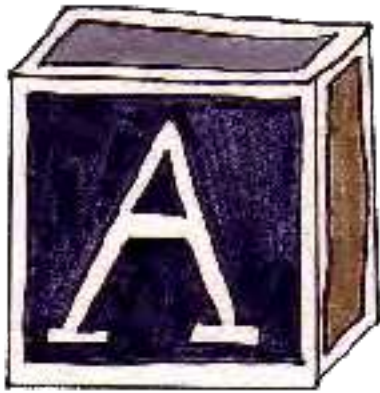


# THE POINT

WHERE COMMUNITY AND CREATIVITY CONNECT.

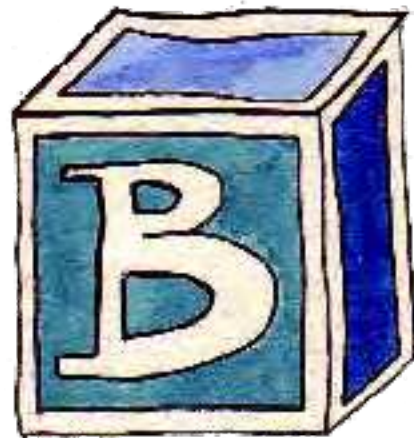


2008  
THE POINT  
2009

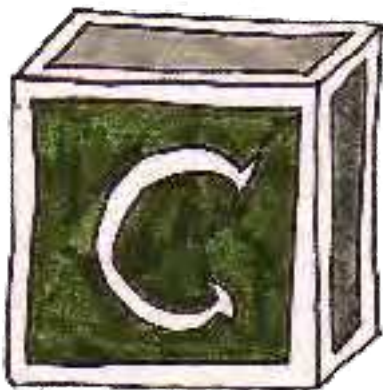


ALEXANDRA RIVERA  
ANTHONY RODRIGUEZ  
DANIEL GONZALEZ  
ELIJAH GURRIER  
EMILY CARRERA  
LIZBETH GOMEZ  
MARCUS HUNTER  
NELSON NEGRON  
RANDY MARIN  
SENECA HARRIS  
WILLIAM GONZALEZ  
ZAHEDA MAMADOU

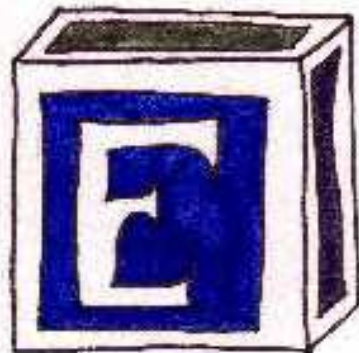
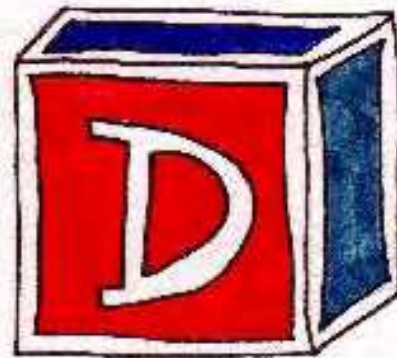
LEONARDO POLANCO  
ROBERT SOLA  
SIERRA ROMAN  
TAJA G. PARKER  
YADAN ROMAN  
YAXENY HERNANDEZ



BRIANA VELEZ  
ELIZABETH RODRIGUEZ  
FAIROUZA MAMADOU  
JASON SOLIS  
JEREMY CARRERA  
TYLER STOVER  
YESAIRA GOWDY  
KANIAH LUCAS

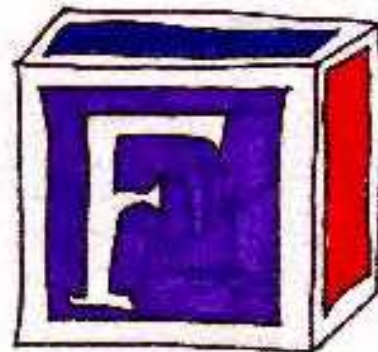


DIANA ORTEGA  
BRETTA PAUL  
BRITNEY CUEVAS  
DAMIEN VALLECILLO  
JAQUELINE GONZALEZ  
KHILALI MARQUEZ  
MAXIEL MADERA  
NIZHEA HARRIS  
RICHARD OCHOA  
RODRIGO AVILA  
TATYANNA WHITE  
WILLIAM PARADISE  
SABRINA ORTEGA  
JAYLEEN GONZALEZ



