



The Michael J. Petrides School

Middle School Newsletter Grade 5/6

October 2017



Dear Middle School Parents,

I am happy to say we can put another smooth school opening in the books! I hope you took the opportunity to meet your child's teachers at our annual Back to School event. I have included our teacher information sheet in this newsletter for your easy reference. It has been a joy to see the fresh faces of September. I am looking forward to a fantastic year with this remarkable group of middle school students.

The students look great in their school uniforms. As per our school uniform policy, **ALL** students are required to wear uniforms every day to school. The uniform policy consists of a light blue top with navy blue bottoms, a school physical education uniform, or school spirit wear. I will continue to have incentives for students in compliance with the uniform policy. I will also continue to use the "*Citywide Standards of Intervention and Discipline Measures*" if a student is not in compliance. The infraction code is B02 – "Failing to wear the required school uniform (applies only to students in grades 6 – 12 in schools that have adopted a school uniform policy and whose parents have not secured an exemption.) Students not in compliance with the school uniform policy will receive a warning letter as a courtesy.

An important school wide goal is to continue our partnerships with parents during this school year and to have open lines of communication. This partnership has been recognized as being paramount to the success of our students. I believe opening our classrooms and inviting parents to experience our innovative learning activities with their children is informative and fun. I am happy to announce our first Parents as Partners event for this school year is "*The People vs. Columbus.*" Grade 7 Parents are invited to see their children explore the role that Africans and woman had on the American Colonies according to the following schedule:

Tuesday, October 3, 2017

Class 722: 8:15-8:45am Class 721: 9:45-10:15am Class 720: 10:30–11:00am

I would also like to invite the parents of 5th graders for a **Sip & Share** to talk with the 5th grade team of teachers and myself about curriculum, their transition to Middle School and any concerns you may have on **Tuesday, October 24, 2017 at 8:50am.**

An 8th grade **Sip & Share** has been scheduled for **Wednesday, October 11, 2017 at 8:15am.** You will be able to talk with the 8th grade team of teachers and myself about curriculum and the many events and exams on schedule this year for your child. I will also like to discuss **The High School Application Process** and our shadowing program with you. **I have enclosed documentation attached to this newsletter for your reference.**

Socialization is paramount in the life of an adolescent. Sociologists have noted its importance for a long time. "In order to build gratifying human relationships, it is vital that children learn and have the opportunity to practice social skills considered appropriate." We are happily planning some social activities to celebrate Halloween in Middle School! On Monday, October 30, 2017 we will be having a Middle School Halloween Dance. This event will be held in the student cafeteria from 2:30 until 4 pm. A permission slip will be forthcoming.

Our National Junior Honor Society will be selling candy bracelets and necklaces during the month of October to support Sugarland, Texas. Our school has worked with the school district of Sugarland, Texas during the 2016-2017 school year. Members of this district came to visit our Middle School last year and worked as our learning partners. We would love to use the funds raised to help them rebuild after the devastating Hurricane.

Petrides PAWS Points Tracker sheets were explained and distributed to all middle school students. Students can earn points for PAWS behavior throughout the month. Our reward token store will be open during the month of October.

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Our PAL after school program is well underway. I am excited to see so many students in attendance! In order for students to participate in our free after school program, they must complete a PAL application. Applications are available online at petridesschool.com or in my office. The program runs from 2:30 to 6:00 daily and students can attend only part time if desired.

Pupilpath.com is an online resource to keep track of assignments and your child's progress at school. Pupilpath is up and running for students and parents in grade 5 - 8. If you need login information, feel free to contact me at (718) 815-0186 extension 22171 or BSouffrin@schools.nyc.gov.

Your child received their activation code for a NYC Schools account in their backpack. This account is a new way of accessing key information about your child's progress. Some available features are NYS Standardized test scores and reports, attendance and grades.

Mark your calendars: There is no school on October 9, 2017 in observance of Columbus Day. The end of the first marking period is November 3, 2017. Fall Parent/Teacher Conferences are on November 15th and November 16th, 2017.

A Note from the PTA:

Join us at our next PTA meeting on October 18, 2017 at 7pm

Chocolate Sales ends October 16th. Please send chocolate sale money clearly marked ATTN: PTA.

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

Sincerely,

BettyAnn Souffrin
Assistant Principal

What topics will the students learn today?

ELA – In October we look forward to finishing our first novel together, *The Miraculous Journey of Edward Tulane* by Kate DiCamillo with a strong focus on character analysis using textual evidence and the skill of inference.

Math – This month the 5th graders will continue to focus on decimal place value and operations. Our 6th graders will begin to work with variables, expressions and properties.

Science – During the month of October the students will identify skills that scientists use. They will define hypothesis and recognize the difference between an observation and an inference. The students will recognize these differences through class activities and labs.

Social Studies – This month along with our Map skills and Geography themes we will be close reading complex text to gain deeper comprehension and learn how to write a response.



Test/Projects Dates

Oct 12th – ELA Wordly Wise Exam
 Oct 13th – Social Studies Quiz: Maps
 Oct 22nd – ELA Wordly Wise Exam

Science exam dates for Ch. 4, 5 & 6 will be the first week of Nov. Please check www.pupilpath.com for exact class date.



REMINDERS!

As per our uniform policy **ALL** students are required to wear uniforms every day to school. The uniform policy consists of a light blue collared shirt and dark blue bottoms.

Students should be reading for 20 minutes every night to increase their stamina and comprehension.

Study Math vocabulary and multiplication facts nightly. Class resources will come from Envision Math, GoMath and Buckle Down.

Grade 5 Parents are invited to a Sip & Share on Tuesday Oct. 24th to discuss transition to Middle School and any other concerns you may have.

Please bring in *Scholastics News* slip and money if you haven't already done so.



Required Reading

ELA – In Class: *The Miraculous Journey of Edward Tulane* by Kate DiCamillo; at home: Independent reading book

Science – Inventors and Scientists: Stephen Hawking article

School Closing

October 9
 Columbus Day observed

The Petrides School



Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9 No School Columbus Day	10	11	12 ELA Wordly Wise exam	13 Social Studies Quiz: Maps	14
15	16	17	18 PTA Meeting 7:00pm	19	20 ELA Wordly Wise exam	21
22	23	24 Sip & Share Grade 5 Parents 8:50am	25	26	27	28
29	30 Halloween Dance 2:30-4:30	31				

Important Upcoming Dates:

End of First Marking - November 3rd
Parent Teacher Conferences - Nov. 15th and 16th

