Curtis opens without power

By: Shannon Raymond and Shawn Reilles

At exactly 4:28 pm Wednesday December 7th, Curtis High School, The Richmond Terrace Houses and the Cassidy Lafayette Houses experienced a blackout. Left in the dark, an emergency evacuation was quickly ordered for Curtis High School.

A swim meet, a play rehearsal and basketball game, piano school and club meetings were immediately canceled. “I was watching the game [girls varsity basketball], and then the lights flickered leaving us in the dark. Screams pierced the air and it became chaotic as we tried to get through the exits,” said Jon Grogan, junior. Joe Gerhek, senior, student of the United States Army ROTC, found the soldiers unnerving, as they arrived in full uniform, armed with machine guns,” commented Gaworecki. "I’m not used to seeing my country’s military," continued Ayalla. Eventually the students were escorted back in to the darkened building to retrieve their belongings.

The only part of the school with any electricity was the pool. Ms. Boylan the MSIT coach joked, “I think my competitors were happy that the meet was cancelled. Thanks to the new renovations to the natatorium, the emergency lights kept us out of complete darkness.” said Boylan. According to the spokeswoman for Con Edison, Joy Faber, the problem seemed to be with the electrical feeders. Con Edison workers tried to fix the issue, but soon realized it was building wide outage. Practicing for the Pajama Game just a day before its debut, Nicole Ayalla, freshman, had to evacuate without her belongings into the stormy weather. With the lights off, students were not allowed to retrieve their belongings “I left my book bag and clothes in the auditorium so now I have nothing,” said Boylan.

The lights out. Left in the dark, an emergency evacuation was quickly ordered for Curtis High School. A swim meet, a play rehearsal and basketball game, piano school and club meetings were immediately canceled. “I was watching the game [girls varsity basketball], and then the lights flickered leaving us in the dark. Screams pierced the air and it became chaotic as we tried to get through the exits. No one knew what was going on or if it was temporary,” said Jon Grogan, junior.

Joe Gerhek, senior, student of the United States Army ROTC, found the soldiers unnerving, as they arrived in full uniform, armed with machine guns,” commented Gaworecki. "I’m not used to seeing my country’s military," continued Ayalla. Eventually the students were escorted back in to the darkened building to retrieve their belongings.

These upbeat and exciting activities helped distract from the somewhat nerve-wracking atmosphere, complete with armed guards. “It was not uncommon to find soldiers patrolling. Two, three, four soldiers together, in full uniform, armed with machine guns,” commented Gaworecki. “Even when we visited the sacred city of Jerusalem, we had an armed guard with us.” During her travels, Gaworecki found the soldiers unerving, but didn’t feel threatened. “It was peaceful,” she said. “I can’t say I wasn’t nervous, but it was just precautionary.” The soldiers would come onto buses, and other common places. After a quick check, they would leave, and the people would go back to their regular lives. In Israel, everyone goes straight into the sacred city of Jerusalem, we didn’t feel threatened. “It was peaceful,” she said. “I can’t say I wasn’t nervous, but it was just precautionary.” The soldiers would come onto buses, and other common places. After a quick check, they would leave, and the people would go back to their regular lives. In Israel, everyone goes straight into heat or electricity, Chancellor Dennis Walcott’s press secretary Marge Feinberg said “Con Ed had a generator on site and in consultation with the principal, the school remains open.” In a request to clarify her statement of the decision to keep Curtis open, Feinberg responded, “There was partial power and Con Ed provided a generator.” In a final attempt to get information, the following email was sent: “I’m sorry to keep asking you questions but I need to confirm that Curtis remains open.”

The journalist staff use a flashlight app on an ipad to light room 322 after the power went out during a meeting.

Select students and teachers travels to Israel

American-Israel Friendship League sponsored a three week trip for select students.

By: Shannon Raymond and Shawn Reilles

“it was the trip of a lifetime,” said Ms. Christine Gaworecki on her recent journey to Israel. On November 20th, three female students and two Curtis teachers set out to what was going to be a ten hour flight to Jerusalem, a trip sponsored by the America-Israel Friendship League, in which an effort is made to strengthen the ties between Israel and the United States. Skye Wright, Rachel Aigen, and Susannah Dolinar were all accepted applicants to the program. Once they arrived, they were given acceptance letters, they began their preparations for their trip.

The girls, advised by Ms. Gaworecki and Ms. Urso, were able to experience many aspects of Jerusalem. Once they arrived, they were in complete awe. “It was beautiful and ancient,” said Susannah Dolinar of Jerusalem, the first city they visited. They visited monumental sights such as the Masada, a "fortress" overlooking the Dead Sea, as well as the Yad Vashem, the Holocaust Museum. The group saw dancing in front of the Wailing Wall in celebration of the Sabbath. These upbeat and exciting activities helped distract from the somewhat nerve-wracking atmosphere, complete with armed guards.

XC wins city champs

Girls’ varsity cross country edges Port Richmond to secure city title.

