March 31, 2006

Dear parents of freshmen, sophomore, and junior Bronx Science students,

This year marks my fifth year as the faculty advisor to The Bronx High School of Science’s award-winning yearbook, The Observatory. We’re putting an enormous amount of effort into this year’s book in an effort to better last year’s book, which won a First Place prize with double honors in the prestigious American Scholastic Press Association, a First Place Prize with Distinction from the National Scholastic Press Association, and a Bronze Medal from the Columbia Scholastic Press Association. Our 2006 yearbook will be quite groundbreaking in terms of design and content, and we are striving, more than ever before, to include many more photographs and articles relating to underclassmen life and activities at Bronx Science. In fact, 42% of the book covers underclassmen exclusively! In addition, this yearbook has more color pages in it than ever before!

I am writing to you with the hope that you will be willing to support our students’ efforts by purchasing a copy of this year’s book. You can reserve a copy of it by filling out the order form below. Don’t delay on this opportunity, as there will not be any extra copies available in June when the books arrive. The yearbook has sold out for the past four years running; I have increased this year’s print run to meet increased demand, but it will still sell out. The yearbook staff is solely responsible for its budget and receives no funds from the school whatsoever. Our seniors purchase a yearbook as part of their senior dues, but this only partially covers printing costs, so your support during your child’s underclassman years is crucial and highly appreciated! All proceeds that we receive go directly into the printing costs of the yearbook.

It is my sincere hope that your son or daughter will be as excited about the prospect of owning a copy of this year’s book as we are. For decades to come, the 2006 yearbook will be a memorable way for your children to preserve the memory of their activities, classes, and friends (including graduating seniors) from this special year. I come from a background as an editor in book publishing, and this is the first book that I have worked on which I know that people will be reading thirty or more years from now! I own copies of all four years of my own high school yearbook, and often turn to them fondly to look up old friends or to reminisce. I hope that your child will wish to do the same. In addition, the yearbook makes an excellent end of the academic year gift, a reward for a job well done, or a birthday gift that you can be guaranteed that your child will enjoy. It covers all of the ins and outs of Bronx Science, the latest trends in fashion, and advice on the best classes to take and clubs to join; in short it is an encyclopedia of life at Bronx Science.

If you are willing to help support our yearbook, please place your order using the order form below. You can have your child drop it off to me in Room 011 during 9th period or after school, along with a check or money order for $70 made payable to ‘The Bronx High School of Science.’ Or, if you wish for it to be a surprise or gift, you may reserve a copy by mailing the completed form below and a check or money order to me, directly at
the school. The mailing address is below. I will accept orders until I sell out of the print run, so if you are interested, please do not delay. Once I receive your order form, I will reserve a copy for your child. He/she will then receive a yearbook at the end of the school year (early June 2006) when the books arrive from the printer. There will be no extra copies to purchase in June 2006, as this has been the case for the past four years.

Many thanks in advance for your consideration. We could not publish the yearbook without your financial support. My students and I thank you from the bottom of our hearts!

Sincerely yours,
Alexander Thorp
Faculty Advisor, 2006 Observatory
English Department
Phone: (718) 817-7797 (direct office number)
e-mail: Observatory2003@hotmail.com

----------------- (print out and tear off) -----------------

ORDER FORM FOR THE 2006 YEARBOOK, THE OBSERVATORY

Enclose a $70 check or money order payable to: The Bronx High School of Science

Please send order to: Alex Thorp, Yearbook Advisor
  English Department
  The Bronx High School of Science
  75 West 205th Street
  Bronx, NY 10468

Parent’s Name (Print):__________________________________________________

Student’s Name (Print):_________________________________________________

Student’s Official Class:_________________________________________________

Home Mailing Address:___________________________________________________

_____________________________________________________________________

Phone Number: (     )         Date:______________________

A copy of the 2006 yearbook will be reserved for your child, upon receipt of your check or money order.