



Michael J. Petrides School

# Middle School Newsletter



## GRADE 5/6

## 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 7<sup>th</sup> grade members on Tuesday each week. 8<sup>th</sup> grade members can meet every Wednesday and 6<sup>th</sup> 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 10<sup>th</sup> from 2-5 pm in our cafeteria. The dance is open to all students in grades PreK through 8<sup>th</sup>. Cost is \$10 per person.

Our February PTA meeting will be held on Wednesday, Feb 13<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:BSouffrin@schools.nyc.gov).

Sincerely,

BettyAnn Souffrin  
Assistant Principal, Middle School

## What topics will the students learn today?

ELA – This month we will continue to read our novel *Esperanza Rising* by Pam Munoz Ryan. We will focus on quoting accurately when citing text evidence and how we can compare and contrast different characters, settings and events.

Math – We will begin our unit on fractions this month. The students will learn simplifying and equivalence as well as the four operations involving fractions and mixed numbers.

Science – Students will revisit the water cycle and explain how solar heating and water vapor in the atmosphere affect weather. They will discuss how clouds formulate and how they are classified into the following groups: stratus, cumulous, and cirrus. They will recognize and describe how rain, hail, sleet and snow develop. Students will also recognize how tornados develop and the dangers of severe weather.

Social Studies – During the month of February the students will be covering Scientific Revolution and Enlightenment. We will also work on extended response.



### Test/Projects Dates

- Feb 4<sup>th</sup> – Math Quiz
- Feb 8<sup>th</sup> – Social Studies Exam
- Feb 12<sup>th</sup> – Math Exam: Fractions
- Feb 27<sup>th</sup> – Science: Weather quiz

Weekly Math quizzes will be given to assess comprehension.



### REMINDERS!

Come prepared to Math class with a sharpened pencil every day.

Students are encouraged to get missing Science notes when absent, missing notes are located in the PowerPoint folder in the classroom.



### Required Reading

ELA - *Esperanza Rising* by Pam Munoz Ryan

Science – Mars article



### School Closing

February 5<sup>th</sup>: Lunar New Year  
February 18<sup>th</sup> – 22<sup>nd</sup>: Midwinter Break




# The Petrides School



# 2019

## Grade 5/6

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3	4 Math Quiz	5 <b>No School Lunar New Year</b>	6	7 Report Cards Distributed	8 Social Studies Exam	9
10	11	12 Math Exam: Fractions	13 Middle School "Spotlight Fight" 12:45-2:15pm	14 Valentine's Day Party 1:15-2:20pm 	15	16
17	18 <b>No School Mid-Winter Recess</b>	19 <b>No School Mid-Winter Recess</b>	20 <b>No School Mid-Winter Recess</b>	21 <b>No School Mid-Winter Recess</b>	22 <b>No School Mid-Winter Recess</b>	23
24	25	26	27 Science Quiz: Weather	28		

**Important Upcoming Dates:**

**March 14<sup>th</sup> -Parent Teacher Conferences**