that the students will carry with them on their journey to success. Congratulations to all the middle school students, their families, and their dedicated teachers at Crossroads and Horizon.



## *Dobbs Ferry Highlights*

Provided by Brendan Daly

Last but not least to open in the Bronx and northern LSP sites, we have the Children's Village LSP in Dobbs Ferry, NY. Mr. Lauf, Mr. McNamara, and Mr. Ortiz have put in a lot of work, far away from the rest of the school support structure, and it has been amazing.

Special thanks to them for all their hard work, and to the CV staff who support them. We look forward to more great things from the site in the coming year.

## *Horizon Highlights*

Provided by Carolyn Rudder

After a long and eventful school year, the students at Horizon participated in a handful of activities in order to promote School Spirit Week, which took place during the last full week of school. The activities included a Staff vs. Students basketball and volleyball game. The students triumphed at volleyball, but lost the basketball game to the teachers.

Later in the week, students participated in a spelling bee. A week before the event, students were given content based words to study. Only the words from the list would be used in the contest. When the final two contestants were up you could hear a pin drop due to the silence and anticipation!



Lastly, students attended an award ceremony where the honor roll students were recognized for their high achievements. In addition, many other awards for participation, improvement, and overall excellence were given out. Overall, it was a very positive and energetic week to close out the school year.

## Ryer Highlights

Provided by Brendan Daly

During the 2015-2016 school year, we nearly doubled the size of Passages with the opening of LSP. The first of these sites to open was Ryer Avenue in the Bronx. This has been the site of a number of firsts: first LSP to open, first to host the Manhattan Theater Company, and first to have an 8<sup>th</sup> Grade graduate.

Congratulations to the teachers (Ms. Mallon, Ms. Miller, and Mr. Groening) and the Leake & Watts staff for a great year!

## South Ozone Highlights

Provided by Ron Carter

I want to thank everyone for being part of a very successful year at Ozone, which ended with our students passing 86% of the Regents Exams they took (Yes 86%!!) At the early stages of the opening of Ozone, I knew we had a true collaboration team that valued our students' education. We had recently closed one of our Brooklyn Sites, and I needed to find a way to bring educational supplies to Ozone. The administrative staff arranged to send their vans and staff members to our closed site so they could help transport our supplies over to Ozone. This collaborative effort was evident throughout the remainder of the school year. If you visited any classroom, you saw support staff involved in the lessons. The support staff advocated on behalf of our students, educational needs. They demanded that our students get a good quality education that included homework and Regents Prep. On any given day they you would see them bring homework back to our students' rooms, and speaking to our students about the importance of education.

I want to thank every employee at Ozone for being part of a successful year at Ozone, and when I say every employee I mean *every employee* from the person who is in charge of cleaning the classrooms, to the cook, to the counselors, case workers, Clinicians etc. I want to thank the administration for allowing us to have two Saturday Regents Prep days, and being so flexible in allowing our students to work with my teachers for extended days. I want to say I believe I am one who advocates to no end for what is right for our students' educational needs. Thank you again for being part of a successful school year. I look forward to working with you all this summer and look forward to another successful year next year.

## *Staten Island Highlights*

Provided by Adrienne Pritchett-Dames

On June 24<sup>th</sup>, Childrens Village and Passages Academy celebrated their second annual "Beautification Community Day". This event entailed students and staff dancing, and speaking spoken word.

This year, we invited community organizations such as: Delta Sigma Theta, Workforce 1, Department of Youth and Community Development, St. Jude Research Hospital, and local churches to join in the festivities. In fact, we fundraised \$501.25 on behalf of St. Jude patients.

We ended our event with a delicious cook out, had a DJ playing music, meeting and greeting, dancing, and did I mention simply having fun!!!!

On June 28, 2016 we do all over again with Olympic Day.....

Have a great summer!

## *Passages Academy Library News*

Provided by Allison Trevaskis and Jessica Fenster

Passages Academy's Belmont site received the Great Stories CLUB grant this spring to bring a series of three book club programs to students at Belmont. You can read more about the grant at <https://apply.ala.org/greatstories/guidelines>

Bronx Hope's Leake & Watts NSP house traveled to MoMA to participate in a private 1 hour tour led by Museum Educator, Shellyne Rodriguez, on June 13th. The tour was followed by a 2 hour art studio session. The students' artwork will be featured in our library for the start of the 2016-17 SY!

### **Passages Academy Libraries Year-in-Review**

The Passages Academy Library Team sustained library services at our four largest sites during the 2016-17 school year. In addition to welcoming two new members and maintaining a growing attitude as a team, we circulated thousands of library items, reviewed dozens of titles for you on our blog, and facilitated a combined total of over thirty library programs, including our ongoing Authors and Artists series and numerous hands-on workshops.

For detailed library news, please look for our e-news in your inbox! If you didn't receive your digital copy, please send an email to [literacyforteens@outlook.com](mailto:literacyforteens@outlook.com) and we will get one to you right away.

## Upcoming Events

- July 4:** Independence Day – Schools Closed
- July 6:** Eid al-Fitr – Schools Closed
- July 7:** First Day of Summer School
- August 11:** Last Day of Summer School for Middle School
- August 16:** Last Day of Summer School for High School



*"I am what I am today  
because of the choices  
I made yesterday."*

*Stephen Covey*

## Important Links

- Passages Academy Public Website: [www.PassagesAcademy.org](http://www.PassagesAcademy.org)
- Passages Academy Staff Website: <https://sites.google.com/a/passagesonline.com/staff/>
- Passages Academy Handbook: <https://sites.google.com/a/passagesonline.com/staff/documents>
- Passages Academy Library Website: [www.passagesacademylibraries.org](http://www.passagesacademylibraries.org)
- Passages Academy Library Blog: [www.whatsgoodinthelibrary.blogspot.com](http://www.whatsgoodinthelibrary.blogspot.com)
- Chancellors Regulations: <http://schools.nyc.gov/RulesPolicies/ChancellorsRegulations/default.htm>
- ELA & Math Middle School Testing: <http://engageny.org/content/just-released-2013-test-guides-for-ela-mathematics>
- Online Textbook Codes: <https://sites.google.com/a/passagesonline.com/staff/textbook-online-access-code>
- ACS Online Policy Library: [http://www.nyc.gov/html/acs/html/home/policy\\_library.shtml](http://www.nyc.gov/html/acs/html/home/policy_library.shtml)

Facts, Thoughts, and/or Questions for the Week

*HAVE A GREAT SUMMER, TEACHERS!*