AMARI BOYKIN  
BRADLEE TORAN  
DANNY HUNTER  
JESUS NEGRON  
JOHNNY WILLIAMS  
LOUIS ROSARIO  
PETER RIVERA  
RICHARD CAMPBELL  
TAVANAE HARRIS  
TIANAY NICKENS

DIAMOND SCOTT  
ESTEBAN CORTES  
GABRIEL BELTRAN  
JUAN MARIN  
LASHEA SHIPP  
LENA SMITH  
LUIS ALVARADO  
SARAI THOMAS  
TORI G. PARKER  
TORRIE EVANS





# Literacy

WITH MISTER ERNESTO



In the 2008-2009 School year, the literacy program had the privilege of working with each group individually throughout each week.

Groups A and B, which are first and second graders, worked on many developmental reading and writing activities. Lessons like alphabet autobiographies introduced new vocabulary, enhanced spelling, and writing skills. Many students showed improvements in their reading as well as comprehension by answering questions given to them about what they read.

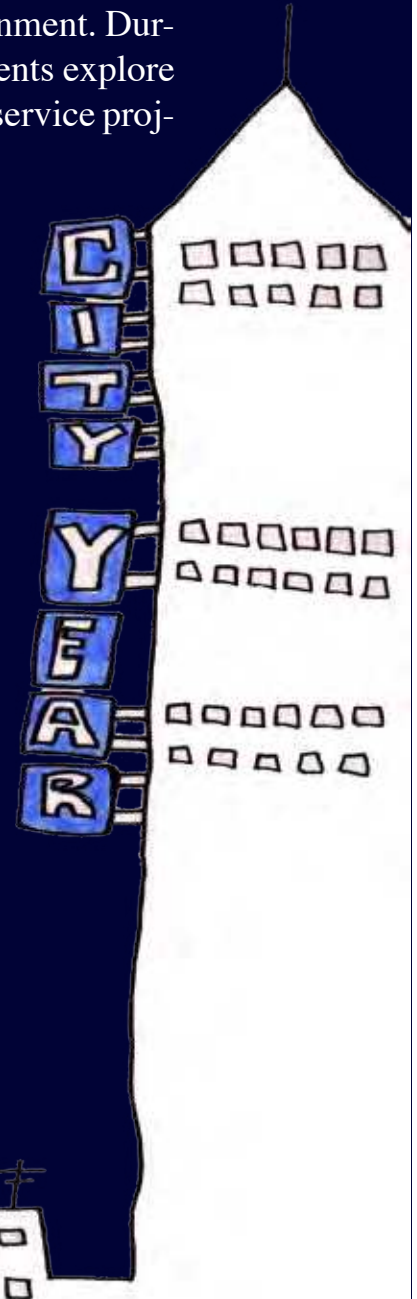
Groups C and D consist of third and fourth graders; who worked on many different reading comprehension lessons which would become vital in their end of the year examinations. Lesson's such as "The Bronx is Booming", required students to analyze different informative components of the Bronx from 1970-1980 and utilize the time spaced theory from the movie "Back to the Future," to teach cause and effect in community politics. A majority of the students demonstrated high reading skills and ability to comprehend the different topics given to them.

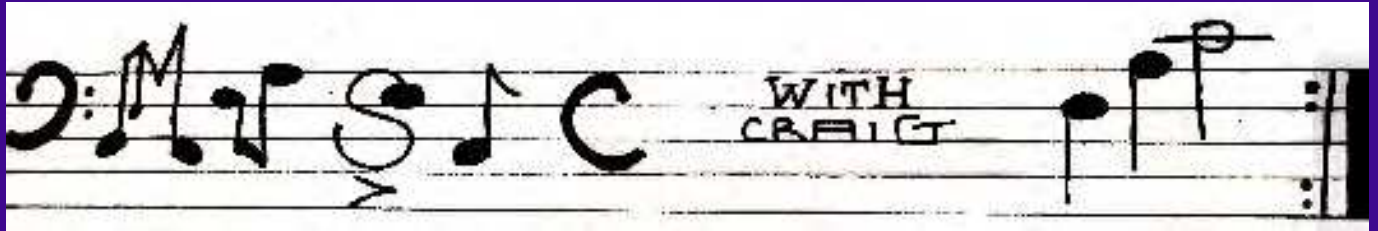
Groups E and F, are students that range from fifth to eighth grade. Being that they are the oldest two groups within the program, they faced very demanding activities. One prime example was the numerous oral communication lessons in which the students were given related topics and performed group debates. These practices allowed students to develop their ability to think carefully about the issue at hand, analyze the similarities, and differences between differing viewpoints. This process required students to think critically and provided them with an opportunity to develop their skills of expression that allow them to communicate their ideas.



