



# ROBERT TREAT ACADEMY CHARTER SCHOOL



Volume 11, Issue 10

## April Students of the Month

May 2009

Name	HR/Activity
India Stafford	104
Anthony Collado	107
Bryanna Martinez	201
Glorinette Miranda	202
Aryana Mercado	203
Rocio Solorzano	204
Edwin Ramirez	205
Denise Lopez	206
Sean Carreras	207
Nia Tendencia-Correa	208
Angel Hernandez	210
Emily Padilla	301
Pedro Reyes	302
Leanne Pannullo	303
Francisco Perez	304
Vanessa Fernandez	306
Juan Miranda	308
Balthazar Sheehan	310
Desiree Calderon	Art
Ny-Asia Peppers	Physical Education
Allison Estremera	Science
Jaritza Ramos	Technology

## Our Principal's Message

### Dear Parents,

State testing is finally over. I have to say, our children worked very hard to do their best on each of the applications. They are to be commended for the consideration they showed each other during these three long weeks.

Next month will be just as busy as we have our eighth grade activities, Kindergarten activities, Founder's Day and our school testing to enable us to zone in on various skills that must be reemphasized. June is always like this, but we get through it and so do our students.

Honor Roll and Principal's List for Cycle IV will be published in the June edition of this newsletter. I want to commend those students who made the lists for the fourth marking period and those who made Student of the Month for April. I'm always happy when those lists are sent to my office.

Thanks for supporting the Spring Concert and Art Show. I want to publicly thank Mrs. Cherchio, Mr. Jorge and Mr. Vinas for a terrific con-

cert and show. It is evident that these three people excel in what they do and that our children are getting the best in both music and art education.



Please be reminded that the Parent Council Meeting for May has been cancelled.

We are also very busy preparing to open Robert Treat Central in August. There is always a great deal of excitement and apprehension when new schools are about to be opened. We are extremely happy that we will be able to do the same for another 225 students as we do here at Robert Treat.

School will be closed on Monday, May 25th in observance of Memorial Day and again on Thursday and Friday, June 4th and 5th for Staff Development.

*M. Bellante*  
**Principal**



**LEFT TO RIGHT  
BOTTOM TO TOP**

**Row 1**

**INDIA STAFFORD  
ANTHONY COLLADO  
ANGEL HERNANDEZ**

**Row 2**

**ROCIO SOLORZANO  
ALLISON ESTREMER  
JARITZA RAMOS**

**Row 3**

**DENISE LOPEZ  
ARYANA MERCADO  
SEAN CARRERAS**

**Row 4**

**DESIREE CALDERON  
NIA TENDENCIA-CORREA  
BRYANNA MARTINEZ  
EDWIN RAMIREZ**

**Row 5**

**JUAN MIRANDA  
FRANCISCO PEREZ  
VANESSA FERNANDEZ  
GLORINETTE MIRANDA**

**Row 6**

**BALTHAZAR SHEEHAN  
EMILY PADILLA  
NY-ASIA PEPPERS  
LEANNE PANNULLO**

**NOT PICTURED**

**PEDRO REYES**

## High School Placement Update

Submitted by  
Mr. Trillo, High School Placement

Usually at this point in the year we have finalized all of the acceptances and high school registrations for our current 8<sup>th</sup> graders. However, some of our students are still waiting official word from some of the public magnet schools. So, while we await the last pieces of information to finalize our acceptances and registrations for the class of 2009, we will turn our attention to the **class of 2010!!**

The first packet concerning high school placement has been sent home with all of the 7<sup>th</sup> grade students. It should be completely filled out and returned to Robert Treat Academy by Thursday, May 7<sup>th</sup>. In this packet 7<sup>th</sup> grade parents should have found a few documents that need to be filled out and returned to school, as well as information about upcoming events that will take place before the end of the current school year. There are 4 important events that every 7<sup>th</sup> grade parent and student should be aware of.

**#1. On Saturday, May 16<sup>th</sup>** Seventh graders accompanied by a parent visited The Lawrenceville School with some of the members of the Robert Treat Academy High School Placement Staff and Faculty. The purpose of this trip is for students and parents alike is to gain some exposure and insight regarding boarding school life.

