NYCHA’s Best and Brightest CUNY Students Earn Scholarships

By Eric Deutsch

Receiving their caps and gowns to graduate college will be a little bit easier now for 11 NYCHA residents who attend City University of New York (CUNY) colleges. This year’s winners of the NYCHA-CUNY Resident Scholarship received their $1,000 awards at a ceremony on September 15.

“This scholarship will help me achieve and excel in my goal to become a nurse,” said Miguel Acosta, a resident of Mitchel Houses who attends Hunter College. “It will help me buy the books I need.”

Mr. Acosta made the decision to become a nurse after his son was hit by a car a few years ago. He has one semester remaining in his coursework to receive his Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree. He then plans to attend graduate school so he can become a Family Nurse Practitioner.

The NYCHA-CUNY Resident Scholarship Program was established in 2005 to support the efforts of NYCHA residents in their pursuit of higher education. The Resident Scholarship Program awards $1,000 scholarships every year to eligible residents who are enrolled at a CUNY college. Recipients can use the money to pay for tuition, books or other education-related expenses. This year’s scholarships were funded in part by grants from New York City Council Members Robert Jackson and Letitia James.

Ti-Anna Lee, a single mother of two, is entering her final semester to receive an associate degree in Nuclear Medicine from Bronx Community College. “I can better focus on school and my children. Receiving the scholarship came at the right time,” said the University Avenue Rehab resident.

Ms. Lee plans to enter a clinical program next spring after she graduates. Her goal is to be a nuclear medicine technologist who works on radiation treatment for people with cancer.

“When I hear about the contributions you already have made and the struggles that you have overcome to be sitting here tonight,” continued on page 4

“Mighty, Mighty NYCHA!”

Far Rockaway Residents Show Emergency-Readiness

By Zoïet Negrón

The steady drumbeat, the colorful handmade signs by children and hundreds of cheering residents broke the calm of a Saturday morning. “We are NYCHA... the mighty, mighty NYCHA,” they chanted. “We’re not scared...’cause we’re prepared!”

NYCHA residents of all ages marched from their far-flung developments in Far Rockaway to draw attention to emergency preparedness during the Emergency Preparedness Festival and Parade on September 17, the first event of its kind. Far Rockaway is considered to be among the most vulnerable low-lying Hurricane Evacuation Zone areas in New York. When Hurricane Irene hit the tri-state area in August, these public housing residents were among the most prepared.

The high evacuation rates before the storm were a result, in part, of NYCHA’s efforts this spring to teach residents the importance of being prepared for extreme weather events, such as hurricanes and floods.

“Most of us at our development evacuated,” said Lawanda Gainey, a resident of Carleton Manor. “I came to the parade and festival with members of the Youth Council so that they can go back to the development to benefit others with the information shared on being prepared.”

More than 400 residents from all six developments in Far Rockaway celebrated their success and learned more about emergency preparedness during the event, which began with a parade starting at Redfern and Hammel Houses at the far end, joined by Carleton Manor and Beach 41st Street residents along the island.
Resident’s Voices

August 29, 2011
(sent via mail)

I am writing this letter to thank the Red Hook East staff for the great job you did to protect me as a tenant during Hurricane Irene. You went above and beyond what I expected of you. You had NYCHA personnel knock on my door all weekend to make sure that I was okay. Even the housing police dropped by and they left me their numbers just in case I needed help. Your staff was really nice and answered any questions that I had. They seemed very concerned about my welfare. I felt safe and protected. I am confident that during any future disasters, you will make sure that I am okay.

Rosa Garcia, Red Hook East Houses

August 28, 2011
(sent via Facebook)

Shout out to all NYCHA workers who had to leave their families and stay overnight to help with the storm. Thumbs up to u may god bless u all, u did the best u can and the best was being there amen.

Shawn Holland, Albany Houses

August 29, 2011
(sent via Facebook)

I must applaud the NYCHA for their persistent concerns & efforts in working with all tenants during this storm Hurricane Irene.

