



## THE CENTER FOR ARTS EDUCATION

May 2009

### Students and CAE Honor Senator Schneiderman As Arts Education Champion

#### *School Rock Band Performance Celebrates Power of Arts Education*

After a rousing performance of Green Day's "When I Come Around" at Mott Hall II by the Third Dimension, the school's home grown rock band, The Center for Arts Education presented Senator Eric Schneiderman its first "Champion of Arts Education" award on May 1st. Celebrating the power of arts at the school, CAE commended the Senator for his dedicated support to preserve and protect arts programming as an essential ingredient in the quality, well-rounded education every child in every New York City public school K-12 deserves.

We hear the message from The Center for Arts Education loud and clear. We're committed to more programs like this and to providing more resources," Senator Schneiderman said. "I'm incredibly impressed with the work you have done. Thanks for being role models. It's students like you who create the amazing artwork that tells us in government that the program is working. Now I can go back to the State Capital and say it's working," he said. After the performance he viewed artwork by students on display, including life-sized self portraits.



Principal Ana De Los Santos and Senator Eric Schneiderman.



"The students' dynamic performance here today is a testament to the power of the arts in schools," said Richard Kessler, executive director, The Center for Arts Education.

"Support for arts education by elected officials like Senator Eric Schneiderman is critical to achieve our goal of arts education for every child in every school. We thank him for his ongoing efforts on behalf of the children in his district, and all of the 1.1 million New York City public school students, to realize the unique benefits of learning in and through the arts."

Mott Hall II is an exemplary New York City public school that fosters an arts-friendly environment nurturing each child's

uniqueness through its arts-infused teaching and learning practices, as well as through partnerships with cultural organizations including The Center for Arts Education (CAE). For the past two years Mott Hall II partnered with CAE's Parents As Art Partners (PAAP), a unique family arts program that engages parents in hands-on, interactive arts education activities with their children. PAAP fills a distinct gap in NYC public schools, combining arts programs with parent participation.

"As a parent of a NYC public school student, I know that there is nothing more important to our families, our communities and the economic life of our city than our public education system," Senator Schneiderman said. "The degree to which arts learning is infused into the curriculum at Mott Hall II is an inspiration. I applaud the extremely talented students who performed here today, and commend the school's dedicated teachers, principal and staff for their steadfast commitment to providing the quality education our children deserve," he said. "We are profoundly grateful to Senator Schneiderman, and to The Center for Arts Education for partnering with our school in successful programs that bring students, parents, educators and New York City cultural organizations together," said Ana De Los Santos, principal, Mott Hall II.



### About The Center for Arts Education

As part of its mission to restore quality arts education for the city's more than 1.1 million public school students, CAE has provided high-quality professional development for teachers, artists and administrators; created long-term partnerships between schools and cultural institutions; published free resources for educators to support school-wide arts programming, as well as guides for parents to support hands-on arts activities with their children. CAE has also helped open doors for high school students exploring careers in the creative industries through internships and mentoring programs. Currently CAE is spearheading a campaign to restore dedicated per pupil funding for arts education by influencing fiscal policies and mobilizing a powerful coalition of parent advocates.

Visit [www.caenyc.org](http://www.caenyc.org) to learn more, contribute, become a partner and get involved in the campaign to restore dedicated funding for arts education.