**#2. On Saturdays: May 9<sup>th</sup>, May 30<sup>th</sup>, and June 9<sup>th</sup>** We will be holding Saturday classes for all of the 7<sup>th</sup> graders in order to prepare them completely for the SSAT Exam. This is the important exam that will play a heavy role in determining the types of schools that will consider your child for admission. **The classes will begin at 8:50 am and be dismissed at 11:00 am.**

**#3. On Thursday, May 28<sup>th</sup>** all 7<sup>th</sup> grade parents are expected to attend a high school placement welcome and information session in the fine arts pavilion. This meeting will take place at the same time as the regularly scheduled parent council meeting as a convenience for our parents. **The meeting will begin at 6:45 pm and conclude by 8:00 pm.**

**#4. On Wednesday, June 16<sup>th</sup>** every 7<sup>th</sup> grade student will take the lower level SSAT Exam here at RTA. The test will take all morning and the Academy will pay the \$105 fee for each child for the parents convenience. The Robert Treat Academy Department of High School Placement looks forward to working in cooperation with the 7<sup>th</sup> grade parents to ensure the brightest possible future for your children.

## 8th Grade Parents:

**Save the date!**

**Eighth Grade Graduation**

**will be held on**

**Friday, June 26, 2009**

**@ 11 a.m.**

## Body Systems

Submitted by the  
Fourth Grade  
Team

ASK a fourth grader what part of their body is like a pump or what part is like a bag that fills with air, and they'll tell you all about the circulatory and respiratory systems.

The circulatory system includes the blood, blood vessels, and heart. The heart acts like a pump and circulates the blood around the body. The respiratory system

includes your nose, mouth, trachea, and lungs. You don't even have to think about breathing, you just do it! Did you know that these two systems work together? As you inhale oxygen, your blood is exchanging the oxygen for carbon dioxide. Then you exhale the carbon dioxide.

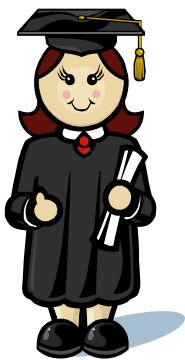
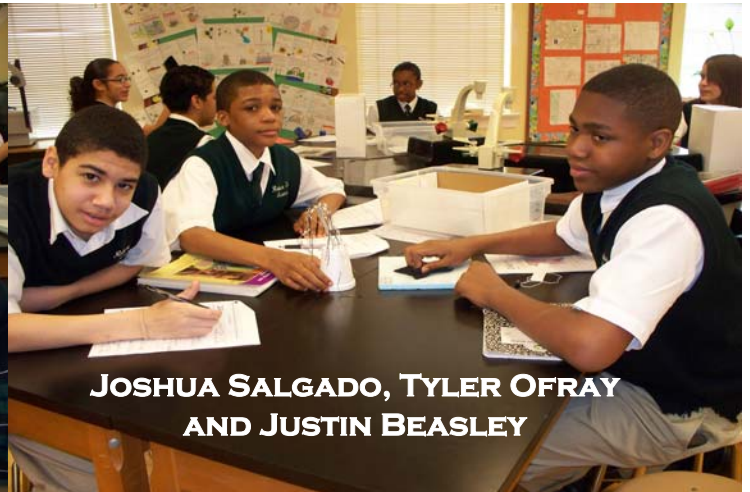
The 4<sup>th</sup> graders are hard at work, learning all about the body systems. We're so proud of all their effort put forth this year preparing for the NJASK 4, which is just around the corner in May!

## Energy Investigations

Submitted by Mrs. Kelly-Kemple, Science Teacher

Students in grade seven have been busy with Energy Investigations in the science lab. Students observed and recorded evidence of energy in different electrical systems. In the hands on experiments students use a small neon lamp as their investigative tool and observe and

describe its behavior when it touches a charged aluminum pie pan. They are challenged to work cooperatively to propose explanations for their observations of the neon light bulb. They are all doing a great job finding solutions to problems and writing good lab reports.



## Kindergarten Graduation

Will take place on

Thursday morning

June 25, 2009

at 9:00 A.M.

In the

Robert Treat Academy Multipurpose Room



## 5th and 6th Graders Attend Science Fair

Submitted by the  
Fifth Grade Team

During the first week of March, the fifth and sixth grade students attended a Science Fair that was held in our school's pavilion. The Woman's League of Montclair came to our school and held the event. The topic of the fair was "Going Green." The students learned many different activities and games they can do and play just by using materials around the house. Students made vases out of plastic

bottles, foil, and other items found in the house and created bird feeders using pine cones, peanut butter, and seeds. Students also learned the importance of recycling our plastic and using reusable bags for groceries. Fifth grader, Kaylah Lee, commented, "We learned how recycling can be fun and not just a chore." We are confident the students of Robert Treat Academy will follow good recycling habits and pass the message around.



