

WOODSIDE HERALD

SERVING SUNNYSIDE-WOODSIDE AND LONG ISLAND CITY

VOL. 71, NO. 7

WOODSIDE, L.I., N.Y. FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 2005

25 CENTS

HERE and THERE

with Buster Sabba

Without A Prayer

As difficult as it may be for the families of students attending Queen of Angels, St. Teresa's and St. Mary's-Winfield schools to deal with last week's announcement that the Diocese of Brooklyn would be closing and/or consolidating up to 26 schools in Brooklyn and Queens, the decision should come as no surprise.

With Catholic elementary school enrollment having dropped precipitously, with 3,000 schools having closed nationwide since the 1960's, a decline of 11,000 students in the Brooklyn diocese alone since 1999 and 7,000 in just the last two years, the handwriting has certainly been on the blackboard for some time. And all of this despite the fact that Catholic schools remain the largest, nongovernmental provider of education, both in New York and the nation, and that Catholic school students consistently score well on standardized tests, regardless of income or race.

So what happened to cause "the mighty parochial school system...to [begin] fading into history"? Among some of the theories being posed are that, after peaking in the mid-1980's, with costs rising, the pool of students began to shrink. Although the population

(Continued on Page 2)

Onorato Alerts Constituents to NYPD Entrance Exams

State Senator George Onorato the Police Department by April

Valentine's Day Hugs And Kisses Abound In Sunnyside/Woodside

Sunnyside/Woodside Lions Spread Valentine's Day Cheer

On Saturday February 12th we visited the Queens Blvd. Extended Care Facility for Valentine's Day armed with cookies, valentines and our secret weapon - a talented singer and performer Patricia Dillon. The idea was to give a little cheer and comfort to the people at the nearby Woodside facility.



Top row (L-R) Kris Czerniachowicz, Ona Whitman, Bernadette McKeivitt, Maura Wilson, Ruth Hauptert, Luke Adams (Bottom) Roel Vanderkooi, Pat Dillon and her guitar and our President Karen Wilensky.

Gioia Delivers Valentine's Day Carnations To Queens Seniors



La Guardia Community College Celebrates The Chinese New Year—The Year of the Rooster



Mr. John Liu, the First Asian American Councilman of New York City Council was invited to visit La Guardia Community College by their Chinese Club. Councilman Liu was part of the College's celebration of the Asian Lunar New Year 4703, marking the year of the rooster, the sign in the Chinese lunar calendar. In addition to the students Faculty Mentor Kenneth Yin and Joyce Moy Director of Small Business Development Center were on hand to greet the Councilman.



Council Member Liu also enjoyed meeting the students from La Guardia International High School and their Principal Ms Lee Pan. Councilman Liu is a member of the New York City Council. John is the Chairperson of the Council's Transportation Committee. He also serves on the committees on Education, Consumer Affairs, Contracts, Oversight & Investigation, and Lower Manhattan Redevelopment. Before departing from the school the Councilman amused the students by telling them that the year of the Rooster is consider by many as a bad luck year to get married.

Chinese New Year starts with the New Moon on the first day of the New Year and ends on the full moon 15 days later. The 15th day of the New Year is called the Lantern Festival, which is celebrated at night with lantern displays and children carrying lanterns in a parade.

The Chinese calendar is based on a combination of lunar and solar movements. The lunar cycle is about 29.5 days. In order to "catch up" with the solar calendar the Chinese insert an extra month once every few years (seven years out of a 19-yearcycle). This is the same as

adding an extra day on leap year. This is why, according to the solar calendar, the Chinese New Year falls on a different date each year.

New Year's Eve and New Year's Day are celebrated as a family affair, a time of reunion and thanksgiving. The celebration was traditionally highlighted with a religious ceremony given in honor of Heaven and Earth, the gods of the household and the family ancestors.

The sacrifice to the ancestors, the most vital of all the rituals, united the living members with those who had passed away. Departed rela-

tives are remembered with great respect because they were responsible for laying the foundations for the fortune and glory of the family.

The presence of the ancestors is acknowledged on New Year's Eve with a dinner arranged for them at the family banquet table. The spirits of the ancestors, together with the living, celebrate the onset of the New Year as one great community. The communal feast called "surrounding the stove" or weilu. It symbolizes family unity and honors the past and present generations.

Onorato: NYPD Entrance Exams...

(Continued from Page 1)

Applications, further exam information, and details about eli-

Local S Rensselaer

Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute has announced the names of students who made the Institute's dean's list for the fall semester. The dean's list recognizes top time students who maintain grade point averages of a minimum 3.0 out of a possible 4.0 and no grades below "C".

Senior John S. Jison of Street in Woodside is majoring in Mechanical Engineering.

Senior Wendy Lew of Street in Sunnyside is majoring in Architecture.

Senior Ha Ni Lim of Street in Woodside is majoring in "Elect Media, Arts, & Communications".

Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, founded in 1824, is the nation's oldest technological university. The school offers degrees in engineering, the sciences, information technology, architecture, management, and the humanities and social sciences. Institute programs serve undergraduate, graduate students, and working professionals around the world. Rensselaer faculty

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Helene Glodo

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