

January 2010 News

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Three Memorial students honored as Edward J. Bloustein Distinguished Scholars



Three seniors at Memorial High School, Beatriz Cuevas, Santiago Bustamente, and Yoselin Sanchez, are the honored recipients of the Edward J. Bloustein Distinguished Scholar award. The three students have been awarded an extra \$1,000 a year for the next four years to attend college, as long as the higher education institution is in New Jersey.

To qualify, students need to rank within the top 10 percent of the graduating class in their junior year with a combined critical reading and math SAT score of 1,260 or higher.

Furthermore, Memorial High School has 21 students that are Urban Scholars Recipients. The Urban Scholars Program recognizes high achieving students attending public secondary schools in the State's urban and economically distressed areas. These students were also selected as Edward J. Bloustein Distinguished Scholars under funding provided through Urban Scholars Program. Students who rank in the top 10% of their class and have a grade point average of at least 3.0 at the end of their junior year were considered for the Urban Scholars awards.

Each participating school received a share of the total awards available based on their class size. These annual scholarships of up to \$1,000 were offered to 999 secondary students.

This year's winners include: Ian Abraham, Kevin Agudelo, Denis Barbarena, Ricardo Benitez, Madelaine Besu, Daniel Borja, Margarita Broncano, Joan Estrella, Aldo Guerrero, Sandra Henao, Vanessa Hernandez,

Aaron Marte, Stephania Meza, Sandra Ministro, Jesus Monegro, Ana Pereira, Romy Perez, Asal Salah, Charles Victor, Samantha Vidal, and Melissa Zuniga.

Memorial celebrates Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. day

In celebration of "Martin Luther King Day" the Social Studies department arranged an assembly in the auditorium. Live piano Rhythm & Blues/ Gospel songs playing while classes were arriving. The host teacher was Mr. Courtney who arranged the assembly with Mr. DeMarco and Mr. Wilson. Video clips of Dr. King from History.com were projected on the big screen and a short song arrangement around Abraham Lincoln, John F Kennedy, Martin Luther King, and Robert Kennedy. Afterwards, the students engaged in a Q & A session where questions were read to Mr. Wilson. They received answers from a first hand account basis. Mr. Wilson was 21 years old at the time of the assassination and answered questions on various topics such as racism, civil rights, and segregation. Listening to a first hand account from such an intellect as Mr. Wilson is an invaluable resource we are lucky to have here at Memorial.

[click here](#) to view pictures of this event.

M.O.M.S hold a "Dress Down" Day

On Monday, February 1st, 2010, M.O.M.S., will hold a "dress down" day. All donations of \$3.00 will go to aid the devastation in Haiti. A white shirt and blue jeans must be worn and ribbons will be provided by M.O.M.S members. Students who do not wish to participate must wear their uniforms.

Collection will take place on Friday January 29, 2010 during H.R. Activity Period.

Students visit Harvard University

The Tomorrow's Teachers' classes headed by Mrs. Esperanza Alfonso and Ms. Michelle Madariaga recently visited Harvard University. Their trip to Harvard University last November went very well. The students toured the historic campus, Harvard Square and the Graduate School of Education. They also attended a lecture with the Director of the Harvard Teacher Education Program. In addition to learning about recent trends in education, they also discussed topics dealing with the profession such as the best qualities teachers must have, NCLB, teacher retention, classroom management, multiple intelligence, etc. Our students asked great questions, provided examples and really enjoyed the lecture. They also enjoyed touring Boston and visiting Quincey Market for a few hours. The students thanked the staff for helping fund the trip; they really understand that without everyone's help, the trip would not have been possible. Many loved visiting Cambridge and Boston for the first time.

[Click here](#) for pictures of the trip.

Two MHS Students win Annual Essay Contest

Jaqueline Cid and Vanessa Hernandez were this year's winners of the annual essay contest. The topic of the essay contest was... *"How Will I Contribute to the Benefit of my Fellow Man and Woman When I am an Adult"*. The awards were presented by the members of the Knights of Columbus council 6209.

Both young women were praised by Erique Blanco, district deputy of the Knights of Columbus. He was equally impressed by the quality of their instruction when he told Mr. Sanchez, the principal, "You must be doing something right!" Encouraged to enter the essay contest by their English teacher, Mrs. Myra Schnur, the girls were very much surprised and delighted to find that not only did they win the local contest but that both their essays had gone on to win in the state competition awarding them each a \$500 savings bond.



From left to right, Enrique Blanco, Knights of Columbus District Deputy; Robert Sanchez, Principal of Memorial High School; Jaqueline Cid, 11th grade winner; Vanessa Hernandez, 12th grade winner; Felix Garcia, Knights of Columbus Financial Secretary; and Jose Barroso, a past Grand Knight of the Knights of Columbus.

