

# Carlos Rosario International Public Charter School



## Carlos Rosario International PCS Newsletter

To read more about these stories and other happenings at Carlos Rosario School visit [www.carlosrosario.org/news](http://www.carlosrosario.org/news).

### Upcoming Events

#### Fall Classes Begin

August 27, 2012

#### Sonia Gutierrez 40 Years of Service Gala

September 20, 2012

### In This Issue

[Graduation](#)

[Cooking Demonstration](#)

[Community Volunteers](#)

[Spelling Bee](#)

[Professional Development](#)

[Arts and Culture](#)

### Congratulations to Carlos Rosario School STARS



HollyAnn Fresno-Moore and Maria

Spring/Summer 2012



### Message from the President

This year has been one of reflection for me as I faced health concerns and in the same way I face all obstacles that try to stop me from making our school a welcoming place for all immigrants, I fought back. But I couldn't have done it without the outpouring of love and support I received from Carlos Rosario School students, staff, and supporters. Even when I was far from the School, you all remained very close to my heart.

And here we are now at the end of another successful school year. At our annual graduation this June we celebrated the successes of more than 300 graduates and awarded 21 scholarships to students continuing on to higher education. When I reflect back on all the accomplishments we have reached together this year, I am so proud. We were granted full re-accreditation by the Middle States Association, we hosted ambassadors from the Culinary Institute of America, we presented best practices in adult education at various conferences, and we celebrated our rich cultural heritage with our annual festivals, just to name a few accomplishments. I am pleased to share with you some highlights from our spring and summer 2012.



Carpio really shined at the DC Charter School Stars Tribute! HollyAnn was named Most Outstanding Teacher and Maria Most Outstanding Student.

#### Quick Links

[About the School](#)

[Course Registration Information](#)

[Sonia Gutierrez 40 Year Anniversary Campaign](#)

We are proud to announce the Middle States Commission voted to fully re-accredit the School!



Check out what the visiting team had to say in their final report:

"The Visiting Team wishes to commend the school for its warm welcome, culture of continuous improvement, exceptionally clean and well-maintained building, state of the art technological resources, desire and commitment to expand its program to serve more students and its corporate advisory committees which help keep the workforce program current while providing job opportunities and career paths for its graduates."

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## Celebrating Carlos Rosario School's Heroes

For this year's Carlos Rosario School graduation, presided over by President and Founder Sonia Gutierrez, we were pleased to welcome many key community leaders to share with us the successes of our students.

Greetings were brought from Patrick Mara Ward 1 Representative from the DC Board of Education; Brian Jones Chairman of the DC Public Charter School Board; Jose R. Alvarez, Chief of Staff, Office of the State Superintendent of Education (OSSE); and Alberto Gomez Chairman of the



Carlos Rosario School Board of Trustees. A special recognition was delivered by Honorable Anibal Gomez Toledo, Consul of the Embassy of Mexico. Other key attendees included Ms. Celia Yaneth Medrano, Consul General from the Embassy of El Salvador, and David Ivey-Soto from the Culinary Institute of America. Showing their strong support for the School and our students, six Carlos Rosario School board members and multiple advisory committee members were in attendance.



An emotional rendition of "Hero" sung by Tara Villanueva, Creative Arts Coordinator, captured the spirit of this year's graduation. Community leaders and key school supporters echoed this sentiment as they congratulated students on their heroic efforts to make continuing

education a priority for themselves, for their children and for their communities. A crowded auditorium shared in the triumphs of the more than 300 graduates from Culinary Arts, Nurse Aide, Computer Support Specialist, Customer Service, GED, English as a Second Language Level 8 and Citizenship.

This graduation, however, is just one step along a continuing path, and looking to the future, 21 scholarships were awarded to students who will go on to higher education institutions. Before the funds were awarded, Supportive Services Director Tina Guzman asked students, staff and supporters who contributed to the scholarship fund through attending the school dance, buying candy, purchasing a school water bottles, and donating from pay checks to stand. Looking over the auditorium filled with smiling students, staff, and supporters on their feet, it was easy to see how committed the school community is to ensuring that students have the opportunity to continue their studies. The ceremony was concluded by Allison Kokkoros, Chief Academic Officer, who encouraged all in attendance to continue to dream big.



**Congratulations to all our 2012 graduates!**

## Congratulations to Carlos Rosario School Graduate Idris Hussein!



Idris, originally from Sudan, received a Carlos Rosario scholarship to pursue Finance at the University of the District of Columbia. During the spring semester, this dedicated student worked two jobs in addition to his ESL Level 8 studies, and he also found time to volunteer in teacher Hugh Besher's ESL class at the School.

**Click on the donate button below to support the Carlos Rosario School's initiatives for 2012!**



**Way to go Jessie Salamanca Romero and Venus Romero!**



This June Jessie Salamanca Romero and her mother, Venus Romero, both graduated from the Carlos Rosario GED program and passed the official GED test!

## Learning with the Kitchen Masters: A Transformational Partnership



In May the Culinary Institute of America (CIA) presented their third annual Teaching with the CIA Cooking Demonstration. Students, alumni, staff, community members, and industry professionals watched renowned Culinary Institute of America ambassadors turn exotic ingredients into culinary masterpieces. This two-hour cooking demonstration brought an auditorium of more than 150 culinary arts students and community members up-close-and-personal with industry leaders eager to share their knowledge of the kitchen inspiring students to dream big about the culinary arts field.



