



# The Michael J. Petrides School

## Middle School Newsletter Grade 5/6

### January 2019



*"Write it on your heart that every day is the best day in the year." Ralph Waldo Emerson*

Dear Middle School Parents,

Welcome back and best wishes for a wonderful new year. I hope 2019 brings you nothing but good things. We certainly have some exciting things planned for January! Our middle school holiday celebrations were a big success. I thank you for your participation. The children had lots of fun.

The Middle School teachers have scheduled the following opportunities for you to visit and spend some time with us during the month of January. Please note the dates here:

Grade	Class	Date	Time/Period	Parents as Partners Workshop
5	520	January 22, 2019	1:00 – 1:30	Fiesta for Esperanza
5	521	January 22, 2019	9:00 – 9:30	Fiesta for Esperanza
5	522	January 22, 2019	11:15 – 11:45	Fiesta for Esperanza
7	720	January 23, 2019	9:45 – 10: 15	Rise Up! Hamilton
7	721	January 23, 2019	9:00 – 9:30	Rise Up! Hamilton
7	722	January 23, 2019	10:30 – 11:00	Rise Up! Hamilton

I am VERY EXCITED to announce that Habitat for Humanity Club will be working with middle school students for a talent show/lip sync competition on February 13, 2019. Our first Middle School **"Spotlight Fight"** will be fantastic. Students can perform in groups or individually. I want to encourage as many students as possible to participate. There will be multiple rehearsal opportunities for each grade level. Rehearsals are on the attached calendar. Acts must be limited to 2 minutes. More information will be forthcoming.

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 Fridays 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.

We are continuing our Box Top for Education collection. Attached you will find an easy collection sheet.

We are organizing a Middle School Bowling League for students in collaboration with our PAL after school program. Bowlers will meet at Rabs Country Lanes starting Tuesday, January 8, 2019. Bowling will be every Tuesday for eight weeks. Bowling is open to the first twenty students who would like to participate. The cost is \$60 charge. PAL and Petrides will offset the additional lane fees. Please see Mr. Keith Dragonetti or myself for an application.

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.

As per our new school uniform policy, **ALL** students are required to wear uniforms every day to school. The uniform policy consists of light blue top and navy blue bottoms. Middle school students can wear Petrides Phys Ed uniforms on Phys Ed days. Uniforms can be ordered online at [josephsportny@yahoo.com](mailto:josephsportny@yahoo.com). **The telephone number is 347 – 768 – 2049.** Uniforms will be delivered to school and distributed by Mr. Michael Duffy. You may also purchase a school uniform at any local store that carries school uniform wear. It has come to my attention many students are wearing hooded sweatshirts over their uniforms. Only school logo sweatshirts or light blue sweatshirts are allowed

If you have any questions or concerns, feel free to contact me at anytime 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 - During the month of January we will begin our new novel *Esperanza Rising* by Pam Munoz Ryan. We will explore themes of change and rising above adversity.

Math – This month the students will wrap up division with decimals and begin our unit on operations with fractions.

Science – Students will continue to explore the atmosphere and its significance in order to sustain life on planet earth. Students will describe what happens to energy Earth received from the sun, comparing and contrasting radiation, conduction, and convection. Students will also explain how the water cycles and its effect on weather patterns and climate. Students will partake in various group activities to assess their knowledge on the topic of atmosphere.

Social Studies – During this month the students will begin talking about the 1st North American civilizations



### Test/Projects Dates

Jan 9<sup>th</sup> – Science Notebook quiz

Jan 15<sup>th</sup> – Math Exam: Dividing decimals



### REMINDERS!

If a student is absent they should always get the notes from the PowerPoint located in the back of the room and or get the notes from a peer. Note book quizzes will be given quarterly.

Study Math notes and tips nightly.

### Required Reading



ELA – *Esperanza Rising* by Pam Munoz Ryan

Math –

Science – Chapter 6: Atmosphere; Article: *Burned by the Sun* – students will read and annotate for purpose while exploring how the sun’s harmful UV rays can cause damage to skin. Students will summarize the text, indicating their comprehension of a scientific text.

### School Closing

**January 21<sup>st</sup> – Martin Luther King Jr. Day**



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## Grade 5/6

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
		1 <b>Schools Closed Winter Break</b>	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9  Science Notebook Quiz	10	11	12
13	14	15  Math Exam: Dividing Decimals	16	17	18	19
20	21  <b>Schools Closed Martin Luther King Jr. Day</b>	22	23	24	25  Talent Show Practice 12:00-12:45pm Auditorium	26
27	28  End of Second Marking Period	29	30	31	2/1  Talent Show Practice 12:00-12:45pm Auditorium	

**Important Upcoming Dates:**

February 5<sup>th</sup> – Lunar New Year  
 February 13<sup>th</sup> - Middle School Talent Show  
 February 18<sup>th</sup> through 22<sup>nd</sup> – Midwinter Recess  
 February 25<sup>th</sup> – Classes Resume