

The John D. O'Bryant School of Mathematics & Science is a diverse and supportive community of learners that engages in a rigorous and comprehensive Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics Program integrated with Humanities. Our college-preparatory exam school enables our students to reach their full potential and become leaders who will shape the direction of society.

# O'Bryant Tiger

A Publication of the O'Bryant Leadership Team  
**Steve Sullivan, Headmaster**  
 ~O'Bryant PRIDE~  
**Perseverance Respect Integrity Discipline Excellence**

**John D. O'Bryant School of Mathematics & Science**

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**"Isolation is the Enemy of Improvement"**

- Irvin Scott; BPS Academic Superintendent for High Schools

## Hundreds in Attendance for Invitee Open House

An overflow crowd of over 200 invitees and their family members filled the Roland Hayes auditorium last Wednesday night to listen to O'Bryant students, staff and parents talk about why they should make OB their choice for grades 7, 9 and 10 next year.

The event kicked off with the presentation of colors by the NJROTC Color Guard and Pledge of Allegiance, followed by a spirited "Welcome to O'Bryant" from the cheerleaders.

After introductory remarks from Mr. Sullivan and Mr. MacLeod, current 7th and 9th grade students spoke about why they chose O'Bryant and their transition to OB. Ana Bueso, Selina Dam, Emely Gay, Samuel Kauffman and Nya Ross spoke about their experiences in the grade 7 cluster and the support provided by their teachers and classmates.

Current 9th graders Valerie Nieves and Daniel Martinez shared their experiences in the classroom as well as the nu-

merous extracurricular activities that they have become involved with.

Following presentations by Mr. MacLeod, highlighting the school's academic achievements, Ms. Coy-Gonfa, Mr. Kennelly, Commander Sturges and parents Mr. Antonelli and Ms. Vieira, it was time to hear from OB students again.

Seniors Eloho Akpovi, Justin Owumi, Nigel Robinson, Lili Wondwossen and Takashige Okubo spoke enthusiastically about their

experiences at O'Bryant as well as their college plans for next year.

A common theme expressed by all of the student speakers was the quality of the teachers at O'Bryant and all of the extra-curricular activities and support programs available to OB students.

The evening concluded with an informal reception in front of the library where light refreshments were served and students, teachers and administrators were available to answer questions.

### Cadets Excel on National Exam

Three of four NJROTC teams placed in the top 5% nationally on the 2010 NJROTC National Academic Exam.

Administered in March to over 1615 teams consisting of over 8000 cadets, the competitive examination measures cadet mastery of the Naval Science curriculum.

Team 4, consisting of Louis

Pham, Chris Talbot, Travis Thomas, Elda Haluli and Livy Caceras, was the top team for OB, finishing 3rd in Area 4 and 33rd nationally.

"To have one team finish in the top 2% world wide and two teams place in the top 5% is fantastic," stated Commander Sturges. "This is the best showing O'Bryant has ever had."

### Chemistry Students Advance

#### Two Qualify to take National Exam

Earlier this month, five O'Bryant students competed in the American Chemical Society Olympiad at Simmons College.

Two OB students, Herman Li and Juan Chen, were among 20 of the 150 students who took the

exam to qualify for the National Exam, to be administered on April 24.

The 20 top scorers on the National Exam will represent the United States at the International Chemistry Olympiad, which was held in Cambridge, England last year.

### O'Bryant Committee Report Corner

- **School Site Council (SSC):** The School Site Council voted to raise the minimum Grade Point Average (GPA) for student athletes to 2.0 from the current 1.67. (Full story on page 2)
- **Instructional Leadership Team (ILT):** The ILT held its biweekly meeting last Tuesday and continued its work on the WSIP and plans for school wide PD. The WSIP will be presented to the school community in May.
- **NEASC Follow Up Committee:** The NEASC Follow Up Committee completed work on the 5 Year Report. The report will now be submitted for review.
- **School Parent Council (SPC):** The SPC meets monthly. All are welcome.

### Upcoming OB Events

- **Day of Silence: April 16**
- **Spring Vacation: April 19-23**
- **Student Council Meeting: April 27**
- **ILT Meeting: April 27**
- **AP Applications Due: April 30**
- **Professional Development: May 5**
- **School Site Council: May 10**



## SSC Votes to Raise Student Athlete GPA Minimum

After several months of discussion and review, and with input from teachers, parents, coaches and students, the School Site Council (SSC) voted to raise the minimum GPA for student-athletes to 2.0.