Each year our partnership with the CIA grows. President and Founder Sonia Gutierrez said, "We feel so honored to have the ambassadors from the Culinary Institute of America here at our school, and we hope that the partnership and spirit of collaboration we have established will last for years to come."

## Thank You to Our Community Volunteers!

Dedicated volunteers who contribute time and skills to the classroom are an important part of the Carlos Rosario School success! Many volunteers work with English as Second Language teachers on a regular basis assisting with group activities, taking photos, and providing one-on-one support for students. In fact this spring semester community volunteers donated more than 600 hours in the classroom!



If you'd like to learn more about what's happening at Carlos Rosario School, please check out our Facebook page!

Like us on Facebook 

## All the Best in Your New Positions Omar and Rafik!



Congratulations to Advanced Computer Support Specialist Career Training students Omar Cisneros and Rafik Yachefoune on your new jobs. Omar, originally from El Salvador, recently landed a job as an IT Support Technician at Empowerment Through Technology & Education (ETTE). Rafik, from Algeria, will be putting his skills to work as a Senior Help Desk Assistant for the Corcoran College of Arts.

## Culinary Students Share a Tasty and Nutritious Snack: Banana-Almond Smoothies

4 large ripe bananas, peeled, sliced and frozen - (alternately you can use 2 bananas and 2 cups of ice instead of the 4 frozen bananas)



2 cups almond milk (soy or regular milk may be substituted)  
1- 12 oz. box of Silken Tofu  
2 tablespoons (packed) golden brown sugar  
1 teaspoon vanilla extract  
Ground nutmeg

Blend all ingredients, except for the nutmeg, in blender until smooth

This spring we also welcomed groups of language practice partner volunteers.

Representatives of the River Road Unitarian Congregation came to listen and share about goal setting with Sheryl Sherwin's ESL 5 class.



Also in April student interns from the Cordova Congressional Program met with Carlos Rosario School students from ESL classes ranging from levels 1 to 7 to practice English. Intern Juan Carlos Rodriguez said, "...being exposed to issues and concerns of fellow Latinos among other minorities made us reflect, realize and understand the difficulties that minorities face when they establish themselves in another country..."

If you or someone you know is interested in volunteering at the Carlos Rosario School, please contact Cristian Argueta at 202-797-4700 ext. 117.

## Celebrating an Important American Education Tradition

This spring the whole school cheered on class representatives at the annual spelling bee. For the past six years, the Carlos Rosario School spelling bee has been bringing attention to something native speakers often forget: English spelling is a real challenge.

ESL and GED students learn relevant vocabulary words throughout the year and then smaller classroom bees are held to choose two class representatives and one alternate. Bee coordinator and ESL teacher Branwen Norris said, "The spelling bee creates a sense of school spirit, something where everyone can participate."



Congratulations to this year's spelling bee winners from ESL 1, 3, 4, 8 and GED in Spanish!

## Sharing Best Practices as Leaders in Adult Education

Supporting teachers and staff as they learn, grow, and share with others is a top priority at the Carlos Rosario School. This spring as leaders in the field of adult education our teachers and staff presented at various conferences. At the annual Commission on Adult Basic Education (COABE) Conference, Professional Development Specialist, Carole Fuller, discussed managing online networks with adult education professionals. She focused on the many ways Twitter can be used as a professional development resource. Drawing from her years of experience as an ESL level 1 teacher, HollyAnn Fresco-Moore presented on speaking activities for low level English speakers also at the COABE Conference. At the Delmarva TESOL Conference, Principal Dr. Ryan Monroe focused on Sheltered Instruction Observation Protocol (SIOP) for workforce training instruction. This practical workshop highlighted our steps to train teachers on the SIOP model and the successes these teachers have had in the classroom.



Pour into glasses and sprinkle lightly with nutmeg.

Culinary Arts students, with Chef Instructor Chris Pepin, prepared this recipe for Executive Vice President and CAO of Walmart, Thomas Mars, during his February visit.

## An Ongoing Commitment to Culture and The Arts

In February we celebrated Black history month with a series of hands-on arts workshops including a hip-hop, beat box artist presentation and an African percussion demonstration. The month's festivities culminated in a student-led cultural festival and southern cooking food tasting. The Black History Month Cultural Festival celebrated the School's rich

African diversity through poetry, song, dance and fashion.



Here at the School May was marked by an ongoing celebration of Asian Pacific Islander heritage. Students, staff, and faculty learned more about these varied cultures through collaborations with local arts organizations that brought interactive dance and creative writing workshops. The month ended with a heritage festival that included performances by students, faculty and staff.

We at the Carlos Rosario School are proud to close out yet another successful school year and look forward to an exciting fall! We remain grateful to our invaluable supporters and inspired by our dedicated students.

Sincerely,

The Carlos Rosario Educational Foundation  
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# Save the Date

Thursday September 20, 2012  
6 pm at the Marriott Wardman Hotel



*Sonia Gutierrez*  
Celebrating 45 Years of Service