



Michael J. Petrides School

# Middle School Newsletter



## GRADE 7

## JANUARY 2020

*Working Together for Student Success*

*“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 2020 brings you nothing but good things. We certainly have some exciting things planned for January! January 10, 2020 is College Awareness Day. Seventh grade students will be participating in lessons to help them determine what type of career and school may be a good fit for them. All students should wear their college gear! A raffle ticket for a special prize will be given to any student in middle school wearing college gear.

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 28, 2020	11:20 – 11:50	Science Inquiry Lab
5	521	January 28, 2020	9:00 – 9:30	Science Inquiry Lab
5	522	January 28, 2020	1:00 – 1:30	Science Inquiry Lab
7	720	January 23, 2020	1:00 – 1:30	Rise Up! Hamilton
7	721	January 23, 2020	8:15 – 8:45	Rise Up! Hamilton
7	722	January 23, 2020	9:00 – 9:30	Rise Up! Hamilton
7	720	January 27, 2020	1:00 – 2:00	ELA Socratic Seminar
7	721	January 27, 2020	8:30 – 9:30	ELA Socratic Seminar
7	722	January 27, 2020	10:00 – 11:00	ELA Socratic Seminar

The “Billion Oyster project” is flourishing at Petrides. Ms. Christa McDonald and Mr. John Cucuzza are responsible for bringing this exciting learning opportunity to our Petrides community. Our students are taking an active role in the preservation of the oyster population in our native New York waters. We would monitor the growth of, and care for a cluster of oysters that would be placed off a pier along the Staten Island shoreline. Students are collecting and inputting actual scientific data to a data pool that is nationwide! The students have visited the four oyster bin sites (2 sites at Snug Harbor Pier, Lighthouse Museum, and Alice Austin House) with specialists from the Billion Oyster project with the oysters to transfer them into our off-site bins. Ms. McDonald’s science classroom is now home to four oyster tanks. Her Billion Oyster class meets weekly for this experience of being responsible for living beings and analyzing data, to working with High School mentors and becoming an active student led learning community.

Ms. McDonald and her students have also partnered with the New York City Parks Department Wildlife Unit to become official “raptor nest monitors”. NYC Parks is monitoring nesting raptors citywide. While on a field trip hiking the greenbelt, they saw raptors on our grounds. Our students are collecting observations and making submissions. They are now “citizen scientist monitors.” I was lucky enough to be part of an

“awesome National Geographic moment” with the students. A mature red-tailed hawk caught, perched with, and ate a pigeon in plain sight.

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, 2020. Our second annual 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 during middle school lunch period. 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 NJHS candidates and members in Room B204 on Wednesday each week. 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 Monday, January 13, 2020. Bowling will be every Monday 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. Applications are available in my office, Room B217.

Middle School Wrestling 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.

I am pleased to announce that our Robotics team is officially registered and have started to prepare for competition. Lego Robotics meets during PAL twice weekly.

If you have any questions or concerns, feel free to contact me at any time at (718) 815-0186 extension 22171 or [BSouffrin@schools.nyc.gov](mailto:BSouffrin@schools.nyc.gov).

Sincerely,

Ms. BettyAnn Souffrin  
Assistant Principal

## What topics will the students learn today?

ELA – In January, we will complete our study of *A Long Walk to Water* and continue analyzing how setting shapes character. There will be two culminating activities when the novel is finished. First, students will write a response to literature in which they analyze how time, place, and culture impact the characters. Next, students will prepare questions to ask in a Socratic Seminar. Based on evidence in the novel and the past three non-fiction texts, students will discuss the water crisis and refugee crisis throughout the world.

Math – This month the students will solve real-life and mathematical problems using numerical and algebraic expressions and equations.

Science – Students investigate how energy moves through the environment in different cycles such as the Nitrogen cycle and the Carbon Dioxide cycle. Students use this knowledge to deepen understanding of the interactions between biotic and abiotic factors in an environment. Students use microscopes to observe the microscopic levels of ecological components and to learn the ins and outs of using a microscope and scientific tools.

Social Studies - This month our Social Studies Scholars will be concluding their study of the Road to Independence with an investigation of key battles during the Revolution, study of the Declaration of Independence, and introduction to Civic Literacy Essay writing. We will also be launching our Hamilton the Musical song analysis group project. By the end of the month, students will begin Unit 3: A New Nation and focus on the crafting of the United States Constitution. Be on the lookout for updates regarding our annual Social Studies Fair!