Dolores McCollin Gross, Ocean Bay Houses

August 29, 2011
(via phone)

People were able to leave in a timely fashion. All of the staff, caretakers and maintenance did a bang-up job. We all came together as a family.

We were prepared thanks to the information provided by Commissioner Margarita Lopez

Tell us what is on your mind!

Residents’ Voices accepts letters, photographs, poems, drawings — anything that allows you to express yourself! Please include your full name, development name, address and phone number. We will print only your name and development on our pages, we need your address and phone number for verification purposes only.

Please limit written submissions to 250 words. The Journal reserves the right to edit all content for length, clarity, good taste, accuracy, etc. Because of space limitations, we must limit all contributors to one letter per person per issue.

There are many ways to share your thoughts with us at the Journal! Send an e-mail to Journal@nycha.nyc.gov.

Check out NYCHA’s Facebook page!

Get a web-enabled smartphone? Now you can access NYCHA’s Facebook page and bonus content in this issue by scanning or taking a snapshot of the QR codes. The QR code for NYCHA’s Facebook page is on the right.

Step 1: Download a QR code scanner application from your phone’s marketplace (many of these “apps” are free to download).

Step 2: Point your phone’s camera at the QR image.

Comments? Questions? E-mail Journal@nycha.nyc.gov.
Working at Linden Houses. NYCHA even paid for him to take the required 10-hour stories. With REES’ support, Mr. Harris landed a job with ASHNU, Inc., a contractor positive outcomes.

Economic Empowerment and Sustainability (REES), in collaboration with residents, partners and other stakeholders, spent 2010 redesigning the ways in which we can support residents to achieve their career and financial goals. We already are seeing positive outcomes.

Ty-rik Harris, a resident of Bay View Houses in Brooklyn, is just one of our success stories. With REES’ support, Mr. Harris landed a job with ASHNU, Inc., a contractor working at Linden Houses. NYCHA even paid for him to take the required 10-hour safety class in order to qualify for the position.

The proof is in Mr. Harris’ own words – “Since earning employment as a Carpenter/Masonry Helper, I now have a sense of stability. I know that in the future, doors will open to more opportunities because of the position granted to me through NYCHA’s Section 3 program.”

Ladia Faison, from Marlboro Houses in Brooklyn, trained as a construction laborer through the Section 3 program, and currently works as a Laborer for Liro Group – “Now I am called for jobs instead of me looking for them on my own. My daughter looks at me a lot different. She looks at me like I have more stability and am headed in the right direction.”

NYCHA is able to support more residents like Mr. Harris and Ms. Faison through enhancements we have implemented through REES, including the NYCHA Resident Training Academy (RTA); hiring planning and tracking tools; diversifying the types of jobs offered within and beyond the construction industry; and agreements with various unions that create apprenticeship and journeyperson opportunities. We also established “re-placement” support for residents to foster employment continuity given the short-term and seasonal nature of many Section 3 jobs.

And there is more we will do, including expanding the RTA to provide pest control training, the expansion of Jobs-Plus sites in NYCHA developments through Mayor Bloomberg’s recently announced Young Men’s Initiative, and the roll-out of localized community economic development service coordination networks.

Section 3 is just one tool for generating economic opportunities for public housing residents. Supporting resident empowerment, promoting financial stability, enhancing career opportunities and investing in the overall health of every NYCHA community by forging additional partnerships will be key as we continue to preserve and strengthen public housing in New York City.

John B. Rhea

Message from the Chairman

Since I joined NYCHA, I have been committed to working with residents to increase their financial stability and economic growth. We place a priority on assisting residents through workforce development, job opportunities and career advancement. I am very pleased to report that our efforts are creating results.

In 2010, NYCHA made or facilitated 1,490 resident hires through the Section 3 program – the most of any public housing authority in the country. This included 862 residents hired directly by the Authority and 623 residents hired by outside contractors for various construction projects at NYCHA developments.

