

The James Baldwin School

Newsletter

Issue No. 4 | June 2023



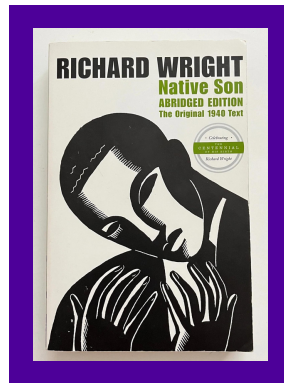
Performance Based Assessment Task - It's PBAT Season!

As a member of the New York Performance Standards Consortium, our students demonstrate graduation level competency in core subjects through Performance Based Assessment Tasks (PBATs). In lieu of most Regents Exams, students complete graduation-level written tasks and oral presentations, including an analytic essay on literature, a social studies research paper, an original science experiment, and problem-solving at higher levels of mathematics. This allows our instructors the flexibility to create curriculum and learning experiences that focus on depth, not breadth to foster deep learning. Instructors plan fieldwork experiences, incorporate guest speakers, and enrich the learning experiences for students in creative ways.

Omar Kanoute

Literature and Society

My PBAT is about my theory. I am exploring the connection between toxic masculinity, structural violence, and sociopathy. I am exploring my theory through the novel *Native Son* by Richard Wright.

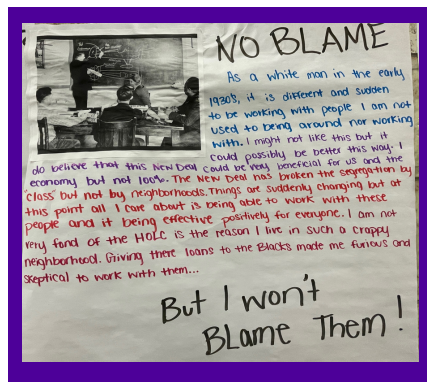


The cover of Richard Wright's *Native Son*, read by students in the *Society and Literature* Course.

Akasha Saldana

Which way forward

My PBAT question is "Was the New Deal Intrinsically Racist?" The writing process has been stressful, but it is interesting. The topic we are learning about is interesting and related to our culture.



Akasha Saldana's poster for the course titled *Which way forward*

Honor Roll

Below is the honor roll for the 2nd progress check. These students have a grade point average above 85% and no class below 80%. Much respect for the intellect!

Marc-Joel A
Noel D
Mouhamed D
Brianna H
Sherlyn H
Isatou J
Omar K
Anthony P
Katy W



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“Love takes off the masks we fear we cannot live without and know we cannot live within.” - James Baldwin

Core Values - We hold ourselves to high standards

The **core values** are the foundation of the school community. These values drive decision-making, community interactions, and curriculum design. The deeper understanding of what it means to live these values comes from discussing and living them together. Our Core Values will be celebrated on June 12 at End Term Ceremony. Each semester students nominate each other for Core Value Awards. There are two winners for each of the Core Values below.

Respect for Intellect

We believe all ideas and opinions are valid. It requires thoughtfulness, curiosity, innovative thinking as well as ambition. We use evidence to support our statements. And we acknowledge that we are all continuing to learn.

Respect for Humanity

We have compassion and respect for every individual. We start with the basic premise that we understand and accept that we are only humans and we make mistakes.

Respect for Diversity

We are civil and fair with others regardless of their appearance, sexual orientation, race, etc. We are open minded towards other points of view. We don't judge or make assumptions. We are open to meeting and interacting with all people.

Respect for Truth

We stand by our actions and accept the actions of others. We are open minded and listen to other forms of expression and thoughts. We believe that truth is acceptance of our reality.

Commitment to Peace

We manage our reactions to our emotions and have the ability to solve issues/ problems respectfully. We carefully choose our words and keeping other people's feelings in mind.

Commitment to Justice

We know the difference between what is right and what is wrong. We give fair consequences to restore the balance between people or things that have been wronged. We ensure fair treatment in the school and our environment.

Commitment to Democracy

We ensure everyone's voice is heard in a discussion, a fair solution is sought, and all voices/ opinions are respected. We have unity in our community.

Climate Art: End of Year Exhibition

On May 23, JBS celebrated the science and artwork of the Climate Art class. We gathered at the High Line to hear speeches and tour the gallery. Omar, a JBS senior, spoke at the event. He stated, ***"The air is literally and metaphorically toxic, and maybe, just maybe, if we can spread awareness about climate change, come up with cost-effective solutions, and have discussions about how to maintain a clean world, the air we breathe may feel more pure. Our futures matter, and before we let this world eat the spirit from the inside, we should physically change our outside to see to it a better future."***

Upcoming Dates

6/2 - PBAT deadline
6/8 - Chancellor's Day - No School
6/12 - End Term Ceremony
6/13 - 6/15 - PBAT Presentations
6/14 - ELA Regents Exam
6/19 - Juneteenth - No School
6/22 - Graduation Rehearsal at JBS
6/23 - Graduation at the Helen Mills Theatre
6/27 - Last day of school
7/5 - Start of Summer School

Omar Kanoute gives opening remarks at the End of Year Exhibition for Climate Art



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