Members of the SSC voted 7 Yea, 0 Nay with 1 Abstention to change the minimum requirement from 1.67 to 2.0.

Several teachers and parents spoke in favor of the proposal, with Mr. Hines noting that the minimum GPA for UMass Boston and other state schools is at least 2.0 and often higher.

The proposal developed out of discussions at School Site Council meetings earlier in the school year. Mr. Sullivan called for a committee to

evaluate the proposal. After getting input from parents, teachers, students, coaches and BPS Athletic Director Ken Still, Athletic Coordinator Mr. Kennelly made a formal proposal at last month's SSC and School Parent Council (SPC) meetings.

The proposal was linked to the school's mission of providing a rigorous and supportive learning environment. Student-athletes will continue to be supported by Boston Scholar Athlete (BSA) after school study halls to provide them with the resources needed to maintain their grades and prepare them for college.

## Spring Sports Roundup

**Softball:** Off to a strong 3-0 start, the girls' softball team is in first place in the city league. The Tigers easily defeated their opponents by scores of 37-14, 27-18 and 40-12. Kudos to Captain Christina Pienton and Co-Captains Lizbeth Sanchez and Rebecca Muise.

**Baseball:** The boys' baseball team has had two tough match-ups in its initial contests, losing to Weston and East Boston. The team is looking to rebound in its home opener this afternoon against Hyde Park.

**Track:** The girls' and boys' track teams have had three early season meets against English, West Roxbury and East Boston. Both teams have competed well, with strong performances from

Ayana Green in the 400m hurdles, Adrienne Thornton in the discus and Gregory Morrison and Cuong Linh in the 400m hurdles.

**Girls' Tennis:** Captain Zarina Jamal and 15 new and returning tennis players are preparing to open the tennis season next Tuesday. According to Coach Velasco, the girls have been working hard to develop and improve their skills.

**Boys' Tennis:** The boys' tennis has been gearing up for the start of the season Friday against Catholic Memorial. Co-Captain Ed Martinez and Freshman Tony Huang won in a doubles match scrimmage versus Arlington on Monday, while the rest of the team is working with them to improve skills and help support a winning tradition.

**Boys' Volleyball:** The boys' volleyball team is off to a 4-3 start. After some early defeats, the team has started to play well, and according to Coach Reddick the team has been playing "inspiring volleyball." Led by senior captains Simon Chen and Trung Pham, the volleyball team is currently well-positioned to qualify for the state tournament.

## O'Bryant Classroom, Club and Field Trip Updates

**City/Build:** Mr. Munsey's honors geometry class recently participated in City/Build. The program, which focuses on development, architecture, engineering and construction, is designed to introduce students to different math careers. Students learned about the different elements that come together to design, construct and finish a new building. They examined a model of the Genzyme building in Allston and then went on a field trip to visit the building and tour a construction site where an addition to the building is nearing completion. For the final class, students made presentations on architectural projects including the design of a new front entrance for O'Bryant.

**FIRST Robotics:** The O'Bryant Robotics Team has participated in the FIRST Robotics Competition program for the past four years. This program is an international effort that engages thousands of students from over 20 different countries in robotics activities and challenges. This year O'Bryant fielded two robots for the Boston Regional Competition, held recently at Boston University's Agganis Arena. Teams from Brazil, England, Canada and from across the United States competed in this event.

**U.S. & World I Field Trip:** The rich African-American history of Boston was explored by over 100 United States and World History I students this week through a field trip to Beacon Hill and the African Meeting House. Led by Mr. Pitts-Dilley, Mr. Floyd and Ms. Tamerat, the students traveled into town on Wednesday and Thursday to learn about the roles and experiences of Boston's African-American community in the early history of the nation.

**Roland Hayes School of Music:** Senior vocalist LaWanda Hector has been selected as a finalist for the Fidelity Investments Futurestage competition held recently at Symphony Hall. Singing the selection "Glitter in the Air" by Pink, LaWanda will compete against other vocalists from Cambridge and Boston high schools for a cash prize and the opportunity to perform on stage with Keith Lockhart and the Boston Pops in May.

### Sports Schedule

- **Softball: 4.16 (A)**
- **Baseball: 4.16 (H)**
- **Track: 4.28 (White)**
- **Volleyball: 4.16 (A)**
- **Girls' Tennis 4.20 (A)**
- **Boys' Tennis 4.16 (H)**

## Go Tigers!!