

**EAST-WEST
SCHOOL OF
INTERNATIONAL
STUDIES**

The Bridge



Volume 1, Issue 2

May 2011

Save the date!

- *PTA General Meeting*
May 14
10am - 11:30am
- *School Musical - The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee*
May 26
7pm – 8pm
- *Memorial Day—No School*
May 30

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East-West Welcomes Teachers and School Leaders from New Sister School in China

The East-West School of International Studies welcomed teachers and administrators from its partner school in the Chinese province of Hangzhou during the week of April 11. These representatives from Hangzhou No. 14 High School visited several classes, including English, ELL, Social Studies, and language, and met with students and staff. Following their visit to New York, the Chinese delegation as well as teachers and school leaders from East-West traveled together to San Francisco to serve as representatives at the National Chinese Language Conference.

Following excerpt from Connor Sheets of the Flushing Times:

Ben Sherman said East-West will also reap great benefit from the partnership, which came about through its participation in the Asia Society Confucius Classrooms Network, which links 60 schools in the United States with 60 schools in China. This is the first sister school for East-West, which opened in 2006.

“We are preparing students for a world in which Asia is growing in importance,” Sherman said. “To our guests from the Hangzhou school, we are looking to build this relationship so that principal to principal, teacher to teacher and student to student we can learn from each other This kind of cross-cultural pollination, like the coming of spring, helps to re-energize our schools.”



The two principals sign a commemorative banner with the Chinese characters for “east” and “west.” Photo by Connor Sheets.

Manny Korman Speaks to Students about the Holocaust

By Hiba Rashid, student intern

On Wednesday, March 30, 2011, Manny Korman visited our school. Mr. Korman is a mentor to our principal, Mr. Sherman. Mr. Korman attended the recent presentation from the Holocaust survivor, Rosa Strygler and volunteered to share his own experiences from that time.

He discussed how his family was forced out of their home one early morning in 1938 and

were sent on trains towards an unknown destination because they became victims of ethnic cleansing, due to their Jewish heritage.

We thank Mr. Korman for visiting our school and sharing his insightful story with us! We were glad to further understand the events of the Holocaust through his eyes. It gave us the chance to view this event in a different manner.



Mr. Korman speaks to the students of East-West

Spirit Week!



Military Day



Hippie Day



Culture Day

“Education is the most important thing.”

- Rosa Strygler

Rosa Strygler Visits East-West

Rosa Strygler, a Holocaust survivor, came to speak to the 12th graders at East-West on March 16th. All the students had read her memoir, Rosa, which told the story of her growing up in Poland and being sent to Auschwitz in her early teens. She donated the books to all the students, who read and studied her experiences in their senior English classes.

Rosa invited the students to ask her any question they

wanted. She responded frankly as students grappled with the enormity of her life experiences. It was a valuable opportunity to learn about someone who lived through incredible hardship.

Above all, Rosa wanted to make sure that young people never forgot that the Holocaust happened so that it would never happen again.

“Your struggle has taught me that no matter how hard it gets you can survive and become a better person. Thank you so much for sending your book to our school and then visiting us.” - Student



Ben Sherman

Letter from the Principal

Though I am the principal of a public high school, I am a great admirer of the charter school movement. It’s not that charter schools are better, but we can learn from their successful strategies. In New York City, charter schools currently receive 75% of their operating budget from the DOE. They are responsible for funding the remaining 25%. However, many successful charter schools, such as KIPP, have been able to raise

significant amounts each year in excess because of their strong business model and connections to private investors.

With the increasing budget cuts, public schools struggle to provide basic services. We must look to our community to help us fulfill East-West’s vision of providing quality education to all students. Local and corporate partnerships can provide

invaluable opportunities and maximize the hard work of our incredible students and teachers.

Over the next few months, watch this space for updates as we try to secure additional funding sources for our school. I am open to ideas and leads, so please let me know if you have any.

Sincerely,

Ben Sherman

Students Help With Kissena Corridor Park Revitalization Project

On April 18, city Department of Parks and Recreation Commissioner Adrian Benepe, Yale University's School of Forestry & Environmental Studies Assistant Professor Alex Felson, Queens Botanical Garden Director of Education & Visitor Services Patrice Kleinberg joined eighth graders from East West School of International Studies in Flushing to celebrate a research and reforestation project.

The collaboration

between Parks and Yale University at Kissena Corridor Park involved planting trees and collecting data on the existing trees that were planted in the fall of 2010.

Students planted the last batch of trees in the park and conducted a final survey on the trees planted last year.

With their assistance, The Parks Department has now completed a 16.5-acre, \$1.03-million capital project to reforest Kissena Corridor Park after removing the invasive

weeds that had taken over.

Thanks to the organizing efforts of Paul Allison, an East-West English teacher, students have also begun to work again on their school garden in the Park, a continuation from their partnerships with the Korean American Citizens Society of Greater New York and the Holly Civic Association. Teachers are encouraged to incorporate the garden into their lesson plans.



Students plant a black oak tree in Kissena Park

East-West Celebrates Honor Roll Students



Middle School Honor Roll ceremony – 4th marking period. At 90 students, we set a new highest record of middle school students on the honor roll. Photo by Mr. Shibata.

We at East-West promote a culture of academic rigor and high standards. For each marking period, we hold a special ceremony at Muster when we honor and celebrate our highest achieving students.

Each semester, we have watched the number of honored students grow.

Congratulations!



High School Honor Roll – 4th marking period. Photo by Ms. Hartong

News Bites

- East-West received a grant from GrowNYC to support our school garden. The grant was used to purchase new gardening supplies for students.

We are also their *Featured School Garden* for May.

- East-West runners participated in a Youth Jamboree race on March 28th and brought home nine 1st place wins, nine 2nd place wins and eight 3rd place wins. They also earned 50 new books from Scholastic for our library!

- **John Eckartz, Karmun Yong, Marc Riley, Terence King, Justin Robles and Joseph Santamaria** were given East-West Good Citizenship awards on April 14th in recognition of their commitment to community spirit. Congratulations!

Want to know more about the exciting things happening at East-West? Subscribe to our biweekly email newsletter!

Email Julia Cheng at jcheng@ewsis.org



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About East-West

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Established in September 2006, EWSIS is a public high school in Flushing, New York with over 550 students from 6th to 12th grade. EWSIS believes that our next generation must be primed for Asia, a region with growing importance and influence. All students are required to study one East Asian language for at least four years.

We prepare students with global knowledge and perspective by offering courses in Japanese, Chinese, and Korean, as well as a range of clubs and exchange opportunities. Now in our fifth year, we have kept to our mission of providing superior education for all students regardless of academic level or socioeconomic background. In 2010, 94% of our high school seniors graduated and went on to college.

Visit us online!
<http://www.ewsis.org>
School Blog: <http://ewsis.wordpress.com>

Spotlight on EWSIS Partner: NAACP

Kenneth Cohen and Valerie Cohen, members of the NAACP Northeast Queens Branch, have served on East-West's Community Advisory Board since it first convened in 2009 and helped to guide our decisions regarding the school and community. They are also strong advocates for the school at the local and state level and proactive in offering East-West students enrichment opportunities.

Recently, five of our students and three guardians visited Yale University to watch a debate between Yale and Howard University. This trip was fully sponsored by the NAACP. The students shared their experience at Muster.

Ms. Cohen has met with our Social Studies teachers and will organize and present a



Kenneth Cohen and Valerie Cohen, second and third from the left

brief curriculum on the history and significance of the NAACP to our high school students. Together they will work to incorporate more African-

American history

Thank you for your dedication to East-West and your efforts to help our school best represent our community.

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