Bed-Stuy: Gentrification

By Leah Bobbett

The BELA Beehive wanted to explore the history of the neighborhood that we all spend time everyday: Bedford-Stuyvesant. This is a place full of amazing street art and streets that have featured in famous movies (like Spike Lee’s 1989 Do the Right Thing). However, people may be less familiar with the fact that Bed-Stuy was named after Peter Stuyvesant, who the last Dutch director-general of the colony of New Netherland from 1647 until 1664. Today, Bed-Stuy’s population consists of mainly black/Hispanic/white/Asian residents which makes Bed-Stuy very

Volleyball

by Jaida Dent

The BELA Volleyball Team, led by Captain Marbis Sierra, have been on a roll this year. The team is comprised of 9th and 10th graders, including: Marbis Sierra, Jordan-Taylor Robinson (9th graders), Rosalie Bobbett, Shaneise Williams, Khameira Bradshaw, Astaysha Harris, Melanie Santiago, Taffia Evelyn, Jada Jackson, Cherly Mancebo, Gloria Dorival, and Mariam Sikio (10th graders). The team has played 6 games and have been victorious for 4 of those games. The Volleyball League is comprised of teams from other Charter high schools with games at Urban Dove Charter High School, Achievement First and New Visions— all in Brooklyn.

The players had many things to say about their volleyball team. Jordan-Taylor says that the BELA team does not have a cheer and when other teams cheer, fellow player Rosalie, tends to cheer with them … continues on page 4
integrated in many ethnic backgrounds.

**Gentrification**

The neighborhood is not without its controversies and many residents are currently concerned about gentrification, a process which pushes out local residents because rents and house prices become too expensive for them. Between 1990 and 2014 rents increased by 36.1 percent (source: Medium). Bed-Stuy was once known as Little Harlem and it was once known as an affordable living area.

The question is how will Bed-Stuy keep its identity in the face of change?

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**Movie Review: Candy Jar**

by Tatianna Sanchez

What do you want in a good teen movie? Do you want to see two long-term rival debaters to form a good relationship? If you do, then *Candy Jar* (available on Netflix) is the movie for you. Directed by Ben Shelton and written by Chad Klitzman, the movie stars Jacob Latimore as Bennett and Sami Gayle as Lona. Their mothers are played by Uzo Aduba (Julia) and Christina Hendricks (Amy). The movie focuses on two high school debate team students who (for no reason at all) have a long-standing dislike of each other.

An introverted high school girl, Lona Skinner from a working class background. She falls in love with her wealthy debate team nemesis and realizes that they both share more in common than they thought. Both wants to be president of their two-person club as it would look good on their college applications. But once they make it to the final, they no longer gets accepted to their universities ... continues page 3
Lona and Bennet could speak 400 words per minute during their practice for arguments, but they didn’t know how to speak to each other. They lacked social skills because they had spent their researching, writing, studying and debating. Their entire lives depend on getting into their dream schools. A major theme of the movie Lona and Bennet learning to connect with each other as people and not as rivals. Over the course of the movie and with a little help from their guidance counsellor Kathy (Helen Hunt) who hand out candy, Lona and Bennett grow closer and closer.

Would you recommend the movie? Yes I would. Teens and adults will like this movie because its shows how two students debate but then at the end they learned that it’s not about winning after all; it’s about working together as a team and communicating more with each other. It was entertaining and I wanted to see what will happen at the end with the two debaters and to anyone looking for a feel-good movie to watch. But I also think that “Candy Jar” did not shy away from addressing the fact that kids/teens who are too focused on school and their futures, instead of just living each day. Candy Jar was a really well-done film. The. Music fit each scene and mood perfectly because it really helped set the overall tone. The actors fit their intense roles really well and their chemistry portrayed on screen. I enjoyed the film immensely.

Insight: Ms. Nicia

By Deniya Palacio

On May 1, 2019 The BELA Beehive sat down with Ms. Nicia to ask her why she wanted to start a school for girls of color. The Beehive asked questions ranging from the simple like, “Why did Ms. Nicia choose the colors blue? To the complex “where does she see the school in the next 5-10 years? The answer to the first question by the way, was that she didn’t use the color stereotypically associated with girls.

The school began as a joint effort by Ms. Nicia and Ms. Shannon after they saw the positive benefits of being an girls school for young women. They saw that girls could more easily understand that they had a seat at the table when they were at a school where they could see themselves reflected in the community around them. It is a space where girls can be themselves.

The community here in Brooklyn, where Ms. Nicia has lived for the last 16 years, is at the center of BELA. Community has always
The Aftermath: BELA’s Annual Spirit Week

By Michaela Hancock

BELA’s First Annual Spirit Week was a blast! Bela’s students and staff finally got a chance to express themselves and see what our classmates or teachers outside of their professional wear and more into their crazy, wacky or most comfortable outfits. Us, the Bela Beehive went out to interview some of the students and staff about their feeling about this week.

During February 11th through February 15th we were able to express ourselves through various events. On February 11th was
pajama day. All students and staff were dressed comfortably in our pajamas. Some wore adorable or funny onesies or two sets with slippers. February 12, our fellow students and staff dressed up like with a buddy or group of buddies. February 13th was character day: students and staff came dressed up as characters from books, tv shows or movies. Some were funny, some were creative and some brought memories from our earlier childhood. And on February 14th people dressed in pink, red, and/or white colors to celebrate Valentine's day. And on February 15th the last day for dressing up we finished spirit week with dressing up from our favorite era 60s, 70s, 80s, 90s, 2000’s or 2010’s. People mostly came dressed up in 70s-2000’s inspired outfits.

On Character Day, The Bela Hive members decided to interview some of BELA’s fellow students and staff based on their creative costumes they had put together. We asked them why they pick to dress up as which character day and why. The first interviewee was Dean Mr. Tyler. He was dressed up as Tude. Tude was an extra from the movie Black Panther. When we interviewed him he said “The reason why I chose to be dressed as Tude was because I enjoyed watching the film and it is my favorite movie. Also I am inspired by Tude's character”. Another person we interviewed was 9th grader student Jennifer. Jennifer was dressed up as D.W from the PBS TV show Arthur. When we interviewed Jennifer on why she picked D.W as her character she said “Because Ms. Wendy suggested her to me and D.W personality is very fierce and she's very cute and she's very small but tough and that's what I like about her.” We also interviewed our Principal Ms. Nica. She was dressed up as Waldo from the tv show Where’s Waldo. When we interviewed her she said “I used to watch the show when I was young and it turned out to be my favorite show during childhood. I also liked his personality, he was mysterious and well-liked”.

Who do you think was the best dressed for Character Day?

**Volleyball continued from page 1**

Astaysha shares an inspiring quote, “Don't let the hard times get to you.” Rosalie shares that the team has an amazing work ethic and have been very motivated to succeed in their games. Lastly, the coach, Ms. Wazina, shares about her beloved team and players, “I am so proud of the growth that our team has shown this year; although we haven't won every game, each one has been highly successful.” The volleyball team has definitely been shown love by the BELA community, as we cheer for them in spirit as they go away for games, and celebrate their achievements during sisterhood circle. On behalf of the entire BELA community, I would like to congratulate the volleyball team on everything they have done this school year, and I know that the team will definitely grow in strength and numbers with the rise of our incoming class of 2023.
Word Puzzle

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N E Z L E N E M N I P Y W B C
I J R L I D T D E H L R D E N
C A A V S C P L M S J W G Y E
A H F T I N N J R W E C O I
J Z U V H C G E C A L D E K C
A Y D K P F E J P L O P M S S
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B O O Y U M L C H H G B O N F
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