The Section 3 program, which mandates public housing authorities to provide job training, employment and contract opportunities, supports an important part of our mission – assisting NYCHA residents in forming a career. NYCHA’s Office of Resident Economic Empowerment and Sustainability (REES), in collaboration with residents, partners and other stakeholders, spent 2010 redesigning the ways in which we can support residents to achieve their career and financial goals. We already are seeing positive outcomes.

During the festival, (FEMA), American Red Cross, New York State Department of Environmental Conservation and the U.S. Coast Guard. FDNY gave CPR training to 40 residents, who signed up during the event. NYCHA’s Green Committee, as part of its effort to promote environmental awareness, had recycling companies on-site to collect electronic waste such as television sets, DVD players and computers and to demonstrate how common household items can be recycled.

As part of its ongoing efforts to empower more public housing residents in low-lying coastal developments to be emergency-ready, NYCHA plans to expand its emergency preparedness forums to additional developments this fall. To see more photos from the Emergency Preparedness Festival and Parade, point your smartphone’s camera here.

Children’s Museum of Manhattan Coming to Johnson Houses

Residents living in and near Johnson Houses in Manhattan won’t have to travel far to have fun in a museum in the near future. NYCHA and the Children’s Museum of Manhattan (CMOM) are teaming up to create a permanent interactive exhibit and hands-on educational programs inside the new James Weldon Johnson Houses Community Center. It will include 2,000 square feet of interactive exhibits with up to 25 interactive stations and activity areas that will engage children through play, exploration and discovery. Programming will begin as early as the beginning of 2012, following a period of community engagement. The completed project is scheduled to open in September 2013.
Below is a partial list of names of individuals who have been excluded permanently from NYCHA's public housing developments.

The list keeps residents informed of the Authority's ongoing efforts to improve the quality of life for New Yorkers in public housing and to allow for the peaceful and safe use of its facilities. The following are the people, with their former addresses, excluded as of September 15, 22 and 28, and October 6 and 13, 2010.

### Prohibited as of September 15, 2010
- **Maurice Green** a/k/a **Laney Green**
  - Morris Houses, 1309 Washington Ave., 11th fl., Bronx

### Prohibited as of September 22, 2010
- **Derwin Bruce** a/k/a **Devon Owens**
  - Farragut Houses, 237 Nassau St., Brooklyn

### Prohibited as of September 28, 2010
- **Jerome Hill**
  - Baychester Houses, 1930 Schieffelin Ave., 1st fl., Bronx

### Prohibited as of October 6, 2010
- **Derrick Adams**
  - Todd Hill Houses, 30 Dongan Hill Ave., 4th fl., Staten Island

### Prohibited as of October 13, 2010
- **Leroy Legree**
  - Douglass Houses, 140 W 104th St., 5th fl., Manhattan

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### NYCHA’s Best and Brightest CUNY Students Earn Scholarships

This year’s winners were
- Christina Chaise (Hunter Baruch Houses/Barnard College); and Virgilio Rivera (South Jamaica Houses/Queens College)
- Hui Bin Pan (Baruch Houses/Baruch College); and Virgilio Rivera (Kingsborough Community College/Queens College)

To see video from the NYCHA-CUNY Resident Scholarship ceremony, point your smartphone’s camera here.
It’s 2 a.m.

Do you know why your carbon monoxide alarm is beeping?

It May Not Be What You Think

About seven years ago, New York City passed a law requiring carbon monoxide (CO) alarms in multi-family and private dwellings. Those alarms now need to be replaced. In fact, some of them may be sounding their end-of-life warning.

UL requires this warning in all CO alarms, which means seven years after installation, your Kidde CO alarm will sound to let you know it’s time to replace the unit.

Kidde’s CO alarms have the longest lifespan available on the market, so make sure new Kidde CO alarms are installed in your building today!

