



BRONX BORO NEWS

Your 28-page
special local newspaper from
DAILY NEWS
NYDailyNews.com

AT A GLANCE

Point Yacht Club shut

The Point Yacht Club in Soundview closed earlier this month. The Parks Department padlocked the place in March, after declaring its docks and foundations unsafe. A judge then denied a club request to delay the closing.

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A day off for solidarity

Housekeeper Ana Ontiveros won't make her usual daily trip to her Manhattan job today. She'll take an unpaid day off and hop a bus to Albany with other housekeepers, nannies and maids to rally the state legislature for a domestic workers' Bill of Rights.

Patrice O'Shaughnessy, Page 8

School draws yeas, nays

Friend and foe met last week at a hearing on the opening of a new charter school in Co-op City. Some argued older students at the new Equality Charter School would disrupt the youngsters already going to PS 160, where the charter is to be located.

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City admits 19 schools toxic

BY BILL EGBERT

THE CITY now acknowledges finding illegal levels of toxins in 19 public schools across the city.

The 19 schools are in addition to six public schools where lab tests commissioned by the Daily News last year found illegal levels of polychlorinated biphenyls in window caulking.

The findings add momentum to a lawsuit filed by Naomi Gonzalez, whose two children attend Public School 178 in Co-op City — one of the schools tested by The News.

Gonzalez last month filed the first stage of a lawsuit designed to force the city Department of Education to remove PCB-laced caulking from all public schools.

Since The News' investigation, the School Construction Authority has tested caulking for PCBs prior to doing renovation work, in accordance with new state guidelines.

"Of 77 schools undergoing renovation work last summer, 19 had caulk with PCB concentrations greater than 50 parts per million," the DOE said in a statement.

By federal law, any material with PCB contamination of 50 ppm or higher is considered hazardous waste and must be removed immediately.

PCBs are potent toxins known to accumulate in the bloodstream. They have been implicated by recent studies as causes of neurological and other disorders.

According to the DOE, testing also showed soil contamination around 15 of the 19 schools with toxic caulk.

The city recently submitted for approval by the federal Environmental

Plans to remove hazardous soil, not PCB-filled window caulking

Protection Agency soil cleanup plans for eight schools where renovations are complete, and will file plans for the seven others when work finishes.

The schools with soil cleanup plans are: PS 153 in the Bronx; Benjamin Car-

dozo High School in Queens; PS 24, PS 32 and PS 55 on Staten Island, and PS 40, Intermediate School 292 and Bushwick High School in Brooklyn.

The DOE did not disclose the names of the remaining seven schools with

contaminated soil, or the four with illegal levels of PCB in caulk.

Over the summer, the DOE removed PCB-contaminated soil from the grounds of four schools where The News found illegal levels of PCBs in the caulk, but the city has not yet removed the caulk itself.

PCBs were commonly used in the caulk of buildings constructed before the toxins were banned in 1977.

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Give it to me straight, Doc — will Teddy be OK?



Montefiore Medical Center resident Dr. Daniel Goldstein gives Susanna Hughes' teddy bear the once-over last week. Dozens of kids brought in their stuffed pals for medical checkups. The program was designed to demystify the experience of visiting an emergency room for children.

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