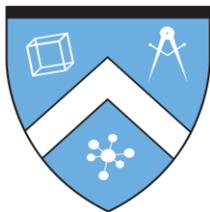


Columbia Secondary School Newsletter

Fall 2016
Volume 5, Issue 1

Miriam Nightengale, *Principal*
www.columbiasecondary.org
Translation: Angela Peña



M362 — CSS
Columbia Secondary School
for Math, Science & Engineering

Mark Your Calendar

- ✓ **7th Annual CSS Hispanic Celebration**
Thurs, 10/20, 5-8:30 pm
International Buffet
5 - 6:30 p.m., W. Gym
Performances
7 - 8:30 p.m., auditorium
See article on this page.
- ✓ **PTA Meeting**
“Helping your child succeed at CSS”
with CSS graduates and AP Meredith Hill.
Email and Pupilpath assistance available.
Tues., 10/25, 6-7:30 pm
6th Floor of CSS
- ✓ **Senior College Financial Aid Night for parents of 12th grade students**
Thurs., 10/27
English: 6 p.m.
Spanish: 7:15 p.m.
6th Floor of CSS
- ✓ **Halloween PTA Bake Sale Monday, 10/31**
Bring donations to the OSS before 9am the morning of the sale; afterwards drop them off at the sale on the 3rd floor-hall.
- ✓ **CSS Blood Drive**
Monday, 10/31
8 a.m. - 2 p.m.
6th Floor of CSS

Get Ready! ¡Prepáranse!

The Seventh Annual CSS Hispanic Cultural Celebration is about to begin and this year’s event promises to be another spectacular. The celebration features insightful and interesting lectures all month long and “Cultural Night” on Thursday, October 20.

“This is a wonderful opportunity to see an incredibly diverse group of entertainers both from our school and from throughout the New York area,” said Professor Marisol Weiner, the organizer of the Hispanic Celebration, a CSS Spanish teacher and a native of Chile. “While this is a celebration of Hispanic culture from all over the Americas and Spain, it’s not just for the Latino community, but for everyone at CSS to enjoy and learn from.”

Performers this year include Flamenco singer/songwriters Atriquez and Colón with the Wild Squad Dance Ensemble, led by CSS Prof. S. Hill and featuring Samba dancing from Paraguay and Flamenco from Spain; the CSS Chamber group featuring music from Mexico; La Sonora Nuyorkina, with salsa and bachata from Puerto Rico and the Dominican Republic; the Flight of Sound Vocal and Dance Ensemble of CSS led by Prof. Harrigan; Pasión Boliviana performing Andean dances; and the WHIN Music Project: Orchestrating Mentors Ensemble, with classical music from Argentina and elsewhere in Latin America. The show is from 7-8:30 pm in our newly renovated auditorium

But the evening isn’t just about seeing and hearing. It’s also about tasting, with a delicious buffet with food from around the Spanish-speaking world, courtesy of CSS parents, in the W. Gym from 5 pm-6:30 pm. The suggested donation for the evening is \$7 for adults and \$3 for students.



You can also feed your mind during Hispanic Month by sitting in during one of the amazing classroom lectures about Latino cultures throughout the Americas to be given by Columbia University and CSS faculty, and CSS students and parents. These start Friday, October 21, and continue through Monday, November 4. Please contact Professor Weiner for the full schedule (see contact information below).

By the way, the PTA has provided \$2,000 for Hispanic Cultural Month. Show your appreciation by supporting your PTA.

Professor Weiner still needs volunteers for many aspects of Cultural Night. Please contact her at 646 512-2413 or marisolweiner@columbiasecondary.org

CSS Welcomes New Faculty and Staff

John Beletsky, 9th Grade ELA & Philosophy

A proud Nutmegger from the great Constitution State (look it up!), I attended Sarah Lawrence College in

Bronxville which, when I attended, didn’t require students to declare a major. After three years exhausting the literature and history departments, I departed for the

CSS Welcomes New Faculty and Staff

University of York in England, where I studied Medieval Languages and Literature. Libraries are my natural habitat. At home I moderate a reading group, play musical instruments, try to cook, and play in a regular board game group.

