



Michael J. Petrides School

# Middle School Newsletter



## GRADE 7

## 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 – In February students will continue reading *Lyddie* by Katherine Paterson. Our focus is on comparing and contrasting a fictional portrayal of the time period and a historical account of the same period as a means of understanding how authors of fiction use or alter history. Students will work on creating and presenting their own petitions to improve their schools or communities.

Math – This month students will use measures of center and measures of variability for numerical data from random samples to draw informal comparative inferences about two populations.

Science – Students enter the animal world this month as we investigate the different adaptations animals have for survival and continue to learn how the biodiversity of an ecosystem affects the health and vitality of that ecosystem. We will engage in hands-on labs to reinforce our understanding of species classification.

Social Studies – This month our Social Studies Scholars will be exploring the ratification of the Constitution, Hamilton’s economic plan, presidencies of George Washington, John Adams, and Thomas Jefferson, and Louisiana Purchase. The unit will conclude with a performance-based assessment with students writing an argumentative essay discussing why people create, structure, and change governments.



### Test/Projects Dates

Feb 1<sup>st</sup> – ELA Lyddie HW Ch. 8-11  
 Feb 6<sup>th</sup> – Science: Academic Vocabulary Test  
 Feb 8<sup>th</sup> – ELA: Wordly Wise Test on Lessons 1-4  
 Feb 8<sup>th</sup> – ELA Lyddie HW Ch. 12-16  
 Feb 11<sup>th</sup> – Math Quiz: Unit 5(Class 720 & 721)  
 Feb 12<sup>th</sup> – Math Quiz: Unit 5 (Class 720 & 722)  
 Feb 12<sup>th</sup> – SS Quiz: Constitution  
 Feb 15<sup>th</sup> – ELA Lyddie HW Ch. 17-20  
 Feb 28<sup>th</sup> – Math: Unit 5 Task (Class 721 & 722)  
 Mar 1<sup>st</sup> – Math: Unit 5 Task (Class 720)



### REMINDERS!

Students should come to Math class prepared with a pencil and a calculator every day

Students should be checking Google Classroom every night for Social Studies for homework and school-wide reminders. Videos are being posted as studying resources.

Science Extra Credit Inventors Contest Project done at home is due in March. Encourage students to question how and why things are as they are in the natural world-from weather to the changes in their own bodies. There are many great educational sites they can visit. (Science.howstuffworks.com)

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 7<sup>th</sup>, 2019: 2:30 – 4:30  
 Thursday, February 14<sup>th</sup>, 2019: 2:30 – 4:30  
 Thursday, February 28<sup>th</sup>, 2019: 2:30 – 4:30

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

Complete Project Due Date: March 1<sup>st</sup>

Social Studies Fair: March 7<sup>th</sup>

### Required Reading



ELA - Students will read assigned chapters from *Lyddie* each week  
 Math – Go Math Modules 10 and 11, Buckle Down Unit 5: Lessons 26-31  
 Science – Students are always encouraged to read beyond materials provided so as to stay current in their understanding of Science in the News.

### SS Scholars of the Month

Class 720: Rastislav Girgosko  
 Class 721: Colleen O'Connor  
 Class 722: Hannah Vayser

### Math Student of the Month:

Class 720- Jesse Lefurge  
 Class 721- Kyra Sienkiewicz  
 Class 722- Erika Volshteyn




### School Closing

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

# The Petrides School

# February 2019

## Grade 7

| Sun | Mon  | Tues   | Wed  | Thurs  | Fri  | Sat |
|-----|--|--|--|--|--|-----|
|     |  |  |  |  | 1<br>ELA<br>Lyddie HW:<br>Ch. 8-11   | 2   |
| 3   | 4  | 5<br><b>No School<br/>Lunar<br/>New Year</b>                                   | 6<br>Science<br>Vocabulary<br>exam                       | 7<br>Report Cards<br>Distributed<br><br>SS Fair Workshop<br>2:30-4:30pm  | 8<br>ELA:<br>Wordly Wise Test<br>Lessons 1-4<br><br>ELA<br>Lyddie HW:<br>Ch. 12-16 | 9   |
| 10  | 11<br>Math Quiz<br>Unit 5<br>(Class 720 & 721)   | 12<br>Math Quiz<br>Unit 5<br>(Class 720 & 722)<br><br>SS Quiz:<br>Constitution | 13<br>Middle School<br>"Spotlight Fight"<br>12:45-2:15pm | 14<br>Valentine's Day<br>Party<br>1:15-2:20pm<br>SS Fair Workshop<br>2:30-4:30pm<br> | 15<br>ELA<br>Lyddie HW:<br>Ch. 17-20   | 16  |
| 17  | 18<br><b>No School<br/>Mid-Winter<br/>Recess</b> | 19<br><b>No School<br/>Mid-Winter<br/>Recess</b>                               | 20<br><b>No School<br/>Mid-Winter<br/>Recess</b>         | 21<br><b>No School<br/>Mid-Winter<br/>Recess</b>   | 22<br><b>No School<br/>Mid-Winter<br/>Recess</b>                                   | 23  |
| 24  | 25   | 26   | 27   | 28<br>Math:<br>Unit 5 Task<br>(Class 721 & 722)<br><br>SS Fair Workshop<br>2:30-4:30pm   | 3/1<br>Math:<br>Unit 5 Task<br>(Class 720)   |     |

**Important Upcoming Dates:**

**March 7<sup>th</sup> – Social Studies Fair**  
**March 14<sup>th</sup> – Parent Teacher Conferences**