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Bush hails Apple's teachers

By CARL CAMPANILE
Education Reporter

President Bush vowed yesterday that education will remain his "most important domestic priority" despite the World Trade Center disaster — and praised city schoolteachers as "silent heroes" for guiding students to safety following the terrorist attacks.

He also gave Schools Chancellor Harold Levy and the Board of Education an A for their quick recovery after the worst attack on American soil.

"You're such a strong example of the best of America. Your school system suffered. You picked yourself up. You got your students readjusted, resituated, and you're educating them," Bush said in a conference call to Schools Chancellor Harold Levy, U.S. Education Secretary Rodney Paige and staffers at PS 41 in Greenwich Village.

Calling teachers and other staff "silent heroes" for protecting children, Bush said, "On behalf of the American people, tell them thanks."

The president, through his education secretary, also delivered $4 million in grants to the Board of Education to be used for counseling and other services following the tragedy.

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By ANGELA C. ALLEN
and CARL CAMPANILE

The terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center have turned students into red, white and blue patriots.

At PS 175 in Rego Park, Queens, fifth-grade students yesterday rallied around the flag and country — and called people involved in the rescue efforts and volunteers their heroes.

Students passed around Old Glory as they beamed of how proud they are to be Americans during a sometimes emotional and soul-searching classroom discussion with teacher Roz Fierro.

Some students wore shirts emblazoned with the American flag.

To stimulate discussion, Fierro distributed copies of two Post political cartoons. One showed people holding hands in a circle around the flag, and the other depicted a firefighter and police officer as the new Twin Towers.

"Terrorists can destroy our buildings — but not our hearts," said Justin Ruiz, 10.

Jonathan Ramos, also 10, chimed in, "Terrorists can't destroy our feelings. We respect our country and the people who risked their lives."

Said Sara Sonnack, "A lot of people are sad. But this tragedy has brought us together as a country."

Of the flag-waving mania, Eric Benia said, "This shows we're all together."

Tova Itschakov said she wanted to "get a flag and hang it up" after seeing so many others do so.

Andrew Auerbach declared, "No matter how hard we get hit, we still stand tall."

Some students were angry, and wanted America to retaliate against the terrorists.

"I want President Bush to attack the people who are responsible," said Moshe Borukhov.

Nearly all the students said they're afraid terrorists will strike again.

Patriotism has even brought together arch rivals Stuyvesant and Brooklyn Technical high schools.

The long-standing academic and athletic rivalry between the two powerhouse schools is being put on ice as Brooklyn Tech opens its doors to displaced Stuyvesant students and staff, whose school is located near the World Trade Center where disaster and rescue efforts continue.

"We've always been competitive but friendly competitive," said Brooklyn Tech principal Dr. Lee McCaskill. "Now we're saying, 'Let's just come together and solve these issues.'"

"I don't think anyone will see a rivalry now," agreed Stuyvesant principal Stan Teitel.

About 200 Stuyvesant teachers reported to Brooklyn Tech yesterday for orientation classes. The students will follow on Thursday.

Officials plan to create a school within a school for their temporary guests by staggering class times and juggling lunch periods to free up classroom space.

Brooklyn Tech students will attend school from 7:15 a.m. to 2 p.m. and Stuyvesant students from 10:55 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Heroes

The **Bower** family of *Deerfield, N.H.*, was so heartsick over the Twin Towers tragedy that they sprung into action, raising $1,159 for the Red Cross by staging a flag sale at a local store.

John Bower, his wife, **Leah**, and their four kids first started their drive on Saturday. On Sunday, they had sold more than 100 flags.

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