Ida Bulang, 7th Grade Science

I was born in Cebu, The Philippines and came to New York in 2006. I taught Chemistry and Biology in the Philippines for 2 years and Living Environment and AP Biology here in NYC for past 10 years. I earned both my Biology degree and graduate degree in the Philippines. I watch K-pop dramas in my spare time.

Jonah Durning-Hammond, 6th Grade ELA

Hailing from outside Boston, I've taught in Massachusetts, Arkansas, and New York. I'm passionate about writing and literature, and (of course) helping students unlock the worlds of meaning in others' words and in their own. In my free time, I climb rocks, translate, and moonlight as a bassist. My MA in the Teaching of English is from Teachers College, Columbia University.

Heather Hewitt, MS & HS STEM

I have 15 years of experience teaching in the NYC public schools. My favorite thing to teach is... people - big, small and everyone in between! Interest in science has led me to take classes at the Institute for Music and Neurologic Function, take a MS science and leadership trip to the Bahamas, and to create ESL science curriculum, learn to scuba dive and collect data underwater in Madagascar. I am a piano and French Horn player, and sing. I've been living in Spain for the past few years and am excited to be back, and teaching, in NYC. Olé!

Rachel Jun, Chemistry & Engineering

I was born in Taegu, South Korea, but raised in Long Island. I attended the University of Michigan, College

of Engineering, to study Materials Science and Engineering. I have a master's in Chemistry Education from Lehman College through NYC Teaching Fellows. I am currently attending City College to get a second master's, this time in Physics Education. I love to paint, travel, listen to k-pop, and watch k-dramas and anime.

Alexa Magalhaes, MS & HS Speech

I was born, raised and still live in Brooklyn, where I developed my interest in working with children. I majored in Speech Pathology & Audiology at Iona College. During my time at Iona, I conducted research concerning sibling language development and presented findings at the NYSSLHA Convention for two consecutive years. I continued my education at Adelphi University where I completed my master's last May.

Thomas McDonough, HS STEM

A New York native, I have been a Brooklyn resident for the last decade plus. I am a graduate of Hunter College and CCNY. I come to CSS after teaching at Museum School for the last 8 years. I was a high school and collegiate track athlete. I am a diehard Mets fan and a St. John's basketball season ticket holder. This summer, while being excited to start this new chapter at CSS, I traveled to Antigua and Grand Cayman Island.

Brandon Redmond, 7th Grade Math

I grew up in a very small town in upstate New York which led to my love of nature and the great outdoors. After graduating from SUNY Oneonta, I moved to Long Island to start my career in academia. I taught middle and high school for two years, but put teaching on hold due to family circumstances. As unfortunate as this was, it was a catalyst to who I am today. I moved to NYC and traveled through Europe, falling in love with Italy. I'm pursuing a Master's in Pure Mathematics at Hunter College. I enjoy languages, am a gymnast and a diver, play the piano and love being with friends and family.

Daniel Woods, 6th Grade Social Studies

I was born and raised in Queens; I did not come from Georgia, as some of the 6th graders like to claim. I originally planned to study psychology before transitioning to other subjects. I graduated from Queens College's Secondary Education and Youth Services program with honors in History and Secondary Education. I like to swim, draw, cook, and bake.



New in the College Counseling Office...

Joining Carla Shere & Tom Harvey:

Kiri Patel, College Counselor

I'm a proud Texan whose mother is from New Zealand and whose father is Indian. After graduating from Oberlin College, I moved to NYC to become a Teaching Fellow, earning my Masters in Education at City College. I taught middle school math and science for eight years in New York, Mexico, and California. I returned to NYC three years ago, last year began my Masters in School Counseling at Teachers College, and joined CSS as an intern. When not at CSS, I enjoy parks and museums, the occasional run or yoga session, dinner with friends, playing board games and taking pictures of my cats.

Elaine Arnold, volunteer with 15 years of college-related experience coming in one-two days per week.

Andi Velasquez, CSS parent coordinator and a Hunter College graduate student, interning one day a week starting in November.

An additional intern will be joining the team in the coming weeks.