



The Michael J. Petrides School

Middle School Newsletter Grade 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 100th 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 100th 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 28th 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.

Sincerely,
BettyAnn Souffrin
Assistant Principal

What topics will the students learn today?

ELA – During the month of February we will finish *Of Mice and Men* by analyzing multiple themes found throughout the book. The students will learn how to write a thematic essay using MLA format.

Math – We just finished learning about different statistics topics such as box plots, histogram and correlation coefficients. We will now begin to explore arithmetic/geometric sequences.

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

Social Studies – The students will understand how our country was reconstructed after the Civil War. They will learn about the addition of the fourteenth, fifteenth, and sixteenth amendments to the constitution. The students will also learn about the post Civil War south and the start of the technological revolution.



Test/Projects Dates

- Feb 7th – Science Karyotype project due
- Feb 8th – ELA “Of Mice and Men” diary entries due
- Feb 9th – ELA Wordly Wise exam # 7
- Feb 12th – Science quiz: Ch. 13 Vocabulary
- Feb 13th - US History exam # 5: End of Civil War, Reconstruction
- Feb 14th - US History exam # 5: End of Civil War, Reconstruction
- Feb 26th – Math Winter Break Packet due
- Feb 27th – ELA Winter Break Packet due



REMINDERS!

Students should be reading every day and studying their vocabulary words in preparation for the NYS ELA exam in April.

Please bring in graphing calculators to Math class every day! **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.

Please see www.pupilpath.com for updates on grades projects and exams.

Required Reading

- ELA – *Of Mice and Men* by John Steinbeck
- Science – Textbook: Chapters 13-15; Science World Magazine articles



School Closing
February 16th through 23rd
Winter Recess

The Petrides School

February 2018

Grade 8

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7 Science Karyotype project due	8 "Of Mice and Men" diary entries due	9 ELA Wordly Wise exam # 7	10
11	12 Respect For All Week Science quiz: Ch. 13 Vocabulary	13 Anti-Bully Pledge US History exam # 5: End of Civil War, Reconstruction	14 Random Acts Of Kindness Day Middle School War of the Roses 12:45-2:20pm Wear Pink or Red US History exam # 5: End of Civil War, Reconstruction	15 School Spirit Day Wear Blue	16 No School Winter Recess	17
18	19 No School Winter Recess	20 No School Winter Recess	21 No School Winter Recess	22 No School Winter Recess	23 No School Winter Recess	24
25	26 Math Winter Break Packet due	27 ELA Winter Break Packet due	28			

Important Upcoming Dates

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