

October 2010 News

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MHS student attends the National Young Leaders Conference in Washington, DC



Nikkole Mojica, a senior at Memorial High School, recently attended the National Young Leaders Conference in Washington, D. C. The National Young Leaders Conference (NYLC) gives high-achieving high school sophomores, juniors and seniors a greater understanding of their roles in democracy and the responsibilities of leadership. As these students meet with the men and women who shape laws and policies, they gain an inside perspective on key issues. Through interaction with Cabinet secretaries, members of Congress, lobbyists, journalists and academics, NYLC scholars receive direct experience and guidance that cannot be found in textbooks. "Attending the NYLC affected me in ways I never imagined ... the insight I gained simply from meeting scholars from all across the United States inspired me to learn more about people," stated Nikkole Mojica.

Each session of the National Young Leaders Conference is designed to educate, inspire and motivate students by giving them the confidence and leadership skills that will take them into a successful future. Nikkole said, "I discovered an interest and passion for politics I never knew I had... I honed new leadership skills and my horizons were definitely broadened by this experience." The West New York School District is very proud of Nikkole.

MHS Celebrates Hispanic Heritage Month



Memorial High School's Tomorrow's Teachers promote literacy on Halloween

The Tomorrow's Teachers students visited PS #5 to read to children and review safety tips for Halloween on October 29, 2010. The MHS students were happy to promote literacy in our school district, and looked forward to meeting the 2nd and 3rd graders at PS #5. Tomorrow's Teachers students were also eager to review safety tips with youngsters to ensure that kids would have a safe and happy Halloween. The MHS students are thankful to Principal Valdes for allowing them to visit. [Click here](#) to view pictures.

Memorial's Tomorrow's Teachers attend NJFEA Conference at Kean University



The Tomorrow's Teachers students from the Memorial High School Liberal Arts Academy attended the New Jersey Future Educators Association (NJFEA) Conference at Kean University on October 8, 2010. Memorial High School's Teacher of the Year, Ms. Alfonso, was selected to be the key note speaker. She addressed the audience of 400 guests including the Dean of Education, NJEA members, Tomorrow's Teachers students and educators throughout the state of NJ regarding the current state of urban education. Memorial High School students enrolled in the Tomorrow's Teachers course were also selected to address the audience and discuss their most inspiring teachers.

The students had a great time navigating the campus to attend workshops and tour Kean. Twenty-six workshops were offered to 350 students from 45 New Jersey high schools who registered for this event. Our students were commended for their presence and professionalism.

[Click here](#) for more pictures.



Memorial girls volleyball joins cause to defeat breast cancer

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By **Michael Cohen/The Jersey Journal**



Doug Bauman/The Jersey Journal

Memorial's Amanda Leon holds a shirt for breast cancer awareness month before a game against Ferris at Memorial High School in West New York Wednesday, Oct. 20, 2010.

Memorial High School in West New York, on Friday, will recognize Breast Cancer Awareness Month as the girls volleyball team wears pink and white jerseys as it hosts Dickinson High School at the Tigers gymnasium on the corner of Broadway and 55th street at 4 p.m.

The T-shirts, which will read "Dig the Pink, Set the Cure, Kill Breast Cancer," were the brainchild of coach John Wengerter.

"It's been pretty big among colleges and their volleyball teams to dress in pink to raise awareness and funds to cure breast cancer," said Wengerter. "I'm around a lot

of women in my life. I'm the father of four daughters and I coach the girls volleyball team. I thought it would be something worth doing."

The slogan was the idea of Amanda Leon, who got the idea of using volleyball statistics to defeat cancer.

"I was watching a volleyball game and I noticed they wore pink," Leon said. "I really wanted to put the three main volleyball statistics (dig, set and kill) in the shirt. I know how it feels to know somebody who goes through that experience."

Senior Madeyn Leon added about wearing the pink jerseys, "people are so used to seeing us wear orange and black uniforms, this will be the first time they see us in pink. People will definitely notice."

Leon and Isis Gonzalez both know people who have dealt with cancer. Leon's eighth grade choirs teacher had breast cancer. More recently, the two girls said that other girls in their senior class have been diagnosed with certain cancers.

"One has bone cancer, and the other has brain cancer," Gonzalez said. "One of them has recovered and the other is still going under chemo and is being home schooled. It was extra motivation for us."

The entire team has been taking the time before the game to raise money for the Susan G. Komen Foundation by selling pink wristbands for \$1 and T-shirts for \$10 during lunch breaks.

Leon said of the sales, "the impact of cancer affects a lot of people."

The volleyball team will sell the pink T-shirts and wrist bands to the public tomorrow during the game. Admission is free and people can donate to the Breast Cancer Awareness Fund while in attendance

Meanwhile, the Tigers still had to take care of business as they close in on a berth in the Hudson County Tournament. The Tigers swept Ferris 25-11, 26-24 to improve to 10-5 on the season.

Memorial dominated the first set, delivering kill after kill, thanks to the efforts of Caolonny Melo and Niovys Martinez who dominated near the net as the Tigers built a 14-7 lead. Shanyen Rodriguez followed that up with three straight kills to give extend the lead to 18-8, before Madelyn Leon finished it off with a two service aces.

The second set was not so easy. Ferris jumped out to a 3-0 lead on kills by senior Jamie Lee Wativida. Memorial did make a comeback.

A service ace by Martinez, and a spike by Rodriguez cut the deficit to 3-2. After Isis Gonzalez tied it on a kill, Leon dropped three straight service aces on Ferris to give Memorial a 6-3 lead.

Memorial got sloppy midway through the set. Holding a 16-11 lead, five straight attempted spikes were pounded right into the net, tying the set at 16. Memorial bounced back, with the score tied at 24, a kill by Rodriguez gave the Tigers the lead, before Melo clinched the sweep with a spike to center court.

Holy Family def. Snyder 16-25, 25-16, 25-18

Holy Family (16-3): Kristina Cordero 2 aces, 2 service points; Diane Forker 12 kills, 10 service points, 7 aces, 2 digs, 1 block; Jen Grzegorzewski 10 kills, 7 service points, 7 blocks, 3 aces, 3 digs; Nickole Herrera 15 digs, 8 service points, 3 aces, 1 assist; Payton Micewicz 10 digs, 3 service points, 1 kill; Melissa Sanzo 2 digs; Wiktoria Staromieiska 15 assists, 7 digs, 3 kills, 1 ace, 1 service point.

Snyder (11-12).

Saddle Brook def. Weehawken 25-18, 25-14

Saddle Brook (0-0): Victoria Caramico 10 digs, 4 kills, 2 aces; Natasha Chodakowsky 12 digs, 2 aces,

2 kills; Marissa Lortz 7 kills, 3 blocks; Megan Marsico 10 assists, 2 kills, 1 ace, 1 block; Harmandeep Kaur 6 digs; Chesca Ferolin 9 digs, 1 ace; Karolina Sokolska 2 digs, 1 ace, 1 kill; Stephanie Munoz 1 ace.

McNair def. St. Dominic 27-25, 25-17

McNair (19-3): Kendra Avinger 11 digs, 4 service points, 4 kills; Marian Lladas 15 digs, 7 service points, 3 aces; Natalia Estremera 7 service points, 6 digs, 4 kills, 2 aces; Melissa Camacho 2 kills; Tiffani Causing 9 digs, 5 service points, 2 kills; Jenna Szymanski 14 service points, 7 assists, 4 aces, 1 dig; Dominique Santos 8 service points, 8 assists, 5 digs, 2 aces.

St. Dominic (8-6).

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