



The Michael J. Petrides School

Middle School Newsletter Grade 5

February 2018



Dear Middle School Parents,

Wow! The saying is certainly true. "Time flies when you are having fun." Half of the school year is behind us already. February marks the beginning of the third marking period and we have a lot to celebrate. We have the 100th Day of School, and Respect for All week. We also have our Middle School War of the Roses, a special assembly "Step Forward If" for fifth and sixth graders, "Too Good for Drugs" program for seventh graders, a Council for Unity St. Jude fundraiser, Respect for All week activities and a vacation.

Our Middle School Social Studies department will be hosting our annual Social Studies Fair. Projects are for extra credit in grades 5, 6 and 7. Projects will be mandatory in grade 8. The theme for this year's projects is "Issues of Power, Race and Gender." The teachers will also have after school sessions for groups, to work with their guidance. A separate permission slip for both will be forthcoming.

Ms. Kruesi, Ms. Milazzo and Ms. Rebecchi will host a "Parents as Math Partners" event on Thursday, February 15, 2018 according to the following schedule:

Class 521 8:15 am – 8:45 am Class 522 10:00 am – 10:30am Class 520 11:15 – 11:45 AM

The week of February 12, 2018 is Respect for All week. Following are our scheduled events:

Tuesday, February 13, 2018 all students will do an anti-bully pledge

Wednesday, February 14, 2018 is Random Acts of Kindness Day. All students should wear their Color Wars T-shirts or anything Pink or Red.

Thursday, February 15, 2018 is School Spirit Day and students should wear Blue to show their Panther Pride.

Please send in BOX TOPS to show how much you LOVE your school. Attached you will find a box top collection sheet.

We will be celebrating the 100th day of school and Valentine's Day in true middle school style. On Wednesday, February 14, 2018 from 12:45 – 2:20 pm we will be having the annual Middle School "War of the Roses." Grade level teams will compete in color wars. Your child can volunteer to participate in an assortment of events to earn points for their grade. The grade earning the most points will be the champions. A more detailed flyer will be distributed for this event. There will also be customized T-Shirts available for sale. T – Shirts will be color coded by grade.

The Council for Unity will be selling chocolate and Valentine's on February 14, 2018 to support St. Jude's Hospital for childhood cancer patients. An order form will be attached to this letter. Please be generous to this wonderful organization.

The NYPD will be conducting the "Too Good for Drugs" program to all seventh graders from 1:30 pm until 2:20 pm during the week of February 26, 2018.

National Junior Honor Society applications are available in my office. All applications are due back to me on or before Friday, March 2, 2018.

Our *TEST PREP ACADEMY* will begin in March. Please look out for the permission slip for this wonderful cost free opportunity. I strongly encourage all students to participate in test prep sessions offered at our school.

A Note from the PTA: Our Annual Thank Heavens for Little Girls Dance will be held on February 11th. Tickets are on sale now. If you have never joined us for this wonderful event, it is for Girls (Pre K - Eighth Grade) and a significant male role model. There will be dancing, games, raffles, and lots and lots of fun.

Please join us for our next PTA meeting on February 28th at 7pm.

There is NO SCHOOL for students on Friday, February 16, 2018 to celebrate Lunar New Year. There will be no school for winter recess the week of February 19, 2018. School resumes Monday, February 26, 2018.

If you have any questions about the above-mentioned information, feel free to contact me at (718) 815-0186 extension 22171 or BSouffrin@schools.nyc.gov.

Sincerely,
BettyAnn Souffrin
Assistant Principal

What topics will the students learn this month?

ELA – The students will be completing the novel *Esperanza Rising* by Pam Munoz Ryan. We will continue to study the historical aspects of the novel while becoming nonfiction readers and writers.

Math – This month the students will learn addition and subtraction of fractions and mixed numbers with unlike denominators. They will then begin to multiply and divide with fractions.