# STARFISH

Starfish is a community service-learning based after-school program. Starfish is designed on the belief that no matter how old one is, they can still be involved in community change. Starfish is composed of different units which include Peace and Love, Needs and Wants, and The Environment. During each of these units students explore topics and conclude with a service project at the end of each unit.





This was another great year in our music program. We had singing and music appreciation with groups A & B and percussion with members of C & D. For the teens it will go down as the year of the bands. With the sounds of Tribal Stone, Frozen Society, 4 Most Wanted, and Pocket Full of Band Aids music filled the air on a daily basis. Private instruction also occurred with guitar, drums, percussion & electric bass lessons. The kids got to perform for The South Bronx Chargers and City Year as well as the THE POINT's Annual Music show.



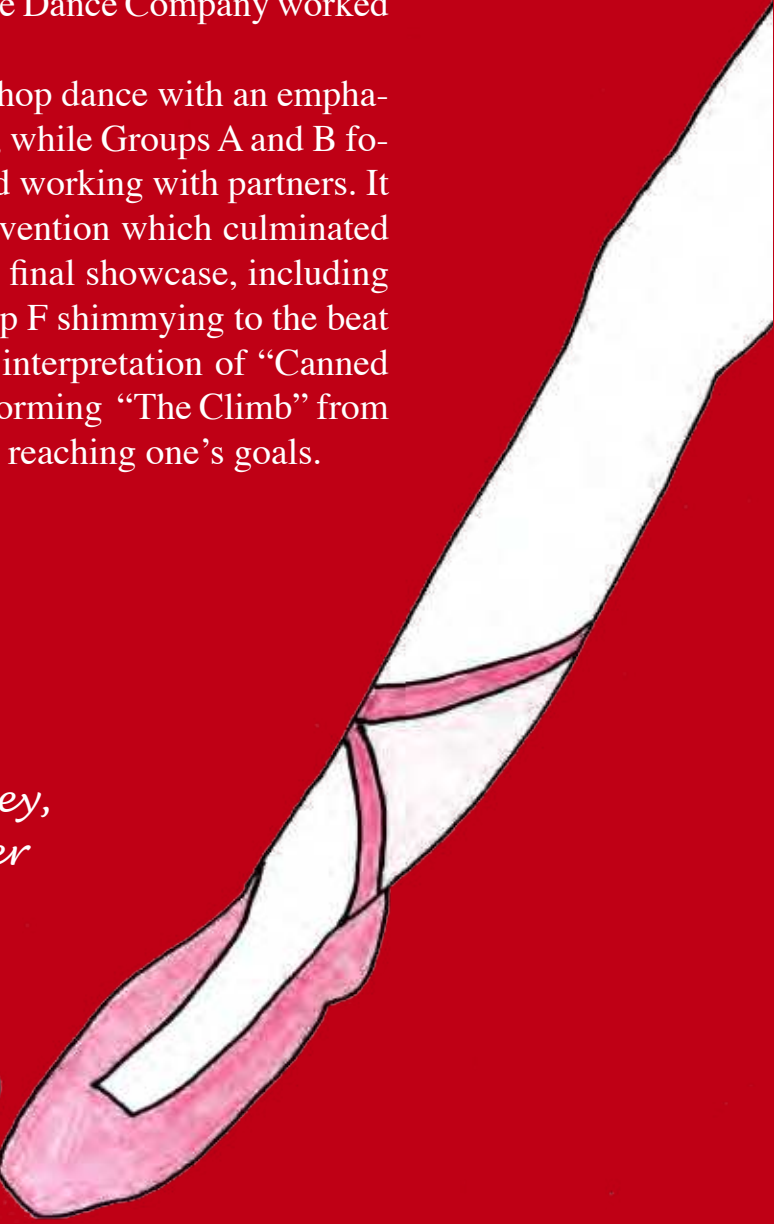


This year Aubrey Strickland of Amalgamate Dance Company worked with Groups A, B and F.

