



# The Michael J. Petrides School

## Middle School Newsletter Grade 7/8

### February 2018



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 and we have a lot to celebrate. We have the 100<sup>th</sup> Day of School, and Respect for All week. We also have our Middle School War of the Roses, a special assembly "Step Forward If" for fifth and sixth graders, "Too Good for Drugs" program for seventh graders, a Council for Unity St. Jude fundraiser, Respect for All week activities and a vacation.

Our Middle School Social Studies department will be hosting our annual Social Studies Fair. Projects are for extra credit in grades 5, 6 and 7. Projects will be mandatory in grade 8. The theme for this year's projects is "Issues of Power, Race and Gender." The teachers will also have after school sessions for groups, to work with their guidance. A separate permission slip for both will be forthcoming.

Ms. Kruesi, Ms. Milazzo and Ms. Rebecchi will host a "Parents as Math Partners" event on Thursday, February 15, 2018 according to the following schedule:

**Class 521 8:15 am – 8:45 am Class 522 10:00 am – 10:30am Class 520 11:15 – 11:45 AM**

The week of February 12, 2018 is Respect for All week. Following are our scheduled events:

**Tuesday, February 13, 2018 all students will do an anti-bully pledge**

**Wednesday, February 14, 2018 is Random Acts of Kindness Day. All students should wear their Color Wars T-shirts or anything Pink or Red.**

**Thursday, February 15, 2018 is School Spirit Day and students should wear Blue to show their Panther Pride.**

Please send in BOX TOPS to show how much you **LOVE** your school. Attached you will find a box top collection sheet.

We will be celebrating the 100<sup>th</sup> day of school and Valentine's Day in true middle school style. On Wednesday, February 14, 2018 from 12:45 – 2:20 pm we will be having the annual Middle School "War of the Roses." Grade level teams will compete in color wars. Your child can volunteer to participate in an assortment of events to earn points for their grade. The grade earning the most points will be the champions. A more detailed flyer will be distributed for this event. There will also be customized T-Shirts available for sale. T – Shirts will be color coded by grade.

The Council for Unity will be selling chocolate and Valentine's on February 14, 2018 to support St. Jude's Hospital for childhood cancer patients. An order form will be attached to this letter. Please be generous to this wonderful organization.

The NYPD will be conducting the "Too Good for Drugs" program to all seventh graders from 1:30 pm until 2:20 pm during the week of February 26, 2018.

National Junior Honor Society applications are available in my office. All applications are due back to me on or before Friday, March 2, 2018.

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.

**A Note from the PTA:** Our Annual Thank Heavens for Little Girls Dance will be held on February 11th. Tickets are on sale now. If you have never joined us for this wonderful event, it is for Girls (Pre K - Eighth Grade) and a significant male role model. There will be dancing, games, raffles, and lots and lots of fun.

Please join us for our next PTA meeting on February 28<sup>th</sup> at 7pm.

There is **NO SCHOOL** for students on Friday, February 16, 2018 to celebrate Lunar New Year. There will be no school for winter recess the week of February 19, 2018. School resumes Monday, February 26, 2018.

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

## What topics will the students learn today?

ELA – Students will finish reading *The Outsiders* by S.E. Hinton while completing a unit of study packet pertaining to the book. The packet covers skills such as vocabulary, context clues, theme, author’s purpose as well as reader response questions. The students have also begun working on an argumentative essay that will include a claim, a counterclaim and a rebuttal.

Math – During the month of February our 7<sup>th</sup> grade students will continue to solve multi-step equations and inequalities as well as graphing inequalities. This month our 8<sup>th</sup> graders will continue to solve and determine the slope and graph linear functions on graphs and in the graphing calculators.

Science – Students will continue their study of Genetics in February. They will describe the structure of DNA and how its message is carried to the ribosomes for protein synthesis. They will identify reasons for genetic disorders through the study of the various types of mutations. The students will also learn how to read a DNA fingerprint and explain how DNA is used in the study of forensics,

Social Studies – This month the students will be using Data Based Questions (DBQs) and various articles to learn all about the Great Depression and World War II. This unit will culminate with the writing of an essay due at the end of the month.



### Test/Projects Dates

- Feb 9<sup>th</sup> – ELA Wordly Wise exam #10
- Feb 13<sup>th</sup> – Math quiz
- Feb 28<sup>th</sup> – US History exam: DBQs and essay on The Great Depression
- Feb 28<sup>th</sup> – ELA Winter Break Packet due
- Feb 28<sup>th</sup> – Math Winter Break Packet due



### REMINDERS!

Students should be reading for at least 20 minutes every night to increase their stamina and comprehension. Read theory.org is a great resource for students to use.

Please see [www.pupilpath.com](http://www.pupilpath.com) for updates on quizzes and exam dates.

Please bring sharpened pencils, index cards, and a calculator to class. Grade 7 students must use a scientific calculator. Grade 8 students must use a graphing calculator. **Graphing Calculators are required for the Algebra I Common Core Regents exam.** The following models are acceptable: Texas Instruments TI83, TI84 or TI89. Please see me if you have any questions on the model.

### Required Reading

ELA – In-class reading: *The Outsiders* by S.E. Hinton; At-home reading: Independent reading book

Math - Grade 7 Buckle Down Unit 3: Expressions and Equations; Grade 8 Algebra textbook Unit 6: Linear Functions

Science – Textbook Chapter 13-15; Science World Magazine articles

Social Studies – Various articles and DBQs related to the Great Depression and World War II



### School Closing

**February 16<sup>th</sup> through 23<sup>rd</sup>**  
**Winter Recess**

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## Grade 7/8

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9 ELA Wordly Wise exam #10	10
11	12 <b>Respect For All Week</b>	13 Anti-Bully Pledge  Math quiz	14 Random Acts Of Kindness Day  Middle School War of the Roses 12:45-2:20pm Wear Pink or Red	15  School Spirit Day Wear Blue	16 <b>No School Winter Recess</b>	17
18	19 <b>No School Winter Recess</b>	20 <b>No School Winter Recess</b>	21 <b>No School Winter Recess</b>	22 <b>No School Winter Recess</b>	23 <b>No School Winter Recess</b>	24
25	26	27	28 US History Essay  ELA & Math Winter Break packet due			

### Important Upcoming Dates

**March 2<sup>nd</sup>: NJHS Applications due**  
**March 30<sup>th</sup> - April 6<sup>th</sup>: Spring Recess**  
**April 11<sup>th</sup> - 12<sup>th</sup>: NYS ELA Exam**  
**May 1<sup>st</sup> - 2<sup>nd</sup>: NYS Math Exam**