

iPads Donation For Children With Autism



(L. to r.); QSAC Day School Director Dr. Ronald Lee, Carnival of Love Foundation board member Jimmy Panagiotou, Foundation Co-Founder and President Dennisia Slabakis, QSAC Executive Director Gary Maffei, QSAC Board of Directors and Vice President Paul Halvatzis, Foundation Co-Founder and Treasurer Maria Sakellis and QSAC Director of Development Daniele Favre-Panayotatos

On June 23, QSAC (Quality Services for the Autism Community) announced a gift of 15 iPads from the Carnival of Love Foundation. The foundation representatives presented QSAC with the generous donation during a short ceremony yesterday.

The iPads will be used at the QSAC Day School which serves 78 children with autism, ages five to 20. "The iPad technology and applications will have a tremendous impact on our mission to provide individuals on the autism spectrum with the opportunity to develop the skills necessary to lead more independent, productive and fulfilled lives. The iPad and its many applications will broaden the world for many students with autism and we are truly grateful to the Carnival of Love Foundation," QSAC Executive Director Gary Maffei said.

iPads, through specially designed applications, or apps, have literally transformed the way children with autism communicate and learn and its technology is becoming increasingly useful in today's classrooms. With the ever increasing number of education oriented applications available, the possibilities for instruction are endless and assist in bridging the gap between didactic instruction and technology in the classroom.

Soda Of The Future At Steinway's Wingstop

BY NICOLLETTE BARSAMIAN

"With 125 brands in just one place, the choice is yours," touts Coca-Cola about their new Freestyle soda machine which truly does offer customers multitudes of choices. In an era where we can create any Starbucks frappuccino we want and download any album on earth within minutes, it seems Coca-Cola has caught up with today's consumer expectations.

Wingstop, a restaurant located at 31-14 Steinway St. now features the Freestyle machine. It is the third in the city and the first in Queens. Wingstop Manager Nick Cassanova explained, "It definitely complements the food. We've got a new, young, hip style and young people really appreciate the choices." Wingstop already has a lot going for it. The chicken wings come in nine different flavors, including Garlic Parmesan, Lemon Pepper, Teriyaki, and Atomic, to name a few.

The sleek, high tech vending machines are touch screen operated and the choices appear endless. The 125 base products alone offer a huge amount of choice compared to typical soda fountains that typically only offer 5 - 10 flavors. Take for example Coke. You can get Coca-Cola, Diet Coca-Cola, and Caffeine Free Diet Coca-Cola. And then each option is available in vanilla, lime, raspberry, cherry, and orange flavoring. The same is true with Sprite. You can get Sprite or Sprite Zero in cherry, strawberry, grape, peach, and raspberry flavors. The machines also offer Vault Energy Drink (Coca-Cola's answer to Red Bull), Minute Maid Lemonade (regular and light), Pibb, Dasani Sensations (fizzy and regular), and Barq's; each with a choice of at least five or six flavors. There are also flavors not previously available to the American market, such as Orange Coke (only available in Russia and the Baltics) and flavored Dasani waters.

There are millions of combinations one can create. The only limitation is your imagination. With the



help of Wingstop co-owner Mike Khahera, this writer was able to enjoy a Vanilla Coca-Cola mixed with Orange Fanta, aka a Creamsicle.

Wingstop's other co-owner Mac Khahera said, "Guests are already coming in and asking about the machine. They love trying out new brands and pairing what combination works best with their favorite flavor of wings. We're excited to give them another great reason to visit Wingstop."

Cassanova was unable to explain the secret workings of the machine. He said, "Coca-Cola wants us to be quiet about it. But it saves money [compared to regular vending machines] and I think it has a much crisper taste." With a little Internet research, one discovers that the machine uses microdosing to blend one or more of the concentrated ingredients in 46-ounce packets with water and sweetener. This all happens as the beverage is dispensed, which avoids using a typical five-gallon box of syrup. The economics are in favor of the new technology.

As this is the soda machine of the future, naturally there is the Big Brother aspect to it. The machine transmits supply and demand data to both Coca-Cola and the owner of the machine such as which brands are sold when, troubleshooting information, and service data.

MPB Glee Club Sings At Citi Field

The Most Precious Blood School (MPB) Glee Club and their director, Pura Gonzalez, were rewarded for their hard work when they were invited to sing at Citi Field on Catholic Schools Night, June 22. Every spring and fall the Mets hold the Catholic Schools Night and donate a portion of proceeds to the schools attending. All the school names are flashed on the big screen during the game and there is an award given to the school with the greatest ticket sales.

But the greatest award, at least to the MPB Glee Club students, was achieving their dream of singing for the Mets. They practiced the whole year, giving



up three recesses and one day a week after school to practice for this event. They then submitted an audition tape and were the one glee club selected to perform that night. The 29 member club has also performed in May at Samaritan Village, a senior center in Woodside and last December at Astoria Federal

MPB Glee Club has been in existence for three years.

Most Precious Blood (MPB) Glee Club warms up along with the Mets on the field. The club worked with MPB Glee Club Director Pura Gonzalez all year to be chosen to sing on Catholic Schools Night.

Savings Bank (30th Avenue and 38th Street).

During the afternoon the students were given a sound check on the field while the Mets warmed up just steps away. The children were happy to watch the Mets at such close range. Later



they performed two songs for the crowd prior to the game: "I Won't Grow Up" from *Peter Pan* and "Afternoon On A Hill". Immediately after they left the field, there was a downpour that delayed the game for an hour. In

addition to the delay the game went into overtime, ending in the 14th inning, with the Mets winning, 3-2. Quite a memorable night for all, especially to some of the children who had not yet been to Citi Field.

The glee club's tee shirts were donated by Flynn & O'Hara Uniforms and transportation was donated by Thomas M. Quinn & Sons Funeral Home.

Their performance, along with interviews that captured their excitement, was featured in the show "Currents" on NET TV.—Annette Hanze Alberts