Group F discovered modern, jazz and hip-hop dance with an emphasis on co-choreographing their own pieces, while Groups A and B focused on ballet, modern, improvisation and working with partners. It was a fascinating mix of technique and invention which culminated in the creation of wonderful pieces for the final showcase, including Group A's rendition of "To be Real", Group F shimmying to the beat of Busta Rhymes' "Arab Money" and an interpretation of "Canned Heat" using a prop chair, and Group B performing "The Climb" from the Hannah Montana movie, a piece about reaching one's goals.

*Ms. Aubrey  
She teaches us dances,  
She is kind,  
She has nice moves,  
She is beautiful,  
We are going to miss Ms. Aubrey,  
Since I am not going to see her  
in the summer.*

*Dance*



# ICP @ THE POINT

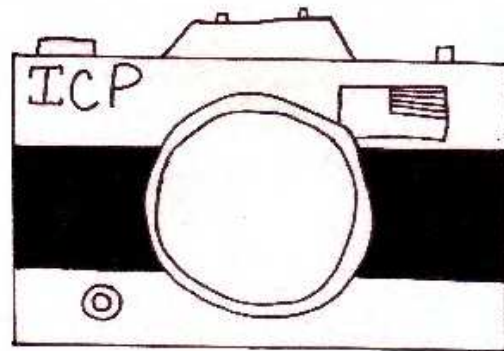
- At the beginning of the fall 2008 term, due to popular demand, we were able to create an additional Pre-Teen class (ages 9-13.) This class is an intermediate level class, allowing our returning pre-teen students, who are too young for our teen classes, to continue their photography studies, and still be able to learn new techniques without feeling bored in a class with beginners.

- Opening of new photo exhibition, "Change" (April)

Students showed visually their interpretations of the term

"Change." Images ranged from photographs promoting the 2008 presidential election, to images of students' neighborhoods which are going through change, to people in their lives who have changed them.

Our opening reception was a success. Family, friends, staff and after school students took part in the event. Students featured in the show were able to talk about some of their photographs to the audience.



Monica Shabman



Jonathan Urena

- Esmeralda Herrera, a Teen II student, will be valedictorian of her high school graduating class at the High School for Performance and Stagecraft. This fall she will be attending her first choice for college, Reed College in Oregon. She also participates in the Michel Gondry drama workshops.

- Alexis Davila, Teen II student, along with her participation in photography, is currently participating in the Michel Gondry drama workshops.



Alex Hernandez





Alex Hernandez



Cristal Cedano



Elizabeth Perez



Isabela Espinal



Blas Madera



Cirque du Monde had a great 2008/2009 year at THE POINT with a Show-Off in December, blossoming Teen Drop-In program and the continuation of the After-School Program with Groups C - F culminating in a Final Showcase. We also hosted a Coaches Show-Off and The Harlem Jugglers Show. There were a couple super fun family circus workshops with some kids getting the opportunity to teach their parents. The teaching staff of Josh Matthews, Keith Nelson, Andy Sapora, Victor Vauban, Deven Sisler, Amy Chen & Sean Blue are extremely proud of the students this year!



## Group F – Green Industries of The Future

This project gave students the opportunity to invent and create their own energy technology or “green” company. Students researched alternative energy and sustainable practices, then created an individual corporate identity and branding iconography. The finished logos and icons represent the moral, sustainable and progressive business practices of the future, while also revealing something about the students’ personal interests. The signs are made on panels, which were salvaged from the Re-Builders Source here in Hunts Point. The signs are installed onto J.C. store at the corner of Spofford Avenue and Coster Street in Hunts Point.

### Students – Companies

Gabriel Beltran – It Happens Co. – Insurance for a greener future  
Tori Graves-Parker – Courage Inc. – A pioneer in the storage of solar energy  
Sarai Thomas – Stars Fashions – Ecologically minded clothing designs  
Diamond Scott – Diamond Industries – For the conversion of trash into energy  
Juan Marin – Arielax – Cars powered by water  
La Shea Shipp – Shea Shea Incorporated – Converts polluted water into drinking water  
Luis Alvarado– Broken Sk8 Inc. – A skateboard recycling center

Instructor – Joe Ferriso



Jim’s work in the Visual Arts has consisted largely of projects that have to do with themes concerning ‘the future’. Students in his four groups have created drawings and watercolors about future cities, technology, and how people and animals might look in the future. Additionally, students have made three dimensional projects such as painted model-magic animals of the future and recycle-junk robots. Students have been learning about recycled materials and did fabulous Christmas paintings on wooden serving trays donated by Alida Morgan Painting. Exploring the use of recycled materials for themes concerning ‘the future’ is a way of fusing the past to envision the future.