For more information, contact your local contractor or visit www.beatthebeep.com.
Randolph Houses Will Be First NYC Combined Public Housing & Affordable Housing Development

NYCHA and HPD Partnership a Part of Mayor’s Affordable Housing Plan

Randolph Houses in Manhattan is getting a new look in a couple of ways. The development will be turned into the first-ever development in New York City to combine public housing units and affordable housing units. As part of the plan, Randolph Houses will be rehabilitated and have its historic buildings preserved. NYCHA and the New York City Department of Housing Preservation and Development (HPD) are seeking proposals from developers to perform the rehabilitation.

Randolph Houses is made up of 36 tenement buildings on West 114th Street between Seventh and Eighth Avenues. Work will begin first on the south side of the street, where 22 tenements currently are vacant. Renovations will turn these buildings into 140 public housing units. NYCHA residents who currently live on the north side of the street then will move into the new units.

“I’m excited about it. It will bring hope to the neighborhood,” said Randolph Houses Resident Association President Robertus Coleman. “This will enhance the block and the neighborhood.”

The 14 tenements on the north side of the street then will be rehabbed and turned into a minimum of 155 units for affordable housing. These apartments will be available to New Yorkers with a wide range of incomes. At least 25 percent must be affordable to households at or below 60 percent of the Area Median Income (AMI), which is $49,080 for a family of four. The remaining units may be affordable to families earning up to 130 percent AMI, which is $106,340 for a family of four.

“The partnership among NYCHA, HUD and HPD represents a milestone in the revitalization of Randolph Houses,” said NYCHA Chairman John B. Rhea. “We look forward to the successful rehabilitation of Randolph Houses as a model for future redevelopment.”

The buildings were constructed in the 1890’s and were acquired by NYCHA in the 1970’s. They were determined by the New York State Historical Preservation Office as eligible for historic designation. The rehabilitation must preserve certain historic elements of the buildings’ exteriors.

“At the Randolph Houses we are not just breathing a new life into these buildings – we are creating new homes, new opportunities, and a more affordable and sustainable New York,” said HPD Commissioner Mathew M. Wambua.

The development will include at least 2,000 square feet of community space and outdoor open space for the use of all tenants.

With the mixture of incomes and with other people occupying the building, programs will come; residents will have something to do,” said Ms. Coleman. “It could be a deterrent to crime.”

The NYCHA-HPD partnership began in 2005 and has produced more than 1,500 affordable housing units, with another 2,300 in construction or in the development pipeline. The Randolph Houses rehabilitation is part of Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg’s New Housing Marketplace Plan, an $8.5 billion initiative to finance 165,000 units of affordable housing by the end of the 2014 fiscal year. The Plan has funded the creation or preservation of more than 124,400 units of affordable housing across the five boroughs so far.

Smith Houses TA President Honored for Leadership During Hurricane Irene

Axa Torres (center) proudly displays the proclamation she received from the New York State Assembly for her efforts to help her Smith Houses neighbors during Hurricane Irene. Joining her on August 31, 2011, were, from left to right, State Senator Daniel Squadron, State Assembly Speaker Sheldon Silver, Resident Association Vice President Trenton Turner, City Councilwoman Margaret Chin, NYCHA Chairman John B. Rhea, and City Councilwoman Rosie Mendez.

By Zodet Negrón

As NYCHA staff began to mobilize for evacuation prior to Hurricane Irene, Axa Torres, President of the Smith Houses Resident Association, sprang into action. She partnered with NYCHA and elected officials to evacuate residents from the Lower Manhattan development. Thanks to these efforts, nearly 90 percent of Smith Houses residents evacuated to safety ahead of Hurricane Irene.

“On August 27, all of us came together to work as people, not ‘you and us’ but a ‘we’ to evacuate this development and to protect the lives of those who live here,” Ms. Torres exclaimed tearfully during a ceremony on August 31 in recognition of her valiant efforts. She received a proclamation and was celebrated for her compassion and strong leadership during the hurricane.

