

## Manolo on the Sea

*Schools on The Blue Planet began to lose their souls - and one day the children disappeared. Except for a small corner in Spanish Harlem that lay on the edge of a narrow ocean strait. There, in stillness and movement, a band of young Warrior Poets were trained. They grew strong and balanced in body, spirit, and mind. Some of them, when they grew older, took to the sea and told our story wherever they met landfall.*

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*Except for a lucky few, everyone is from someplace, but that someplace, it turns out, is gone.*

Chang-rae Lee, **On Such a Full Sea** - AD 2014

Manolo took to the sea.

As a child, speaking no English, he left an island in the Caribbean and began attending our school.

Years later, he did what sang to his heart, and he returned to the sea. This is his boat:



This below is what he wrote to me. It sang to my old teacher's heart, reaffirming us in our dogged pursuit of joy and human excellence - through our way of serenity and virtue. I hope his story sings also to your heart:

*Hey Ivan,*

*This is Manolo Caba, EHS class of 2010. I just wanted to say Happy Birthday and wish you many more.*

*I recently graduated from SUNY Maritime with a Marine Engineering degree and also received my Unlimited Horse Power Third Assistant Engineer Coast Guard License. This allows me to be an engineer officer on any ship in the world!*

*I recently started working for Moran Towing in Philadelphia as an engineer, and to this day, I still carry on with me many of the values and traits that I have learned from my time in EHS. I hope one day to come back to the EHS to visit or even to speak to the students about shipping and opportunities in the New York Harbor.*

*I want to thank you for everything you have taught us, and I look forward hearing from you.*

*Sincerely,  
Manolo Caba-Martinez  
EHS Class of 2010*

In the serenity of our space and through the virtues of our school community, Manolo grew stronger, kinder, and wiser. Attentive to body and breath in the Barrio, our children still experience joy and challenge, in the here and now. As we see, when the child remains fully visible - body, spirit, and mind - the future, like time and tide, will more than take care of itself.

May you forever be well!