

The **AFSZ** is a project of
Real World Foundation

Asthma Free School Zone Newsletter

Asthma Prevention, Environmental Protection & Community Empowerment in a Neighborhood Setting

AFSZ Appearances Around Town

Let's Clear the Air

South Bronx Environmental
Health & Policy Forum
South Bronx High School
701 St. Ann's Ave.
Nov. 12, 2005 ~ 10-4 PM

What Will Your Idea Be?

The 2005 Quality of Life
WISE Student Conference
Norman Thomas High School
111 East 33rd St.
Oct. 29, 2005 ~ 9-1 PM

Press Conference
NYS AG Elliot Spitzer
WE ACT, Inc.
171 West 125th St.
Sept. 26, 2005 ~ 10 AM

Bronx Talk
BronxNet Public
Access Television
with Jane Folloro
Sept. 20, 2005 ~ 11 AM

AG Press Conference with the AFSZ

On September 26, 2005, NYS Attorney General Eliot Spitzer announced a 2nd set of agreements with five transportation companies that provide more than 1700 school buses in NYC, Westchester and Nassau Counties. Between this agreement and the earlier one in 2003, nearly 75% of NYC's school bus fleet is now covered by anti-idling agreements that include:

- A *no-idling policy* that prohibits unnecessary idling for any length of time within one block of a school,
- A three-year monitoring program,
- An idling reduction plan at bus depots,
- Periodic compliance and activity reports to the AG's office,
- Payment of \$61,425 in penalties.

Also speaking at the press conference were AFSZ Founding Director Rebecca Kalin, who brought the school bus idling problem to the attention of the AG's office, Peggy M. Shepard, Founding Director of WE ACT, and Congressman Charles Rangel.

New Website!
www.afsz.org
(Check it out.)

AFSZ in Environmental Betterment Project

The AFSZ is partnering with Queens College Center for the Biology of Natural Systems (QCCBNS) and SUNY-Stony Brook in a year-long three-part intervention at two NYC schools. Project activities include clinical assessment, air quality monitoring and environmental health education for the school and community.

In Part 1, bilingual surveys asked about risk factors for asthma in the students' home environments. From the returns, a sub-group of students identified as "at risk" were supplied with peak flow meters and two-week asthma diaries that coincided with ambient air quality testing inside and outside the school.

After the collection of baseline data, including baseline student knowledge about asthma and environment, the AFSZ will post No-Idling signage and begin a multi-channel program to raise awareness and knowledge about the environmental health link. Activities began in September at PS 49, the Willis Avenue School in the South Bronx, and PS 19, Roberto Clemente school in Williamsburg, Brooklyn.

AFSZ Adds Spanish No-Idling Signs

After many requests from principals and parent coordinators—and what seemed like endless discussion about the best way to translate the word *idling*—Spanish AFSZ No-Idling signs have been produced and are beginning to be posted at all project schools.

The new signs are intended to complement the existing English signs and help empower our Spanish-speaking parents and school zone residents to urge offending drivers to turn off their engines when near the school.