By: Katie Madden and Kailey Walters

Revenge felt both beautiful and powerful. After losing to Port Richmond last year, the Curtis Warriors were determined to take home the championship, and that they did.

On November 12th, a cold Saturday morning at Van Cortland Park, the girls edged out Port Richmond High School to win their fourth City Champions in six years.

Teeming with mounted tension and barely containable excitement, the Lady Warriors prepared for their 5k race. With the knowledge that their rival team, Port Richmond, had been undefeated in the previous season, the Warriors were determined to show their A game. In the end, their best proved to be enough to land them a first place finish. “I didn’t believe it because we had to pull out the fourth girl, Hentquez, since she was hurt,” said Coach Joe Siciliano.

In cross country, the score is determined by the places of the top five runners from each school. Placing eighth out of 137 with a time of 20 minutes and 31 seconds, junior Corinne Birchar finished first for Curtis. “To win was just amazing,” said Birchard, “it was a total team effort.” The last two years racing against Port Richmond had been very close. Thanks to the teamwork of the Lady Warriors, Curtis pulled through. With the runners’ determination, Curtis managed to get four girls, junior Corinne Birchard, sophomore Anna Clair Pietsak, junior Tiffany Saw, and senior Denean Dixon, in the top twenty. Freshmen Diondra Bryant and Brianna May- Elliot also placed for Curtis.

The curriculum director for Port Richmond High School, Joy Faber, the problem seemed to be with the electrical feeders. Con Edison workers tried to fix the issue, but soon realized it was building wide outage. Practicing for the Pajama Game just a day before its debut, Nicole Ayalla, freshman, had to evacuate without her belongings into the stormy weather. With the lights off, students were not allowed to retrieve their belongings “I left my book bag and clothes in the auditorium so now I have nothing,” said Boylan. According to the spokeswoman for Con Edison, Joy Faber, the problem seemed to be with the electrical feeders. Con Edison workers tried to fix the issue, but soon realized it was building wide outage. Practicing for the Pajama Game just a day before its debut, Nicole Ayalla, freshman, had to evacuate without her belongings into the stormy weather. With the lights off, students were not allowed to retrieve their belongings “I left my book bag and clothes in the auditorium so now I have nothing,” said Boylan.

“it was the trip of a lifetime,” said Ms. Christine Gaworecki on her recent journey to Israel. On November 20th, three female students and two Curtis teachers set out to what was going to be a ten hour flight to Jerusalem, a trip sponsored by the America-Israel Friendship League, in which an effort is made to strengthen the ties between Israel and the United States. Skye Wright, Rachel Aigen, and Susannah Dolinar were all accepted applicants to the program. Once they arrived, they were given acceptance letters, they began their preparations for their trip.

The girls, advised by Ms. Gaworecki and Ms. Urso, were able to experience many aspects of Jerusalem. Once they arrived, they were in complete awe. “It was beautiful and ancient,” said Susannah Dolinar of Jerusalem, the first city they visited. They visited monumental sights such as the Masada, a “fortress” overlooking the Dead Sea, as well as the Yad Vashem, the Holocaust Museum. The group saw dancing in front of the Wailing Wall in celebration of the Sabbath. These upbeat and exciting activities helped distract from the somewhat nerve-wracking atmosphere, complete with armed guards.

"It was not uncommon to find soldiers patrolling. Two, three, four soldiers together, in full uniform, armed with machine guns," commented Gaworecki. “Even when we visited the sacred city of Jerusalem, we had an armed guard with us.” During her travels, Gaworecki found the soldiers unerving, but didn’t feel threatened. “It was peaceful,” she said. “I can’t say I wasn’t nervous, but it was just precautionary.” The soldiers would come onto buses, and other common places. After a quick check, they would leave, and the people would go back to their regular lives. In Israel, everyone goes straight into heat or electricity, Chancellor Dennis Walcott’s press secretary Marge Feinberg said “Con Ed had a generator on site and in consultation with the principal, the school remains open.” In a request to clarify her statement of the decision to keep Curtis open, Feinberg responded, “There was partial power and Con Ed provided a generator.” In a final attempt to get information, the following email was sent: “I’m sorry to keep asking you questions but I need to confirm that Curtis remains open.”

The journalist staff use a flashlight app on an ipad to light room 322 after the power went out during a meeting.

XC wins city champs

Girls’ varsity cross country edges Port Richmond to secure city title.

By: Katie Madden and Kailey Walters

Revenge felt both beautiful and powerful. After losing to Port Richmond last year, the Curtis Warriors were determined to take home the championship, and that they did.

On November 12th, a cold Saturday morning at Van Cortland Park, the girls edged out Port Richmond High School to win their fourth City Champions in six years.

