



Around The Bronx

With Patrice O'Shaughnessy **PAGE 8**

Sebring is here

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A-OK!

Riverdale/Kingsbridge adapting to new league

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AT A GLANCE

Quake felt strongly here

Last week's earthquake in Italy may have occurred thousands of miles away, but in the coffee shops, homes and community meetings of the borough's Italian neighborhoods, the devastation was felt immediately, and relief efforts got underway quickly. **Page 3**

Herring come back

Herring reintroduced into the Bronx River three years ago have returned to spawn there, the first to do so since colonists' dams blocked the river and evicted the herring some 300 years ago. The comeback could prompt other species to return to the waterway. **Page 4**

Moving to prepaid cells

Fed up with big monthly cell phone bills, more and more people are switching to cheaper prepaid cell plans, because they can get unlimited texting, unlimited minutes, Internet and more, for around \$50 a month. **Page 4**

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Naomi Gonzalez stands outside Public School 178 with her children, Devin, 11 (l.), and Emelina, 6. Gonzalez wants to sue the city over school toxic waste.
Photo by Christie M. Farriella

Mom wants to be kids' toxic avenger

Suing over contaminated caulk

BY BILL EGBERT

A GROWING number of Bronx parents are joining a lawsuit to force the city to clean up toxic waste found in public schools.

More than a dozen parents and one prominent organization have signed on or expressed interest in joining Bronx mother Naomi Gonzalez, who last month became the lead plaintiff in a notice of intent to sue the city for failing to remove caulk contaminated with polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) from her children's school.

Gonzalez said she is "furious that [the city Education Department has known about this] and has done nothing."

Gonzalez's kids, Emelina, 6, and Devin, 11, attend Public School 178 in the Bronx, where lab tests commissioned by the Daily News found PCB contamination was 111,000 parts-per-million.

Anything with more than 50 ppm of PCBs is considered toxic waste under federal law, and must be removed.

New co-plaintiff Tyrone Jenkins' 9-year-old son Tyhair attends PS 160 near Co-op City, where The News found PCB levels of 189 ppm — still nearly four

times the threshold to require immediate disposal as toxic waste.

Jenkins says he decided to join the lawsuit because the city is breaking the law.

"The city wouldn't hesitate to hold me to account if I committed a crime," Jenkins said.

Nos Quedamos, a respected South Bronx community development group, has also signed on as an organizational plaintiff in the lawsuit to be filed by New York Lawyers for the Public Interest.

The NYLPI will host an informational meeting for parents at 6:30 p.m. Friday, April 24, at the United Methodist Church in Co-op City, 2350 Palmer Ave., at Hutchinson River Parkway E.

Tests of nine public school buildings by The News last year revealed illegal levels of PCBs at six of them. The highest levels were found at Manhattan's PS 199, measured at 225,000 ppm.

More than 200 city school buildings built before PCB caulking was banned are suspected of having illegal contamination, but the city has so far resisted calls for testing to determine how many

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