



## IT IS A DETENTION RAMPAGE

By Jahaira Flores('10)

It's 8:04 in the morning. You've just gotten out of the Bedford Park train station and you start running to school. You get to our lovely high school, panting and sweaty from having run the three long blocks. The time is 8:09. You receive a detention for 55 minutes after school. Your soul is crushed.

This was not the case last year. *Common Sense* investigates.

Last year, late students would get a demerit: one point for being late 1-19 minutes; two points if you were late 20-39 minutes; and three points if you were 40-55 minutes late. These points would add up over time, and once a person received three points, he or she received a detention.

When there was a large accumulation of un-served detentions, these students would not be admitted to go to school dances, trips or other after school activities.

When Pietro Bartoli('13) was asked about the late policy, he favored the "old policy." He told *Common Sense* that the "detention should be broken into intervals, where each interval determined how much time a



Photo by Jahaira Flores('10)

Late passes are only the tip of the iceberg as the administration attempts to curb the handful of habitual student late comers this year.

person spent in after school detention."

Pietro also shared that "if coming in late were to become a habit for a student, they should suffer a more severe consequence."

When Mr. Blitz was asked as to why the late policy was changed he had this to say: "Why not? People abuse it. People coming in 4-5 times a week, late."

A leaked "Lateness Policy" memo was handed out to all the teachers on

September 15<sup>th</sup>, 2009. It is now posted on the school's official website.

According to the memo if a person comes in more than five minutes unexcused (meaning not due to doctor appointment or the MTA messing up), he or she will receive an automatic detention for 55 minutes after school.

If a student is more than two minutes late to any other period

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## A LESSER KNOWN AFFIRMATIVE

**ACTION** By D. Mullin('10)

There is much debate as to whether affirmative action that targets minority students is a fair practice. *Common Sense* has discovered that affirmative action for a legacy student is far more prevalent than affirmative action for any minority or low income group. Yet far less debate occurs over legacy affirmative action.

A lot of attention has been paid by the media to affirmative action, which is the practice of accepting minorities, allegedly over sometimes better qualified non minority applicants in an effort to diversify schools and offer low income students a chance still to receive a first class education.

A legacy student is someone whose relative previously attended a college, thus making it easier for that student to be accepted. Many students have not even heard of this practice.

When asked if she knew what a legacy student was, Ruby Harrison-Clay('13) responded

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## THE CLASS OF 2009 REMEMBERED

By Jamaal Alexander('10)

Summer has officially ended, and school is back in session. For many of us, we are happy to see our friends again and get off to a great start. And with the Class of 2009 gone, our hallway definitely feels a bit empty.

They were the class that current seniors were closest to, seeing as they were with us for the past three years.

With characters such as Mike Dei, the Gardner Twins, Hiroshi Nobuoka, Amanda Manu, Kristina Jaku and Keslie Carrion, last year's seniors were definitely an interesting bunch. But the fun had to end eventually, and the torch was passed to the Class of 2010.

This is our final year here, and it is our destiny to leave something or someone to remember us.

Last year's graduating class was a very diverse, yet unified, grade.

This year's senior class is a very diverse class, and we all have high expectations for our senior year.

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## OFFICER VALENTIN MOVES ON & UP

By Troion Marshall('10)

When returning students entered through the front door on the first day of school, they may have noticed the lack of a smiling face and cheerful demeanor. Officer Valentin is no longer in our school. *Common Sense* investigates.

An adult figure (besides a teacher) who actually cared about how your summer went is no longer in our school. Tamara Valentin left her post sometime at the end of August to pursue a career in teaching.

"She is at a Pre-K Head Start program somewhere in Harlem," shared Mr. Weiss.

Now that she's gone, *Common Sense* wanted to know how the inhabitants of HSAS feel about her absence.

"I'm sad because she was hot, and she was a good person," shared a candid Jamaal Alexander ('10).

He continued that he and Officer Valentin "had this routine, where I'd come to school, she'd tell me to take off my hat, I give her a pound, a little 'convo', then she'd tell me to get to class."

When asked how she felt about Valentine's leaving, Casey Simring('11) quickly replied, "I



R. Cardona('10) & J. Beltrez('12) ponder where Officer Valentin has gone.

miss Officer Valentine."

The new officer in Valentine's position is Elizabeth Maloney. She has worked at Lehman College as a public safety officer for years, often working the midnight tour.

When the position was opened, she competed with several other officers for the job, and won the position.

When asked why she came to our school, Officer Maloney replied: "I like to work with kids, and the hours were good."

When asked about how she felt about the new safety officer,

Lizzie Merrick('13) stated, "I don't really know her, but I guess she's cool."

With Valentin having been here since the founding of the school, this reporter decided to ask some of the teachers who have been here for many years how they felt about Valentin and her replacement.

"I don't know about the new officer, but if she's anything like Officer Valentin was, I know we're in good hands," shared Mr. Iurato.

"I've only been here one year, but I liked Valentin more than the

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