

Green School Honors Three, Raises \$\$

By Karl Benson

Last month, the Green School, Williamsburg's public high school dedicated to environmental awareness and careers, hosted a concert to raise funds for its afterschool programs.

The event was held at Warsaw, nightclub. It featured live performances by several bands, among them Jonny Lives! of Rock 'n' Green, which seeks to raise the profile of environmental issues through music.

Proceeds raised from the event will go toward afterschool programs, funding for field trips, and kickstarting the construction of a "green" roof on top of the 223 Graham Avenue school.

"Every study shows that students who engage in extra-curricular activities are more involved in their academics," said Kenny McLaughlin, a teacher at the school who organized the event. "They have a safe place to stay after school, and are exposed to things that they aren't in the traditional classroom setting."

The school honored several honorees at the event as well. Local Councilwoman Diana Reyna, Waste Management, and The Human Impacts Institute each received awards.

"Waste Management of New York is proud to support environmental education in new York City," said Rachel Amar, head of community and government relations at Waste Management. "As a company, we are committed to sustainability and environmental protection, and to fostering greater awareness of the need to reduce waste and preserve resources for future generations."



Green School Principal Karali Pitzele, Council Member Diana Reyna, Human Impacts Institute Tara Deporte, Waste Management Rachel Amar, Assistant Principal Cara Tait, Assistant Principal Dorita James.



Green School's Kenny McLaughlin, Singer Sasha Dobson, Bass player Daria Grace and drummer Kenny Siegal.

The Green School's mission is to infuse the concept of sustainability into all facets of its curriculum and philosophy. It seeks to instill an appreciation of sustainability to oneself, sustainability within relationships, sustainability within the community, and sustainability of the world as a whole.

"We take it as a holistic concept," said Karali Pitzele, the school's principal. "It's not just a school that has a theme and the kids take an extra class."

Because of this, environmentalism dovetails with art and music. Jonny Dubowsky of Jonny Lives! explained the connection, saying, "It's not a coincidence when people say, 'Oh that feels natural.' It's the idea of nature that's inherent in everyone. And music has the same ability to bring out that intuitive feeling. When someone hears a great song or sees a wonderful piece of art, it's just natural."