



# The Michael J. Petrides School

## Middle School Newsletter Grade 7/8

### 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 5<sup>th</sup> graders for a **Sip & Share** to talk with the 5<sup>th</sup> 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 8<sup>th</sup> grade **Sip & Share** has been scheduled for **Wednesday, October 11, 2017 at 8:15am.** You will be able to talk with the 8<sup>th</sup> 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](http://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](mailto: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 15<sup>th</sup> and November 16<sup>th</sup>, 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](mailto: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, *Tuck Everlasting* by Natalie Babbitt. The students will continue an extensive unit of study packets to master skills such as vocabulary, reader response questions and close reading. They will also continue to work on annotation and citation of textual evidence.

Math – This month the students will finish their unit on the Number System, including operations with integers and fractions. We will then begin our unit on Expressions and Equations. The students will solve real life and mathematical problems involving one step and two step expressions and equations.

Science – The students will identify how an ecosystem is shaped by the non-living environment as well as its interacting species. The students will then categorize organisms into groups based on feeding habits and will identify and describe symbiotic relationships. They will also discuss how humans are negatively affecting our environment and propose ways to reverse the damage!

Social Studies – During the month of October the students will study the early presidents, early government and the Spoils System



### Test/Projects Dates

- Oct 6<sup>th</sup> – Math Exam: The Number System
- Oct 11<sup>th</sup> – Social Studies Exam
- Oct 16<sup>th</sup> – This week - Science Quiz: Chapter 4
- Oct 20<sup>th</sup> – Math Quiz: Expressions and Equations
- Oct 30<sup>th</sup> – This week - Science Exam: Chapter 4

Please check [www.Pupilpath.com](http://www.Pupilpath.com) for exact dates for Science exams.

### Required Reading

ELA – In Class: *Tuck Everlasting* by Natalie Babbitt;  
at home: Independent reading book

Math – Buckle Down Unit 3: Expressions and Equations

Science – Textbook Chapters 4 and classroom worksheets; Science World magazine article (In-class); Trade Books.

Social Studies – Primary Source Documents



### School Closing

October 9  
Columbus Day observed



### 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.

Students should bring in Calculators and sharpened pencils every day!

**Graphing calculators will be needed for Math class and is required for the Algebra I Common Core Regents exam this year.** The following models are acceptable: Texas Instruments TI83, TI84 or TI89. Please see me if you have any questions on the model.

Please join us for a Sip & Share on Tuesday, Oct. 11<sup>th</sup> at 8:15am to discuss curriculum, events, exams and the High School application process.

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

# The Petrides School



Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4	5	6 Math Exam: The Number System	7
8	9 <b>No School Columbus Day</b>	10	11 Sip & Share Grade 8 Parents 8:15am  Social Studies Exam	12	13	14
15	16 This week - Science Quiz: Chapter 4	17	18 PTA Meeting 7:00pm	19	20 Math Quiz: Expressions and Equations	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30 This week - Science Exam: Chapter 4  Halloween Dance 2:30-4:30	31				

**Important Upcoming Dates:**

Nov 1<sup>st</sup> - The Petrides High School Open House  
 Nov 3<sup>rd</sup> - End of First Marking  
 Nov 15<sup>th</sup> & 16<sup>th</sup> - Parent Teacher Conferences