Teeming with mounted tension and barely containable excitement, the Lady Warriors prepared for their 5k race. With the knowledge that their rival team, Port Richmond, had been undefeated in the previous season, the Warriors were determined to show their A game. In the end, their best proved to be enough to land them a first place finish. “I didn’t believe it because we had to pull out the fourth girl, Hentquez, since she was hurt,” said Coach Joe Siciliano.

In cross country, the score is determined by the places of the top five runners from each school. Placing eighth out of 137 with a time of 20 minutes and 31 seconds, junior Corinne Birchard finished first for Curtis. “To win was just amazing,” said Birchard, “it was a total team effort.” The last two years racing against Port Richmond had been very close. Thanks to the teamwork of the Lady Warriors, Curtis pulled through. With the runners’ determination, Curtis managed to get four girls, junior Corinne Birchard, sophomore Anna Clair Pietsak, junior Tiffany Saw, and senior Denean Dixon, in the top twenty. Freshmen Diondra Bryant and Brianna May- Elliot also placed for Curtis.
**POWER OFF**

- **4:28pm Wed.**
  Power goes out in Curtis High School, Richmond Terrace and Cassidy Lafayette Houses.

- **4:35pm Wed.**
  Entire school is evacuated into rain.

- **4:55pm Wed.**
  FDNY arrives to assess the situation. Power is still out. All after school activities were cancelled. College Financial Aid night was cancelled as well.

- **6:00pm Wed.**
  School was told by Con Edison power would be restored as soon as possible.

- **9:00pm Wed.**
  Students received robocall phone calls stating they would receive further notice about whether school would be open or closed.

- **7:00am Thurs.**
  Students reported to school and were directed to cafeteria. Flood lights and emergency lights were used in the first hallway.

- **9:00am Thurs.**
  Proper lighting was not available. Con Edison predicted that by noon the power would be restored to the whole school.

- **12:45pm Thurs.**
  School lights flickered. The cafeteria lights were fully restored.

- **1:00pm Thurs.**
  Power was fully restored to the school.

- **1:45pm Thurs.**
  Students were told to report to their 8th, 9th and 10th period classes.

**POWER ON**

Con Edison provided several generators to power Curtis and the Richmond Terrace and Cassidy Lafayette Houses. Thursday night at 4:30 p.m., the power supply was fixed, Curtis went off of the generator and back on power grid.

---

**BLACKOUT**

**Lights Off**

Continued from front page to make sure my story is accurate. The cafeteria lights and the emergency lights in the main hall were sufficient to service a school of 2400. Mary Feinberg did not reply to this final email request from the Curtis Log.

Mr. Hepworth, parent coordinator used the automated call system to inform and update parents about the blackout and the opening of the school. "I don’t understand why we opened the school under almost the exact same conditions that we evacuated in the night before. It was a non-decision. We failed to consider the safety and well being of our students. If we had, we would have considered that many of them lived in the buildings that were also affected by the outage and should have had the opportunity to spend the day in a facility with heat, hot water and electricity."

Approximately 1200 students attended school, about 50% attendance. Silive, posted at 6:44 that the school was closed due to lack of power. Throughout the day the website flipped from open to closed and to open again. Unfortunately no city agency could provide information about the school closing or opening. Throughout the morning 311 calls did not yield any information.

An informal survey many students made their decision to stay home based on the information posted on the Silive website.

In the first hours many students who were in attendance contacted their parents requesting pick ups. The line of parents and guardians in the main lobby was almost out the door. Parents were frustrated with the situation. "It sucks and I wish the power was back on so the students can be in school learning," said the person picking up Michael Martinez, Sophomore. "I wish they would have let us leave by ourselves," added Michael Martinez.

Assistant Principal Pete Devlin along with the help of the staff was able to organize students into the auditorium and later the cafeteria to provide cold lunches. 70% of the students in this school depend on school lunches. "70% of the students in the staff was able to organize students into the auditorium and later the cafeteria to provide cold lunches. "70% of the students in this school depend on school lunches."

Through the power crisis Devlin remained calm. "The teaching staff, deans and security guards were a tremendous help. Everyone stepped up to make sure that the students were safe. The biggest problem we encountered was the process of parents picking up their children. It was difficult for parents to pick up students because of inaccurate information on the blue cards. To avoid these issues in the future, students should submit blue cards with the most updated information so we can contact their parents or guardians in an emergency," said Devlin.

Left without electricity moments seemed like hours in the dark. Students filled the time by listening to music playing games or talking to friends. Boredom was the biggest problem. "It was horrible, I was sitting for eight hours, few things were done to make the experience more tolerable," said Maxfield Park, Freshman. "The worst part of yesterday was sitting in the cafeteria for five hours," said Alfred Morris.

Even his smart phone lost its appeal.

Power was restored at 1 pm and students were directed to their eighth period classes. Period nine and ten also ran, however most classes had low attendance.

In an announcement to the entire school Thursday morning assistant principal of security, Jose Burbano stated, "In true Warrior spirit you showed patience and model behavior throughout this hectic ordeal. We did not have a single incident of misbehavior."