Ms. Torres’ response included an emergency meeting; recruiting volunteers and translators to communicate with residents; and helping coordinate transportation with NYCHA, elected officials and other sister agencies to help many of her neighbors get to nearby shelters. Without hesitation, Ms. Torres reached out to elected officials, including State Senator Daniel Squadron, Assembly Speaker Sheldon Silver and New York City Council Members Margaret Chin and Rosie Mendez to assist her.

“It is a pleasure to celebrate the courage, resolve and the amazing spirit of community that was shown here at Smith Houses — and all across our great city — during Hurricane Irene,” said NYCHA Chairman John B. Rhea during the ceremony.

On August 27, 2011, Ms. Torres used every bit of compassion and strong leadership to help her Smith Houses neighbors get to nearby shelters. She received a proclamation and was celebrated for her compassion and strong leadership during the hurricane.

 Ms. Torres’ response included an emergency meeting; recruiting volunteers and translators to communicate with residents; and helping coordinate transportation with NYCHA, elected officials and other sister agencies to help many of her neighbors get to nearby shelters. Without hesitation, Ms. Torres reached out to elected officials, including State Senator Daniel Squadron, Assembly Speaker Sheldon Silver and New York City Council Members Margaret Chin and Rosie Mendez to assist her.

“On behalf of our residents, we thank all the employees and volunteers who worked around the clock to ensure our safety and wellbeing,” said Ms. Torres.
**The Chief’s Corner**

**SAFETY TIPS FOR HALLOWEEN from the NYPD**

- Trick-or-treaters always should have adult supervision, even if they are traveling in a group of friends.
- An adult always should examine Halloween treats before children eat them. Never eat open or unwrapped Halloween foods.
- Costumes should be flame-retardant and should allow children to walk freely without tripping.
- Children’s ability to see, hear and move should not be impaired by unwieldy masks.
- Make certain that any face paint or make-up used on skin or costumes is non-toxic.
- Extra care should be taken on streets and at crossings, especially at dusk and after dark.
- Children should carry a flashlight and wear reflective or bright colored clothing at night.
- Emergency identification information should be placed discreetly inside clothing of small children, in case of accidental separation.
- Avoid having children wear their names outwardly on clothing or jewelry which may allow a stranger to call them by name and appear to know them.
- As always, children should be cautioned to avoid strangers, as well as poorly-lit areas and homes of people they do not know.
- Halloween treats only should be consumed if they are packaged appropriately. Parents can help protect their children by making sure that treats are wrapped in their original, unbroken packages – no loose candy, open glasses or bottles, fresh fruit or homemade goods.

If after eating a Halloween treat there is evidence that it may have been tampered with, or it has a strange taste or if a child feels sick, parents or guardians can call the NYC Health Department’s Poison Control Center. The Poison Control Center is open 24 hours a day, 365 days of the year, for emergencies and advice at (212) POISONS (764-7667), (212) VENENOS (836-3667) for Spanish language speakers, or (212) 689-9014 for TDD users. The national toll free number, 1-800-222-1222, connects to the nearest poison control center.

**NYCHA Seniors Bring Down the House at Annual Senior Show**

NYCHA’s 34th Annual Senior Show drew steady laughter from a packed house at City College on September 15. “Step Right Up 3 – Going to the Chapel,” a two-act musical comedy, focuses on a widow who marries a former boyfriend. A cast of 25 NYCHA residents performed, including shown from left to right, Hester Snipes (Marcy Houses), Laverne Campbell (Lincoln Houses), Myna Majors (Lincoln Houses), Lois Credle (Pink Houses), Gloria Geddie (Lehman Houses), Sylvia Cunningham (Todt Hill Houses) and Rachelle Waymann (King Towers).