Science – During the month of February we will expand our study of environmental science and ecosystems, and will turn our focus on the land forms and elements of Earth. We will continue practicing working through the steps of the Scientific Method in our investigations and labs.

Social Studies – The students will examine the formation and geography of the 13 American colonies. The students will then identify the causes of the American Revolution by examining a variety of primary and secondary sources. Participating in our Social Studies Fair this month is optional. Students who choose to participate may work in groups of 2-3 and pick any person, place or event from American or World History that relates to the theme “Power, Race, or Gender”. Topics must be approved by the Social Studies teacher. Projects are due March 1st and will be presented at the Social Studies Fair on March 9th.



Test/Projects Dates

- Feb 1st – Math Benchmark (Cumulative) exam
- Feb 2nd – ELA quiz: Wordly Wise Lesson 10
- Feb 5th – Science Ecology exam (Open Book)
- Feb 8th – Math exam: Add/subtract fractions
- Feb 9th – ELA quiz: Wordly Wise Lesson 11
- Feb 13th – Math quiz: Vocabulary
- Feb 26th – ELA Complex Text assignment
- Feb 28th – ELA Winter Recess Packet due
- Feb 28th – Math Winter Break Packet due
- Mar 1st – Social Studies Fair Project due (optional)
- Mar 9th – Social Studies Fair (optional)



REMINDERS!

Use reading conference notes as a tool to improve as a reader. Please bring in post-it notes.

Come prepared to Math class with your packet and sharpened pencils every day. Remember to use your online resources.

Please join us for a Parents as Math Partners Performance Task Workshop on Thurs Feb 15th:

- Class 521 from 8:15 - 8:45am
- Class 522 from 10:00-10:30am
- Class 520 from 11:15-11:45am

Required Reading

ELA – *Esperanza Rising* by Pam Munoz Ryan; Various nonfiction articles

Math – GoMath: Ch. 6 & 7; Pearson: Topics 9, 10, & 11

Science – We will be reading informational content specific texts and begin our new novel, *My Side of the Mountain* by Jean Craighead George, together in class.



If any students have any unique or interesting ROCKS, MINERALS or FOSSILS they would like to show to our classes please feel free to bring in for “Show and Tell” this month. Let’s “DIG IN” to this unit! Staten Island has amazing land forms...Keep your eyes out for them. Families are encouraged to visit the Museum of Natural History (suggested fees) or our local Staten Island Museum to gain a deeper understanding of our earth’s rock and minerals.

Students are encouraged to continue their learning experience by researching more about the American Colonies and the American Revolutionary War by visiting websites such as History.com, Ducksters.com or socialstudiesforkids.com.

School Closing

February 16th through 23rd
Winter Recess

The Petrides School

February 2018

Grade 5

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
				1 Math Benchmark (Cumulative) exam	2 ELA quiz: Wordly Wise Lesson 10 Science Club Group 2	3
4	5 Science Ecology exam (Open Book)	6	7	8 Math exam: Add/subtract Fractions & Mixed Numbers	9 ELA quiz: Wordly Wise Lesson 11 Science Club Group 2	10
11	12 Respect For All Week	13 Anti-Bully Pledge Math quiz: Vocabulary	14 Random Acts Of Kindness Day Middle School War of the Roses 12:45-2:20pm Wear Pink or Red	15 School Spirit Day Wear Blue Parents as Partners: Math Performance Task Class 521 8:15-8:45 Class 522 10:00-10:30 Class 520 11:15-11:45	16 No School Winter Recess	17
18	19 No School Winter Recess	20 No School Winter Recess	21 No School Winter Recess	22 No School Winter Recess	23 No School Winter Recess	24
25	26 ELA Complex Text assignment	27	28 ELA and Math Winter Break Packet due			

Important Upcoming Dates

March 30th - April 6th: Spring Recess
April 11th - 12th: NYS ELA Exam
May 1st - 2nd: NYS Math Exam