Returning to school can be an intimidating experience, especially if you are making the transition from high school to college. Well, what can be more relaxing than funk music, a traveling circus, carnival games, and free toothpaste? The Welcome Back Bash on October 6 was a great success. With entertainment, positive energy, and booths hosted by BC clubs, returning to Brooklyn College has never been easier.

If you were unsure of whether to attend the event, the music from the live band would have been the deciding factor. “The Pimps of Joytime”, a funk band with a strong following on New York college campuses, set the mood with upbeat, catchy music as well as warm, entrancing melodies, showcasing the excitement of back to school. The band performed original pieces and truly gave no listener any reason to complain. No matter your favorite genre of music The Pimps of Joytime brought everyone together. Even as strangers, this music gave the students something to talk about, creating an excellent auditory icebreaker.

The music was the bait and the games and traveling circus performers were the hook. A mini-basketball setup and a strong man hammer, both outfitted with prizes, made you feel like you were at a carnival. And no carnival is complete without the sideshow acts. Sword swallowers in six inch heels, a drag queen escaping a straight jacket and chains, and a six-foot-five man who can fit through a coat hanger made for an iMobile upload moment.

In addition to all the entertainment at the bash, there was also much to be learned. Many of the clubs at Brooklyn College had their own tables to discuss their organizations and recruit members. For new students, the Bash provided another opportunity to find out which club or organization to join. Every table had free takeaways, be it a stress ball shaped like a brain, toothpaste or Mets memorabilia. Anything a college student needed or wanted could be found at this event: gifts, live music, sideshow acts, and best of all, a chance to find their niche and meet new people.

PHOTOS: Students engage their peers during the Fall 2009 Welcome Back Bash (left); the Anime & Manga Club table during the Bash (below).

For more information on future events visit the “Events and Features” page on the Division of Student Affairs website.

Check out our new photo gallery as well.
PRE-ELECTION TOWN HALL GETS PEOPLE TALKING

The following are excerpts - click here to read the whole article on the DOSA website.

The evening rain did not stop anyone from attending the much anticipated first TOWN HALL meeting of the 2009-2010 school year, co-sponsored by The Division of Student Affairs and the B.C. Speech & Debate Team, and held on October 15, 2009.

The subjects up for discussion were civic engagement, governance, voting, and leadership…to name just a few. Leading up to the general election in November, the Town Hall raised a variety of points about how and why students should become “involved” citizens – engaging their communities and their political leaders.

A robust panel included Russell Gallo, BC Graduate Student; Professor Shuming Lu, from Speech Communication, Arts & Sciences and Coordinator of the China Study Abroad Program; Professor Ken Estey, from the Political Science Department; Pamela Holmes, Assistant to the Dean for Civic Engagement & Student Diversity Programs; and Tatiana Benjamin, undergraduate student and U.S.S. Delegate for Brooklyn College.

Vivan Xie and Eleonor Leger of the Speech and Debate Team moderated the event and after a brief introduction from each panel member, engaged them in a variety of opening questions. The audience had their own share of questions for the panelists ranging from the state of New York's economy to comments on President Obama's recent Nobel Prize win.

Congratulations to Janisa Thorne, a College Now student who is attending a BC Political Science class and heard about the Town Hall from her professor, the grand prize winner of a $25 Barnes & Noble Bookstore gift card.

Click here to read the whole article.