**IN CASE OF EMERGENCY, DIAL 911 (NON-EMERGENCY, DIAL 311)**

Help us fight terrorism, report suspicious activity to the COUNTER TERRORISM HOTLINE:

1-888-NYC-SAFE (1-888-692-7233)

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Visit Healthfirst in your neighborhood today.
New “High-Dose Flu Shots”

Fluzone High-Dose is a new influenza vaccine commonly called the “High-Dose Flu Shot.” This shot is designed specifically for people 65 years and older, because immune responses become weaker with age. The antigen in a flu shot is the part of the vaccine that causes the body to produce antibodies that fight the flu virus. “High-Dose Flu Shots” contain four times the amount of antigen as in regular flu shots. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has approved Fluzone High-Dose for use in people 65 years of age and older.

Both “High-Dose” and “Seasonal” Flu shots now are available. In addition, this year’s flu shots provide protection from last year’s H1N1 virus as well as the seasonal flu virus. If you ever have suffered from a severe reaction to the flu shot in the past or are allergic to chicken or eggs, then you should not get a flu shot. The City recommends that you see your doctor for your flu shot. You also can call 311 to find out where flu shots are available near you.

“Literacy Day” at St. Nicholas Houses

More than 100 NYCHA youth took part in the first “Literacy Day” at the St. Nicholas Houses Senior Center on September 24, 2011. The back to school event for elementary school students was part of promoting literacy and encouraging St. Nicholas families to engage in community-based events through fun and interactive activities, including creating their own journal, crafting, making banners and face painting. The event was hosted in partnership with the Harlem Children’s Zone, which is building a charter school on part of the St. Nicholas Houses property.

NYCHA Youth Meet a Met

Former Mets pitcher John Franco joins NYCHA youth at the Brooklyn Cyclones game on August 17, 2011. They were there to celebrate the minor league baseball team’s “Brooklyn Night,” which gathered famous Brooklynites together at MCU Park in Coney Island. Mr. Franco grew up in Marlboro Houses.

A Summer of ‘Achievements’ for NYCHA College Students

By Starr Lane

“This was my first internship and it was challenging, but in a good way. It absolutely was the experience that I needed,” said 21-year old Amanda Torres, a resident of Johnson Houses in Manhattan. Ms. Torres was one of 50 college or college-bound students who traded in their summer break to pursue their dream careers. The NYCHA Achievers program allows resident students aged 17-22 to intern with the Authority or an external organization. The young adults are employed full-time during the eight-week program.

Ms. Torres received hands-on experience working in the Law Department, fulfilling Freedom of Information Law (FOIL) requests, preparing respondent requests and drafting letters. A senior double majoring in women’s gender studies and sociology at Syracuse University in Syracuse, NY, she plans to work in the government sector after she graduates. The internship gave Ms. Torres a realistic view of what it takes to be a lawyer, an experience that she says will help her when she applies to law school.

Cameron Sutton, a 21-year old resident of Pomonok Houses in Queens, enjoyed his time as a NYCHA Achiever in 2010 so much he returned to the program again this year, serving in the Chairman’s Office and the Finance Department. “This experience taught me about the corporate world. I was partnered with a staff accountant and was able to learn what an accountant does on a daily basis,” he said.

Mr. Sutton, a junior at Trinity College in Hartford, CT, pursuing an economics degree, aspires to work one day as an investment banker. He was able to apply his knowledge when working on major assignments such as the New Market Tax Credit Project and the Resident Board Member Project. “I’m very grateful for this opportunity,” said Mr. Sutton. “This program shows the good that NYCHA does.”

The program was created by NYCHA’s Human Resources Department and received funding from New York State Assemblyman Vito Lopez (Brooklyn).
NYCHA Seniors Spend a Day Expanding Their World

By Starr Lane

Always a lively event, more than 1,600 NYCHA seniors gathered at Riverbank State Park in Manhattan on September 21 to participate in the Authority’s Seventh Annual Senior Benefit and Entitlement Fair. Repeating 2010’s theme of “Expand Your World,” NYCHA continued its efforts to bridge the gap between seniors and technology by providing services that introduce them to innovative ways to improve their quality of life.