## RTA Broadening Literary Horizons!

Submitted by the  
Seventh Grade Team

Robert Treat Academy is broadening its literary horizons. In an effort to enhance our literacy program, the sixth, seventh, and eighth grade classes have just received new sets of novels. Several staff members attended a workshop about young adult literature in an effort to make reading more appealing to adolescents. This particular age group is one that is difficult to engage in reading. The workshop covered classics, modern literature, and ways to connect the two. Young adult literature is a rapidly growing area and there is now a wealth of choices for teens and pre-teens.

The sixth, seventh, and eighth grade each got 8 new novels spanning several different genres that include fiction, historical fiction, and autobiography. Some of the titles are simply for enjoyment while others connect to topics from history or the anthology. It is important to expose middle school students to novel-based reading in addition to their reading anthology. The new books are a combination of literary classics and modern literature. We believe that adding these to supplement the anthology based read-

ing will make your children stronger readers. In addition, we believe that by exposing students to different kinds of books, we can make reading more interesting for them.

In addition, we have updated the school's library as well. Three hundred fourteen (314) new books and DVD's were purchased for our collection. Again, our library services K-8 but students and teachers both found that the choices for middle school readers were lacking. When children have appealing choices, they will want to read. Students and staff alike are very excited to get their hands on these new books.



# Our Annual Art Show and



Name: Abby Canacho  
Grade: 1  
Title: "The Big City"



Name: Eric Showers  
Grade: 2  
Title: "Half Human, Half Alien"

# Spring Concert Were a Great Success!



# Caterpillars and Worms, Eh!!

Submitted by the  
Second Grade Team



Caterpillars grow amazingly fast! Hornworms are large green caterpillars that live in many areas of the United States. You may have seen them in a garden, munching on tomato or pepper plants. They grow so fast that they increase their body weight by over 10,000 times in about two weeks. If people grew this fast, adults would weight 60,000 pounds!

Hornworms are the larval stage of the Hawk moth, which lives in most areas of the United States. The moth goes through four distinct life-cycle stages (Egg, Larva,

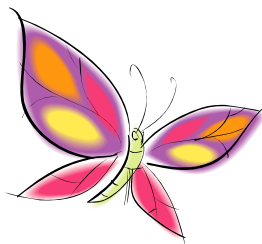
Pupa, & Moth) as it makes a complete metamorphoses. In summer, at dusk, the adult moth lays eggs on the underside of leaves. She will lay up to 200 eggs in her week-long life. Within 3 - 5 days, a tiny larva, about the size of a grain of rice, chews it way out of the egg case and begins to feed on the host plant. A pale green pupa emerges from the larva's final molt. The pupa goes through many changes, some visible and some invisible. Its color changes from green to brown as its exoskeleton hardens. After 19 - 180 days the pupa cracks open and a large gray moth emerges!

## What Is a Webquest?



For the next several weeks we will be exploring the life cycle of a butterfly. We welcomed the arrival of the caterpillars on April 23, and will be witnessing first hand the changes that occur. The first grade has also recently started a new webquest project on butterflies. Through the activities found on the webquest, the students will be practicing reading, writing, navigating through the inter-

Submitted by the  
First Grade Team



net, and word processing as we learn about the butterfly. Our tasks include identifying the parts of a butterfly, learning about its lifecycle, and researching its habitats and needs. The children are enjoying using the computers to do the research as we anxiously await the development of the caterpillars into beautiful butterflies!



## Parents:

**Please be aware that fees for all overdue and lost library books must be paid before the end of this school year. Final report cards will be held until these obligations are met.**

**Notices have been given to the children who have these fines during the last few days.**

**Thanks for your cooperation.**



# Please check our website often!

## [www.RobertTreatAcademy.org](http://www.RobertTreatAcademy.org)

### *A Parents' Responsibility*

**Submitted by the Seventh Grade Team**

Since summer is coming we know many students will increase the amount of time they spend playing video games. Although staying focused on reading and math is ideal, we know this is not often the reality.

The Entertainment Software Rating Board was created to empower consumers with the ability to make informed decisions about the computer and video games they choose for their children. The board has required age and content ratings that hold the computer and video game industry accountable for responsible and marketing practices. Both these requirements are helpful, but it is still important for parents to preview games - or even better, to play them - before letting kids play. Parents

must remember it is ultimately their choice what games their kids play.



