



Michael J. Petrides School



Middle School Newsletter

GRADE 5

FEBRUARY 2019

Working Together for Student Success

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.

Our Middle School Social Studies department will be hosting our annual Social Studies Fair. Projects are for extra credit in grades 5, 6, 7 and 8. The theme for this year's projects is "Triumph and Tragedy in History." The teachers will also have after school sessions for groups to work with their guidance. A separate permission slip for both has been distributed to students. Social Studies Fair Projects are due to teachers on March 1, 2019. The Middle School Social Studies Fair will be held on March 7, 2019.

Please send in **BOX TOPS** to show how much you **LOVE** your school. Box Tops help us buy books and items for students to use in classrooms. Attached you will find a box top collection sheet.

Our Middle School students are **VERY EXCITED** to show off their talents in the "SPOTLIGHT FIGHT." The Middle School Talent Show will be held on Wednesday, February 13, 2019 from 12:45 until 2:15pm. Attached you will find a permission slip for students with a ticket price of \$3. This money will be in support of Habitat for Humanity (a cause near and dear to The Petrides School.) Parents are welcome to attend this event. You will also find a ticket order form for parents, family and friends attached.

We will be celebrating Valentine's Day in true Middle School style. On Thursday, February 14, 2019 from 1:15 – 2:20 pm we will be having a "**Gimme a Pizza Your Heart Valentine's Party.**" The Permission slip for the Valentine's Day Party is attached.

Our National Junior Honor Society students have been working hard this year. They have visited Clove Lakes Nursing Home, organized the Box Top campaign and did volunteer gift wrapping in the Staten Island Mall. National Junior Honor Society applications are available in my office. Students in grades 6, 7 and 8 are encouraged to apply. Students can earn community service hours during our PAL after school program. Ms. Calimano meets with 7th grade members on Tuesday each week. 8th grade members can meet every Wednesday and 6th grade students applying can meet on Friday after school in Room B204. After school participation is not mandatory but those students who work on the community service projects after school go on trips to culminate each endeavor.

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.

Middle School Wrestling and Floor Hockey after school applications have also been distributed. Please contact me if your child would like to participate.

There are still seats available to students in grades 6 – 8 for our PAL after school program. We offer at least one hour per day of **tutoring** in Math and ELA by our licensed middle school teachers and one hour of **homework help** each day by our licensed middle school teachers. We also offer arts and crafts, STEM, cooking, track, robotics and much more! I strongly encourage all families to join PAL after school and take advantage of this free service provided. Please contact me directly to arrange the tutoring or homework help to meet your child's needs.

PTA ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Join us for Our Sweetheart Dance on Sunday Feb 10th from 2-5 pm in our cafeteria. The dance is open to all students in grades PreK through 8th. Cost is \$10 per person.

Our February PTA meeting will be held on Wednesday, Feb 13th at 7:00 pm. Join us!

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, Middle School

What topics will the students learn today?

ELA – Students will begin reading the realistic fiction novel, *Maniac Magee* by Jerry Spinelli. We will continue to focus on quoting accurately from a text while supporting our theories as readers. Daily Language Activities will be utilized to improve our writing skills. Students will begin to brainstorm ideas for persuasive writing pieces.

Math – The students will understand that fractions represent division. They will also learn to multiply fractions and whole numbers, estimate products, multiply two fractions, use area models, solve multi-step problems, and divide whole numbers by fractions and unit fractions by whole numbers.

Science – We won the SMART KIDS: ENERGY EFFICIENCY PROGRAM grant from Con Edison! Our fifth grade scientists will be learning about and experimenting with ENERGY this month and discovering how they can conserve energy in their everyday lives.

Social Studies – The students will read *Hudson* by Janice Weaver to examine the difficulties Hudson had to face in each of his voyages. Students will identify the impact his voyage had on the European and North American continents and decide how history should remember Hudson.



Test/Projects Dates

Feb 6th – Math quiz
 Feb 11th - Science Vocab Test
 Feb 12th – Math exam: Multiply and divide fractions
 Feb 15th – ELA Complex Text
 Feb 27th – Math quiz

All Science tests and quizzes are open notebook and rely on the student's ability to keep organized and clear notes. Students are invited to come up at lunch to work on notes.

In-class Social Studies packets will be completed and graded, and vocabulary quizzes will be given using the packets.

Required Reading




ELA - *Maniac Magee* by Jerry Spinelli; Various non-fiction articles

Math – Pearson Topic 11; GoMath Ch. 7 & 8; Buckledown Unit 3-lessons 19-20

Science – The Con Edison Smart Kids Program provides supportive reading materials that we will incorporate into our lessons. All necessary reading will be provided.

Social Studies – *Hudson* by Janice Weaver

School Closing



February 5th – Lunar New Year
 February 18th – 22nd – Midwinter Break



REMINDERS!

Please come to ELA class prepared with a pencil and notebook. Treat your *Maniac Magee* book with care!

Come to Math class prepared daily with Math notebook, folder and sharpened pencils. Check REMIND app daily for updates. Use Pearsonsuccessnet.com and Thinkcentral.com for Math review.

The Science Extra Credit Inventors Project done at home is due in March. Please fill out and return the Con Edison surveys so that we can apply for an additional grant to support materials for our Science classroom!

Congratulation! Your family will be receiving an ENERGY EFFICIENCY box of gifted appliances for your home to help you reduce your use of energy...and reduce your energy bills. Enjoy implementing them with your children.

Students are required to have a Social Studies folder with their packet in it and a pen or pencil every day. Review world maps. Students should be able to identify continents and oceans on a blank world map.

Students are encouraged to participate in our optional middle school Social Studies Fair for extra credit! This year's theme is "Triumph and Tragedy in History". We will be hosting after-school Social Studies sessions for students to work on their project with their social studies teachers (parent consent slip must be returned).

Social Studies Fair Student Team Workshops

Thursday, February 7th, 2019: 2:30 – 4:30

Thursday, February 14th, 2019: 2:30 – 4:30

Thursday, February 28th, 2019: 2:30 – 4:30

Project Topic Due Date: February 4th (submit to your S.S. teacher)


Complete Project Due Date: March 1st

Social Studies Fair: March 7th

The Petrides School

February 2019

Grade 5

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3	4 Social Studies Fair Topic Due	5 No School Lunar New Year	6 Math Quiz	7 Report Cards Distributed	8	9
10	11 Science Vocab Test	12 Math Exam: Multiply and Divide Fractions	13 Middle School "Spotlight Fight" 12:45-2:15pm	14 Valentine's Day Party 1:15-2:20pm  LOVE	15 ELA Complex Text	16
17	18 No School Mid-Winter Recess	19 No School Mid-Winter Recess	20 No School Mid-Winter Recess	21 No School Mid-Winter Recess	22 No School Mid-Winter Recess	23
24	25	26	27 Math Quiz	28		

Important Upcoming Dates:

March 7th - Social Studies Fair
March 14th - Parent Teacher Conferences