Westinghouse parents reflect on pros, cons

by Rebecca Nutall

When the anxiety at Westinghouse loomed in the air in August, morale was high. Parent volunteers, joined teachers and Pittsburgh Public School District administrators in welcoming the uniform-clad students to their new school year at a new level of education.

While Westinghouse's single-gender high school with seven classes for boys and seven classes for girls was initially met with enthusiasm, the anxiety parents actually welcomed the change and the promise it had for improving achievement at one of the district's worst performing schools. Now as the dust settles, after four months of administrative pronouncements and frequent student upheaval, they are hopeful the school's current principal, Shannon Craig, can right the once-stumbling school.

"I see a lot of improvements since they got there," said one parent, who asked to remain anonymous about what's going on now. "In terms of violence, the fights and disruptions, my kids..."}

13 percent decrease in bullying

by Rebecca Nutall

In a study of 16,000 students across the United States, 17 percent of students described being hit at least once a month, compared to being bullied once a week in the 10 years since the study. In this study, bullying incidents continued to rise.

"Bullying is the most prevalent kind of violence in our schools," said Matthew L. Meirick, chair of the Pennsylvania chapter of the national, non-profit organization, StopBullyingUSA. "We are living in a more violent society than in the past 10 years.

$20M Braddock development for hospital site

by Christian Morrow

"The revitalization efforts for Braddock took a blow in 2009 when UPMC announced it was leaving Braddock Hospital. But these efforts are back on track with the re-opening of the $201.5 million redevelopment project for the old hospital site. "Since late 2010, Allegheny County has worked together with state agencies to re-open the hospital, work towards development of the site that will maintain hospital creation and bring jobs to the community," said Director of Public Works, Dan Corey. "Since 2010, we've raised a $250 million plan that addresses a number of Braddock's needs and continues the revitalization plan."

Fighting to increase Black doctors

Gateway Medical Society works to improve representation

by Ashley Johnson

The number of diseases disproportionately affecting African-Americans continues to increase, the number of African-Americans pursuing medical careers is far lower than their White counterparts.

In an effort to address the disproportionate representation of African-Americans in the medical profession, Gateway Medical Society, which is comprised of African-American physicians from the southeastern Pennsylvania region, is giving young people exposure and an in-depth look into the various medical professions.

"We need African-American doctors because they are more likely to work in minority and underserved communities where these disparities can be addressed," said the executive director of Gateway Medical Society.

Promoted—79 years to Medicine program participants show off their new skills at a ceremony promoting the next level of the program, the profession ceremony. Oct. 17 at the Allegheny General Hospital's North Side. (Photo by Tall Mckenzie)
Broadus to head Human Relations Commission

"It’s a tremendous honor, and a tremendous challenge to be following the work High McGough did getting the commission up and running," said Broadus.

"We have a dedicated group of volunteers, and great support from the community."

The commission was created in order to protect against discrimination of ethnic groups by the City of Pittsburgh. It is the responsibility of the commission to work with individuals and organizations to promote the end of all forms of discrimination.

"As a citizen of the city, I am committed to doing everything possible to protect against discrimination," said Broadus.

Executive Committee to meet Tuesday night

Fighting to increase Black doctors

An effort to educate and mentor minority students in medicine and help guide and place them through their secondary and in medical schools.

"We are looking at high school students, and we are looking at college students," said Broadus.

"We are looking at those who are already in medical school, and we are looking at those who are not yet in medical school, but who have the potential to become doctors."