# APACHE WORKSHOPS



Apache Skateboards had the immense and dubious honor of being called to work in the South Bronx , NYC for a two week period. What you are about to see is the power of the South Bronx ( Fort Apache) and Apache Skateboards as we combined Hip Hop, graffiti and APACHE's own brand of funkified multi-layered art processes.

A two week intensive art workshop where youth and adult artists from the South Bronx, THE POINT , East Harlem and beyond designed their own skateboard(s), cut and designed their own stencils, photographed their work and also painted a mural at THE POINT that left a definite APACHE mark and flavor behind in the South Bronx. Without the help of YATIKA FIELDS ( of NATIVE AGENTS fame) the mural wouldn't have been possible. He biked all the way up from Brooklyn numerous times to mural paint.

The art made was a powerful and prolific true portrait of culture(s) diverse but similar in their marginalization and whose only barrier is now geography. The South Bronx ( and communities like it) have been stereotyped and overlooked for decades and its inhabitants labeled "savage".

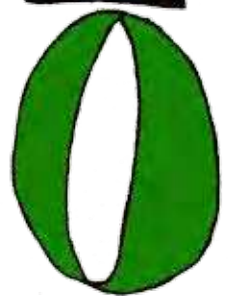
APACHE understands this "labeling" implicitly as we attempt to encourage a closer and truer look at Indian people in the 21st century. In this process we aim to dispel cliché's, stereotypes and misrepresentations that attempt to marginalize Native Americans.

The South Bronx is a history filled community where the original architects of Hip Hop found open playgrounds and dance-halls their laboratory for a worldwide street art movement now known as Hip Hop ( not RAP). In the South Bronx, art is so ingrained in the culture and community that the works we created practically flowed out onto the paper, the boards, the walls, the community and then it all coursed into the "collective universal magnetic."



Douglas Miles

# ACTIVITY



# IN



Tobacco Project: In the second year of this project, we focused on the Longwood neighborhood and surveyed 50 stores that sell cigarettes and other products. We took pictures of the stores and recorded the number of advertisements at each location, and we are now meeting with the store's owners asking them to sign a policy agreement to remove, reduce, or rearrange the tobacco advertising in their store. As part of this campaign we participated in a press conference at City Hall for "Kick Butts Day", and testified at a hearing for new anti-tobacco legislation in New York City.



Happening Habitat: In the second year of this project with the NYC Audubon Society, we continued to learn about our local environment and how to become better stewards of the area. We planted a native garden at THE POINT that was highlighted during NYC Wildflower Week, continued to work with Lucia in the Bryant Ave Community Garden, and went on nature walks in Van Cortland Park. We also finally got to work on North Brother Island in the fall! Info about this project is available on our blog: [www.happeninghabitat.typepad.com](http://www.happeninghabitat.typepad.com).



Go Green!: For our youth-led campaign ACTION chose to focus on helping Hunts Point “Go Green”. We researched some of the science behind climate change, as well as simple energy saving tips that anyone can take at home. We also visited the Climate Change exhibit at the Museum of Natural History during spring break. We presented our findings at the Town Hall meeting, as well as at the Youth Forum & Expo at Hunter College and the Social Justice Conference at The New School. We are currently planning a meeting for mid-June to help inform residents about free programs available through NYSERDA.



Outreach: We held two major outreach events this year to discuss the work that we do, both of which have become annual events with ACTION. The first was in December, at the ACTION Family & Alumni Holiday Dinner. Then in February we held a Town Hall meeting open to all Hunts Point residents. We also presented to and led tours for many other groups, such as students from Bowling Green University, the Ross School in Long Island, the Positive Youth Troupe in the Bronx, and even a group of students from Norway!



College Trips: During spring break we visited Purchase College in White Plains. We got to sit in on classes, go on a campus tour, have a private informational session with someone from admissions, see the dorms, and visit the school's art museum.