### Test/Projects Dates

Jan 2<sup>nd</sup> – ELA Venn Diagram Project  
 Jan 3<sup>rd</sup> – Social Studies: “Declaration of Independence Break Up Letter” Project due  
 Jan 8<sup>th</sup> – Science Test  
 Jan 10<sup>th</sup> – ELA Wordly Wise Test #5  
 Jan 14<sup>th</sup> – Social Studies: Unit 2 Test (Class 722)  
 Jan 15<sup>th</sup> – Social Studies: Unit 2 Test (Class 720 & 721)  
 Jan 15<sup>th</sup> - Science Test  
 Jan 16<sup>th</sup> – Social Studies: Unit 2 Test DBQ Response  
 Jan 17<sup>th</sup> – Math Task Unit 3  
 Jan 22<sup>nd</sup> - Math Notebook Quiz  
 Jan 28<sup>th</sup> – Math Test: Unit 3 (Class 721)  
 Jan 29<sup>th</sup> – Math Test: Unit 3 (Class 720 & 722)  
 Jan 30<sup>th</sup> - ELA Test: 90 Miles to Havana  
 ELA Homework due every Friday!



### REMINDERS!

Please join us for a Parents as Partners ELA Socratic Seminar Workshop on Monday Jan. 27<sup>th</sup>, Class 720: 1:00-2:00pm; Class 721: 8:30-9:30am; Class 722: 10:00-11:00am.

There will be a special science program in class on Tuesday, Jan 14<sup>th</sup> from NYC Wildlife Unit: Raptor Count.

Be on the lookout for updates and after school teamwork sessions regarding our annual Social Studies Fair!

Students should be checking Google Classroom every night for Social Studies homework and school-wide reminders. Videos are being posted as studying resources. Students are encouraged to conduct their own research projects outside of school for extra credit and can design their own research questions.

Please join us for a Parents as Partners Workshop: “Rise Up!” Investigating History through the Lens of “Hamilton: An American Musical” on Thursday, January 23<sup>rd</sup>, Class 720: 1:00-1:30pm, Class 721: 8:15-8:45am, Class 722: 9:00-9:30am

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



### Students of the Month

#### SOCIAL STUDIES

720: Giovanni Carcamo  
 721: Ian Rautenstrauch  
 722: Kimora Mitchell

#### MATH

720: Matthew Agyin  
 721- Toni Vanscott  
 722- Kirk Hermogenes

#### ELA

720: Emily Cao  
 721: Derrick Lee  
 722: Victor Romero

#### SCIENCE

720: Arion Blakaj  
 721: Alisa Pocesta  
 722: Nikkilynn Scotto



### SCHOOL CLOSING

Jan 20<sup>th</sup> – Martin Luther King, Jr. Day



### Required Reading

ELA - 90 Miles to Havana will be completed by the end of the month. A Long Walk to Water will be completed by mid-January January Complex Text

Math – Go Math Modules 6 and 7 Buckle Down Unit 3: Lesson 11-15

Social Studies – Students are being gifted a compilation of 7<sup>th</sup> Grade informational content specific articles with related comprehension questions. These books will be used to enrich academic vocabulary, specific content, critical thinking and higher order questioning.

# The Petrides School

# JANUARY

## Grade 7

## 2019

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
			1 <b>No School Winter Recess</b>	2 ELA Venn Diagram Project	3 Social Studies: "Declaration of Independence Break Up Letter" Project	4
5	6	7	8 Science Test	9	10 ELA HW #13 ELA Wordly Wise Test #5 College Awareness Day! (Wear your College gear)	11
12	13	14 Social Studies: Unit 2 Test (Class 722) Science Special Guest Speaker: NYC Wildlife Raptor Count "Spotlight Fight" practice	15 Social Studies: Unit 2 Test (Class 720 & 721) Science Test	16 Social Studies: Unit 2 Test DBQ Response (All Classes)	17 Math Task Unit 3 ELA HW #14	18
19	20 <b>No School Martin Luther King Jr. Day</b>	21 "Spotlight Fight" practice	22 Math Notebook Quiz	23 Parents as Partners SS Workshop: "Rise Up!" Class 720: 1:00-1:30pm Class 721: 8:15-8:45am Class 722: 9:00-9:30am	24 ELA HW #15	25
26	27 End of Second Marking Period Parents as Partners ELA Workshop: Socratic Seminar Class 720: 1:00-2:00 Class 721: 8:30-9:30 Class 722: 10:00-11:00	28 Math Test: Unit 3 (Class 721) "Spotlight Fight" practice	29 Math Test: Unit 3 (Class 720 & 722)	30 ELA Test: 90 Miles to Havana	31	

### **Important Upcoming Dates:**

Feb 17<sup>th</sup> – 21<sup>st</sup> – Mid-Winter Recess