

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 Here & There

*NYCAP Semi-Annual Mtg.*  
*Thinking Upstream*  
Rebecca Kalin  
Dec. 11, 2006, 9 AM  
NYC, NY 9-12 AM

*Long Island College Hospital  
Grand Street Settlement*  
Lori Bukiewicz  
Meghan Valentine  
783 Knickerbocker, Br'klyn  
Dec. 6, 2006 9-11 AM

*Health Education Approaches  
for Low Literacy Learners*  
CHCANYS/AmeriCorps  
NYC DOHMH  
Bryant Street, Bronx  
Nov. 10, 2006 ~ 10-11 AM

*Big Yellow Asthma Trigger  
Advance Newsletter*  
<http://www.afsz.org/HTML%20Files/BigYellowTrigger.htm>

*Press Conference*  
Peter Rivera, NYS  
Rebecca Kalin  
Assemblyman, Bronx, NY  
City Hall, NYC  
Sept. 4, 2006 ~ 10:00 AM

## AFSZ/DOT 3-year Air Quality Project Begins

Air monitors are humming in Harlem! A 3-year partnership between AFSZ and the NYC Dept. of Transportation began this fall with a month-long air sampling study at a 4-school cluster on 104th Street between 5th and Madison Avenues. The purpose of the sampling project is to demonstrate if contaminant levels in school zones decrease significantly as a result of AFSZ no-idling educational and outreach interventions.

During this multi-year study, three school sites will be monitored before and after AFSZ activities. The post-intervention samplings will be done exactly one year later under identical circumstances. The project is federally under the Congestion Mitigation Air Quality (CMAQ) program.

The AFSZ team is led by Dr. Jennifer Richmond-Bryant of Hunter College, CUNY, Dept. of Environmental and Occupational Health Sciences. She is assisted by three Hunter students, Chris Saganich, Loretta Krahlung and Alinna Sanders. Also working on the effort are two AFSZ staffers, and, for one week, two high school interns from Ohio.

## AFSZ and Rivera to Introduce Legislation

In early January, 2007, New Yorkers statewide will be one step closer to breathing clean air. On the urging of the AFSZ office, NYS Assemblyman Peter Rivera (District 76, Bronx) will be introducing new and long-overdue idling legislation. While it is commonly believed that there is a 5-minute NYS idling law, research by AFSZ staff revealed that there are currently no NYS idling restrictions for any vehicle other than heavy duty trucks.

Three components were suggested by the AFSZ: a 3-minute idling limit for cars and light-vehicles; 1-minute idling limit in school zones; addition of an idling question on the NYS driving test. This last upstream measure will make idling education the responsibility

of every driving school in the State. Once the legislation passes, the AFSZ hopes to distribute 10,000 key rings to inform New Yorkers about the idling laws. If you would like to help, let us know.



## Environmental Asthma School Art Initiative

This fall, the Asthma Free School Zone is beginning a new initiative that brings environmental health education into the classroom. AFSZ School and Community Health Educator, Meghan Valentine, has designed a curriculum for younger children to learn about the environmental asthma through art. Three-dimensional lung bronchioles are used to show how asthma affects the airways, and what happens to the body during an asthma attack. Students learn how to identify things in their environment that worsen asthma. Students create posters that are displayed around the schools, and used as learning tools for teachers, parents and other students.

## Train-the-Trainer Pilot

The AFSZ has begun pilot-testing a train-the-trainer program for Parent Coordinators in Harlem (District 4) so that they, in turn, can train parents about asthma, school medical forms, and environmental triggers. The PC EnviroMentor Program, which includes a training module and 3 teaching kits, is being developed under a DOHMH AFSZ program expansion grant.