**School will be closed  
for students**

**on  
Thursday and Friday  
June 4th & 5th  
in order for our  
teachers  
to attend  
Staff Development  
Workshops.**

**School will be closed**

**On  
Monday, May 25th  
In observance of  
Memorial Day.  
Enjoy the day!**

# *From the Media*

## Robert Treat Academy receives statewide honor

by Bruno Tedeschi

Wednesday April 22, 2009, 8:42 AM

The [Robert Treat Academy](#) in Newark was recognized by the [New Jersey Charter Public Schools Association](#) during its annual conference for being named a 2008 No Child Left Behind-Blue Ribbon school.

Robert Treat was one of two charter schools in the state to be recognized by the the association for receiving the national designation. The Classical Academy Charter School of Clifton was

also recognized at the March 31 conference in Trenton.

"It's a great honor to be recognized by the association," said Robert Treat Academy Principal Michael Pallante. "All the parents and students at Robert Treat should be proud of this achievement."

Robert Treat Academy was one of 320 schools nationwide to be named a Blue Ribbon school by the U.S. Department of Education. It is one of only eight schools nationally that will be featured on the department's web site this year as a "high-achieving, high-poverty" school.

Robert Treat had the highest test scores of any school in



Principal Michael Pallante with Robert Treat Academy students during a recent morning assembly.

Newark, Essex County and urban New Jersey, according to results released in February by the state Department of Education. As a public charter school, Robert Treat's students are selected by random lottery.

Stephen N. Aduato, founder of the Robert Treat, said the association's award is further confirmation that the public charter school not only works, but excels.

"We have proven that children in Newark can compete with students from the best districts in New Jersey," Aduato said.

Robert Treat students start school in August, attend school for 23 more days per year than public school students and have an extra 48 minutes per day of instruction time. Students also attend school on Saturdays for test preparation and the majority of students stay for after school for remedial help and other activities.

Two Essex County lawmakers were also honored at the association's conference. State Sen. M. Teresa Ruiz and Assemblywoman Mila Jasey were recognized for their help in advancing charter public school issues in the New Jersey Legislature.



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Director of Senior  
Services



**Bruce H. London**  
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## **SCHOOL CALENDAR**

<b>FRIDAY</b>	<b>MAY 8</b>	<b>STUDENT COUNCIL TEACHER APPRECIATION LUNCHEON</b>
<b>WEDNESDAY</b>	<b>MAY 13</b>	<b>DEBATE TEAM LUNCHEON</b>
<b>SATURDAY</b>	<b>MAY 16</b>	<b>7TH GRADE TRIP TO THE LAWRENCEVILLE SCHOOL</b>
<b>FRIDAY</b>	<b>MAY 29</b>	<b>MARIO &amp; ROLANDO HERNANDEZ TO TREAT THE ENTIRE STUDENT BODY TO A PIZZA PARTY IN RECOGNITION OF THEIR HARD WORK</b>
<b>MONDAY</b>	<b>JUNE 25</b>	<b>MEMORIAL DAY-NO SCHOOL</b>
<b>THURSDAY &amp; FRIDAY</b>	<b>JUNE 4 &amp; JUNE 5</b>	<b>STAFF DEVELOPMENT</b>
<b>MONDAY- FRIDAY</b>	<b>JUNE 8- JUNE 12</b>	<b>TERRA NOVA TESTING</b>
<b>FRIDAY</b>	<b>JUNE 12</b>	<b>ALUMNI DINNER</b>
<b>THURSDAY</b>	<b>JUNE 18</b>	<b>8TH GRADE DANCE</b>
<b>FRIDAY</b>	<b>JUNE 19</b>	<b>FOUNDER'S DAY</b>
<b>MONDAY</b>	<b>JUNE 22</b>	<b>8TH GRADE TRIP TO DORNEY PARK</b>
<b>WEDNESDAY</b>	<b>JUNE 24</b>	<b>8TH GRADE AWARDS ASSEMBLY</b>
<b>THURSDAY</b>	<b>JUNE 25</b>	<b>KINDERGARTEN GRADUATION</b>
<b>FRIDAY</b>	<b>JUNE 26</b>	<b>SCHOOL CLOSED-EIGHTH GRADE GRADUATION</b>
<b>MONDAY</b>	<b>AUGUST 3</b>	<b>TEACHERS REPORT BACK TO SCHOOL</b>
<b>TUESDAY</b>	<b>AUGUST 4</b>	<b>STUDENTS IN GRADES 1-8 REPORT BACK TO SCHOOL</b>

Thanks for your kindness to our students!

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