



# The Michael J. Petrides School Middle School Newsletter Grade 8

## DECEMBER 2017



Dear Parents of students in grades 5 – 8,

I hope everyone enjoyed Thanksgiving and the start of the holiday season. Mr. Gary Giordano and the National Junior Honor Society are hosting our annual Secret Sandy Toy Drive. Toys are distributed to families in need throughout Staten Island. Toys are being collected from now until December 13, 2017. We appreciate your kindness and generosity!

Our Box Top for Education program is well underway. NJHS members are collecting box tops regularly. I have attached an easy collection sheet for you. Thank you in advance for your participation.

National Junior Honor Society applications for new members are now available in my office, room B217. An application and guidelines for entrance is included in this packet. NJHS accepts students in grades 6, 7 and 8. I have arranged for students to obtain their community service hours here at school. Students who wish to earn their service hours at school must join our PAL after-school program. NJHS will meet every Wednesday and work on community service projects during that time.

With the excitement of the upcoming holiday celebrations, we have a packed December calendar. The following **Parents as Partners** events are scheduled:

**Class 555 will host “Snowman Math” on December 18, 2017 at 10:30 am**

**Grade 6 students will host a Publishing Party on December 18, 2017**

**Class 620 – 8:45 am – 9:15am**

**Class 621 – 12:45 am – 1:15 am**

**Class 622 – 10:00 am – 10:30am**

Our High School Humanities Academy will be hosting our annual College Fair for seventh grade students on Wednesday, December 6, 2017 at 7:00pm in the student cafeteria. Seventh graders will complete a “College Access for All” activity when at the fair. Parents are invited to attend a College meeting presented by Ms. Carol Dennison, our school’s college advisor at that time.

We will have a performance by the Harlem Magic Masters (a basketball entertainment group) on Friday December 15, 2017. On Tuesday December 19, 2017 we will have a Jazz presentation by The Temple of the Arts. A permission slip for all December activities with more detailed information will be forthcoming.

Our annual Winter Concert for students in grades 6 – 8 is scheduled for Thursday, December 14, 2017 and our Holiday Fair is December 8, 2017.

It was such a pleasure to see so many of you during our Fall Parent Teacher Conferences. I am so happy to hear you will be using Pupilpath.com for ongoing information about your child’s academic progress. Login information was distributed last month. If you need any help using Pupilpath.com please email Mr. Doctor at [ADoctor@schools.nyc.gov](mailto:ADoctor@schools.nyc.gov).

I would like to take this opportunity to wish everyone a joyous holiday season. School will be closed from December 25, 2017 until January 1, 2018. **Classes resume January 2, 2018.** If you have any questions or concerns, 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 – During the month of December we will finish our Edgar Allan Poe unit with *The Raven*. We will be analyzing the poem for the figurative meaning and breaking down the poem into 21<sup>st</sup> century language. Culminating this unit the students will have to write an essay choice on tone, mood, and symbolism and how Poe’s life parallels his writing. Our upcoming unit will be John Steinbeck’s *Of Mice and Men*.

Math – During the month of December the students will learn how to graph linear, quadratic and exponential functions on the graphing calculator.

Science – This month the students will begin their study of the cell. They will identify and label the parts of the cell and describe how all parts work together to maintain homeostasis. They will also explain the difference between passive and active transport. During December the students will perform lab experiments using the microscope and investigate diffusion and osmosis.

Social Studies – The students will learn the causes of the Civil War and the reason for slavery in the South.



### Test/Projects Dates

- Dec 5<sup>th</sup> – Science exam: Chapter 4-6 Class 820 & 821
- Dec 6<sup>th</sup> – Science exam: Chapter 4-6 Class 822
- Dec 7<sup>th</sup> – US History exam: Multiple Choice
- Dec 8<sup>th</sup> – Wordly Wise test #3
- Dec 8<sup>th</sup> - US History exam: Essay
- Dec 14<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup> - ELA “The Raven” Essay
- Dec 18<sup>th</sup>- 20<sup>th</sup> - Math exam
- Dec 21<sup>st</sup> – Wordly Wise Test #4



### REMINDERS!

Students should always review their Wordly Wise words and be reading for 20 minutes every night to increase their stamina and comprehension. You may purchase a copy of the book “Of Mice and Men” for your child so they can annotate and reread at home.

**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.

Students should review Math notes on a nightly basis and bring in graphing calculator to school every day.



### Required Reading

ELA – *The Raven* by Edgar Allen Poe; *Of Mice and Men* by John Steinbeck

Science – Textbook Chapters 7-9; Science World magazine

### School Closing

**Dec 25<sup>th</sup> – Jan 1<sup>st</sup>**

**Winter Recess**

**School resumes January 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2018**





# The Petrides School



## Grade 8

# 2017

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
					1  Begins	2
3	4	5 Science exam: Chapter 4-6 Class 820 & 821	6 Science exam: Chapter 4-6 Class 822	7 US History exam Multiple Choice	8 Wordly Wise Exam #3 US History exam Essay Holiday Fair	9
10	11	12	13  Ends	14 ELA "The Raven" Essay  Winter Concert 7:00pm	15 ELA "The Raven" Essay Harlem Magic Masters performance	16
17	18 Math Exam	19 Math Exam Assembly Temple of The Arts	20 Math exam	21 Wordly Wise Exam #4	22	23
24 /31	25 <b>No School</b>	26 <b>No School</b>	27 <b>No School</b>	28 <b>No School</b>	29 <b>No School</b>	30
	<b>H A P P Y</b>		<b>H O L L I D A Y S</b>			



**Important Upcoming Dates:**  
 January 2<sup>nd</sup> - School resumes  
 January 15<sup>th</sup> - No School: Martin Luther King Jr. day  
 January 29<sup>th</sup> - End of 2<sup>nd</sup> Marking Period