Attendees learned how to use social networking websites, digital cameras and mobile devices. Manhattanville Houses (Manhattan) resident Loretta Richardson was at the event for the second straight year. “I’m searching for the technology center,” said Ms. Richardson. “Last year they took digital photos and I want some pictures taken again. I just want to look around and see what else they have.”

Judy Davis, from Grant Houses in Manhattan, heard of the senior event when she recently joined the senior center at her development. “I sit on the Resident Association,” said Ms. Davis. “Any information that I get, I would like to share with the other residents.”

Eddie Hayes, from Williamsburg Houses in Brooklyn, was impressed with how much there was to do and how busy the event was. “The information here is useful. The event is very fun,” said Mr. Hayes. “I’m just waiting for the lines to calm down before I make my next round.”

Riding in Style: NYCHA’s New Elevators are Safer and More Modern

Elevator teams meeting with residents to highlight improvements

By Heidi Morales

“Fix the elevators.” This phrase was heard frequently over the past year as NYCHA met with residents during community conversations and town hall meetings. Many residents are getting their wish granted.

NYCHA’s Capital Budget for 2012 includes more than $250 million to install new, modern elevators in 79 developments. This is in addition to the 29 developments where work already had begun or been completed since 2009.

“I am very satisfied with the new elevators,” said Daniel Barber, Resident Association President of Andrew Jackson Houses in the Bronx where elevator modernization work has been taking place. “Once the job is completed we won’t have to worry about elevators getting stuck or going out of service. I thank the elevator division for working closely with me to ensure things are taken care of in a timely manner.”

NYCHA’s elevator team has been visiting the developments where the new elevators will be installed to highlight the improvements. “NYCHA’s elevators make more than 3 million trips per day and more than a billion trips per year,” said Brian Clarke, Assistant Deputy General Manager of Operations for Support Services. “Modernizing the elevators ensures they meet national standards for safety, saves money by reducing maintenance and energy costs and improves how the elevators perform.”

The new elevator cabs and doors are made of stainless steel that is resistant to graffiti and rust. The elevator doors in the lobbies have a display that lets residents know what floor an elevator is on. All new elevators are wired to allow for the installation of closed circuit TV cameras, which will be installed when funding for the cameras is available.

Other features include:

► Call stations in every entrance placed no higher than 42 inches from the ground in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act.

► Brighter lights for added safety. The light fixtures reduce how much heat is emitted, providing a more comfortable environment while keeping with the Authority’s Green Initiative.

► Braille tags on each side of the elevator frames and on the push button display panels inside the elevators.

► Sensors that perceive movement as people enter and exit. This safety improvement eliminates the need to push or force the doors open.

Chelsea-Elliot in Manhattan is one of the developments that has the new, modernized elevators.

NYC Public Schools Upcoming Important Dates

For more information on any of the activities listed below, parents can contact the Parent Coordinator at their child’s school or call 311.

To receive up-to-date information about children’s academic progress, including attendance and test grades, parents can go to ARISparentlink.org. It is available in 10 languages and includes online tutorials about how to use this information to support students. Parents who need their password or have questions about logging on should contact the parent coordinator at their child’s school.

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<th>Event Type</th>
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<td>Tuesday, October 4 – Thursday, October 13</td>
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<td>Columbus Day Observed (Schools closed)</td>
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<td>Borough High School fairs</td>
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<tr>
<td>High School Parent-Teacher Conferences</td>
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<td>Specialized High Schools Admissions Test All current 8th grade students</td>
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<td>District 75 School Programs Parent-teacher Conferences</td>
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<td>Specialized High Schools Admissions Test All current 9th grade students 8th and 9th grade students with special needs and approved 504 accommodations</td>
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<td>Thanksgiving Recess (Schools closed)</td>
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