ACTION says goodbye to our graduation seniors: Kyeesha Fountain who will be attending Bridgeport University on a partial scholarship, and Tatianna Echevarria who will be attending Hobart & William Smith College. Have fun, and come back to visit soon!



Tatianna Echevarria



Kyeesha Fountain



# Wellness Center for Adolescent Development

## Health Education @ THE POINT

The Wellness Center for Adolescent Development promotes healthy and responsible lifestyles choices among young adults. We address health issues that impact the social and academic environment of teens, in a teen friendly, teen sensitive and teen specific manner.



While at THE POINT this spring, students have been engaging in health lifestyles, self esteem, teamwork and communication workshops. Activities are conducted using interactive games and hands on applications to help students express and value themselves. The workshops helped young people deal and express their feelings about changes they were experiencing.



# Project H.O.P.E.



Health Outcomes thru Peer Education

- \* NO SMOKING
- \* NO EATING OR DRINKING
- \* CELL PHONES ARE TO BE TURNED OFF / VIBRATE
- \* Parents please attend to your children.



Project HOPE (Health Outcomes through Peer Education) is a community based strategy that targets the entire 10474 zip code (Hunts Point) to change health outcomes through health literacy, the promotion of healthy behaviors and the engagement of the community in health education. Ruth Santana, HOPE's leader, afforded groups B, C, D, and E the opportunity for fun and engaging lessons around relevant health issues like asthma and, of course, free fresh fruit!



Michel Gondry, Raffi Adlan, Jordan Kinley and Oona Ibar have been working on a film project at THE POINT since the end of January 2009. The workshop's goal is for the film crew to get to know a group of 40 adolescents from the South Bronx by meeting once a week and engaging in various activities (theatre improvisations, acting games, interviews and scene work) that encourage the kids to

reveal themselves, talk about their lives and share their stories. The workshops are filmed and used to inspire the screen writers, Jeff Grimshaw and Paul Proch, who are writing a fictitious script based on Michel Gondry's original idea and the stories collected in the workshops. The adolescents attending the workshops will be playing in the movie which will be filmed in the Bronx sometime next year.



# GONDRY WORKSHOP

NO BEEF  
THURSDAYS



NO BEEF  
THURSDAYS



**No Beef Thursdays**  
Thursdays 6:45-8:45PM

No Beef Thursdays is a weekly vegetarian meal and arts drop-in for teenagers from the various THE POINT-wide initiatives and the community. Youth are treated to “no beef” meals which are created in collaboration with HPAC’s Heather Mills Healthy Food Initiative and Bascom Catering @ THE POINT. Once meals are over, students segue into formal classes with Cirque du Monde, Ways of Green Visual Arts, NYCares academic tutoring, and special guests, workshops and film screenings. No Beef Thursdays serves as a space for HS-aged young adults to express themselves, learn something new and fun, and exist in a safe cultural space that promotes the idea of “no beef”.



**Do you have something to say?**

**Are you creative?**

**Do you want to express yourself?**



**LIVE FROM THE EDGE  
THEATRE**

THE POINT'S Live From the Edge Drama Workshop is a new program that debuted in the spring of 2009. The workshop is facilitated by Brad Raimondo, a New York City based Director, Teaching Artist and Creator of new theatrical works. The workshop introduced participants to basic techniques and concepts of physical theater performance, improvisation and developing original, self-scripted monologues and performance poetry. Actors in the workshop learn how the three tools of body, voice and imagination combine to create theater. Participants in this year's pilot program created more than twenty brand new theatrical monologues. Next year's plans for the program include expanding the number of participants and creating an original show composed of the poetry and monologues created by the workshop members.

# UNITAS

Unitas is a community mental health organization that has collaborated with THE POINT After School program in the 2008-2009 school year. Here a group of high school age youth are trained to encourage and listen to the children at program and are trained (along with City Year) in the development of self regard, empathy and conflict resolution. The high school students act as caretakers and mentors for THE POINT'S youth and support the overall functions of the after school program as well as adding a community circle every Tuesday where the participants develop friendships, share information, solve problems collectively and tell stories with social themes.





ING



With eternal gratitude to P.S. 48 Alcoa Team for sharing their passion with the children of Hunts Point.



To Giancarlo with heart-felt gratitude for the many ways you have contributed to THE POINT over the years. Your talent, patience, enthusiasm and overall heart will be missed. You will always have a home in Hunts Point.



Autographs



