



FRIENDS of the High School
for Environmental Studies

Field Notes

Spring 2007

Dear Friends,

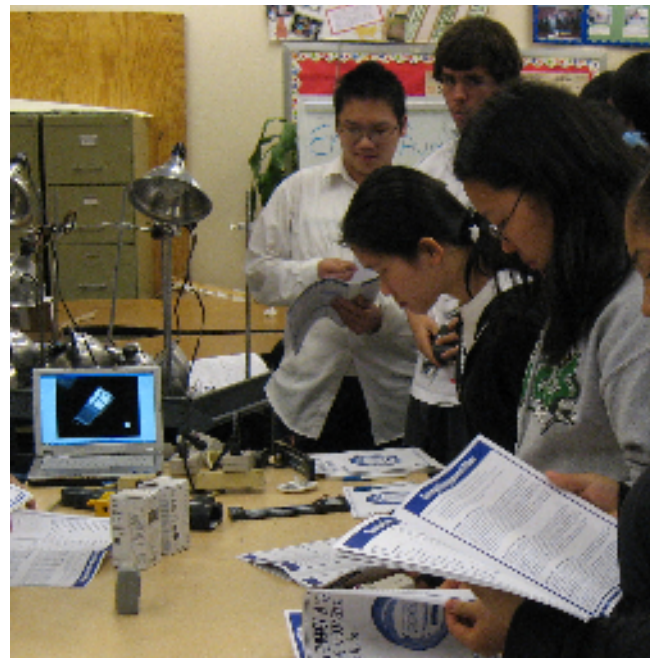
The High School for Environmental Studies is an amazing institution to work with. Everyday we are able to interact with students, teachers, administrators and staff who are interested in learning more about our environment, and being stewards of it. Over the past few months, students have participated in overnight trips, hikes and green building tours. They have sold light bulbs, conducted energy audits of the school building, and cleaned up local parks. HSES teachers have developed lessons on river ecology, Hurricane Katrina and Global Warming. All of this has been done because of a deep and profound interest in what we are studying and its ability to impacts lives. More and more research is showing that early experiences with nature impact a young person's likelihood to have a connection to the natural world as an adult. We hope that our programs help to inspire that connection in the 1,400+ students that we serve.

Sincerely,
Nia Rhodes Jackson,
Executive Director

"I think nature is beautiful and that's why its so important for us kids to get out because we are so used to concrete and steel and people everywhere . . ."
-HSES Student

Energy Audit for National Environmental Education Week

On April 17, a group of 30 students gathered in the career center to conduct an energy audit of the school building. The event was highlighted as a signature event for National Environmental Education Week by the National Environmental Education Foundation (NEEF). Jeff Perlman, from Bright Power Inc an alternative energy company, trained students on how to conduct an audit. Students then broke into three teams joined by environmental activist Alexandra Cousteau, granddaughter of Jacques Cousteau, Diane Wood, President of NEEF, JL Armstrong from Toyota and NEEF board member, and representatives of Canon USA, national sponsors of the Week. The results of the audit are being complied for the New York City Department of City-wide Administrative Services, to encourage them to retrofit the building with more energy efficient technology.



In Their Own Words . . .

Dilruba Parveen and Indiana Garcia, HSES Seniors



Attending Environmental Studies has allowed us to become more aware of the environment. Over the course of our four years we have been involved in beach cleanups, environmental events in New York City such as Sea of People, trips to water treatment plants, and the Envirothon competitions. All of these events have broadened our horizon to the interesting fields in the environment, which is undoubtedly lacking in the minds of young New Yorkers. Out of the many environmentally related events we have been a part of, the Envirothon competitions are what we hold dearest to our hearts. This competition tests our knowledge in different components of the environment such as soils, wildlife, aquatics and forestry.

Envirothon also teaches us to work as a team and successfully give a solution to the environmental problem proposed in the oral presentation. For the last three years we have placed 1st in oral presentation. Each year our hard work is rewarded through us placing 1st in Manhat-



tan, which allows us to represent our borough in the New York State competition. These past years we have been presented with climate change, New York's energy crisis, and land management issues. Through Envirothon we have been exposed to present day issues plaguing the United States and New York specifically.

As we continue to Barnard and Vassar College, we shall use the foundation that this high school has given us in order to develop our interest in the environment. Whether it is through academic studies or joining environmental groups, we know that the environment will have a place in our future.

Freshman Green Building Tours . . .

Building on what they've learned in their Environmental Seminar classes, 350 freshmen toured green buildings in Manhattan, Brooklyn and the Bronx. Organized by the Friends with the help of Urban Agenda, students saw how residential and commercial buildings featuring solar power, geothermal heating, innovative use of recycled materials and other green features play an important role in saving energy, water and natural resources. The tour of Sustainable South Bronx, whose Hunts Point office is covered by a green roof was a hit. With buildings responsible for over 50% of energy use in New York City, there is growing interest in these projects. Accompanied by their teachers and volunteers, students also visited the Solaire, Ice House, Ice Stone Factory, Nos

Quedamos, Solar One, the Nathan Cummings Foundation and others.



Friends receives \$12K from Starbucks Foundation . . .

In February, Friends received a grant from the Starbucks Foundation's Giving Voice grant program. Over 1000 organizations from all over the country competed for the grants making it the most competitive year yet for recipients. The grant will support freshman environmental semi-

nar students developing a New York City Environmental Report Card. Students will develop a set of indicators to study the NYC environment and then go around the city assessing environmental quality. Stay tuned for the rankings!

Funder Notes

Friends Programs are privately funded to add the resources necessary for the High School for Environmental Studies student body to have an environmentally infused curriculum. The Friends gratefully acknowledge the support of our foundation and corporate supporters including: Louis & Anne Abrons Foundation, Spingold Foundation, Ruth M. Knight Foundation, Starbucks Foundation, The Durst Family Foundation, The New York City Environmental Fund, Con Edison, Mitsubishi International Corporation Foundation, 42nd Street Development Fund, Bedminster Fund, The Bay and Paul Foundations, Vidda Foundation, Rainier Foundation, Catskill Watershed Council, Pfizer, HSBC, The Durst Organization, Citizens for NYC, and Independence Community Foundation.