



Michael J. Petrides School

Middle School Newsletter



GRADE 8

FEBRUARY 2020

Working Together for Student Success

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.

Our Middle School Social Studies department will be hosting our annual Social Studies Fair. Projects are for extra credit in grades 5, 6, 7 and 8. The theme for this year’s projects is “Breaking Barriers in History.” The teachers will also have after school sessions for groups to work with their guidance. A separate permission slip for both has been distributed to students. Social Studies Fair Projects are due to teachers on March 2, 2020. Invitations for The Middle School Social Studies Fair will be forthcoming.

Please send in BOX TOPS to show how much you **LOVE** your school. Box Tops help us buy books and items for students to use in classrooms. Attached you will find a box top collection sheet.

The week of February 10, 2020 – February 14, 2020 is *Respect for All* week. Our student government is hosting a week full of activities.

Monday, February 10	Anti-Bullying pledges signed in classes WEAR PURPLE (ANTI-BULLYING)
Tuesday, February 11	Random Acts of Kindness WEAR YELLOW(KINDNESS AND FRIENDSHIP)
Wednesday, February 12	WEAR BLUE FOR RESPECT FOR ALL
Thursday, February 13	Hearts of encouragement slogans distributed to students WEAR RED (LOVE)
Friday, February 14	Rose Fundraiser for St. Jude and No One Sits Alone Day in the Cafeteria WEAR RAINBOW (OUR DIFFERENCES MAKE US SPECIAL)

Our Middle School students are VERY EXCITED to show off their talents in the “SPOTLIGHT FIGHT.” The Middle School Talent Show will be held on Thursday, February 13, 2020 from 12:45 until 2:15pm. Attached you will find a permission slip for students with ticket price of \$3. This money will be in support of Habitat for Humanity (a cause near and dear to The Petrides School.) Parents are welcome to attend this event. You will also find a ticket order form for parents, family and friends attached.

We will be celebrating Valentine’s Day in true middle school style. On Friday, February 14, 2020 from 1:00 – 2:20 pm we will be having a “**Happily Ever Afternoon.**” We will be watching the movie “Shrek Forever After.” Students will be provided a snack pack with a special Valentine’s Day treat. The permission slip for the “Happily Ever Afternoon” is attached.

Take Advantage of Our After-School Activities through the PAL program.....

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. 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.

Mr. David Olah and Mr. Brian Ruppert are pleased to announce that Petrides will have a **Middle School Wrestling Team!** Wrestling is an excellent sport that helps mold young boys and girls into men and women. The sport requires dedication and patience, but it teaches lessons your child will carry with them for the rest of their lives. Wrestling is also a sport that can lead to many opportunities, including scholarships. Coach Olah and Coach Ruppert have a goal. The middle school wrestling program will serve as a farm team for our high school wrestling program. Petrides will be a wrestling powerhouse! I hope you will join them in teaching your children the sport of wrestling.

We organized a **Middle School Bowling League** for students in collaboration with our PAL after school program. Bowlers meet at Rabs Country Lanes. The program started on Monday, January 13, 2020. Bowling will be every Tuesday for eight weeks. Bowling is open to students who would like to participate. There is a coach assigned to teach your child technique on every pair of lanes. The cost is \$60. PAL and Petrides will offset the additional lane fees.

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

PTA News:

Friday February 7th: Pretzels for our Panthers, only \$1 for a delicious pretzel.

Sunday, February 9th from 2pm-5pm invite your sweetheart and dress to impress for the PTA Sweetheart Dance in our Cafeteria. Games, DJ, catered food and a professional photographer will be available. If any student would like to volunteer for service hours please let us know.

Please join us for the next PTA meeting Wednesday, February 12th at 6:30p m.

The PTA wishes everyone a restful winter break February 17th – 21st.

What topics will the students learn today?

ELA – This month we will complete our *Of Mice and Men* unit where we have been focusing on determining themes in literature. We have been using Google Classroom documents to keep track of interactions between characters and the theme topics that are proven. We are now working on writing a thematic essay in MLA format.

Math – We will begin to explore quadratics equations- which are u-shaped curves. We will be learning how to graph these “parabolas” on coordinate planes. The different properties of the quadratic functions will also be analyzed.

Science – Students will complete their study of reproduction in February and begin their study of how human traits are inherited. They will identify the parts of DNA, explain how DNA replicates, produces in RNA and how it translates to an amino acid sequence eventually producing a protein (trait). They will perform a simulated gel electrophoresis lab and connect the theory of evolution to the pattern of inherited traits. They will also explain how DNA is used in the field of Forensic Science.

Social Studies – During the month of February the students will study post World War II America. They will also learn about the Civil Rights Movement and Leaders, The Brown v. Board of Education (Topeka) case. They will also be working on a Thematic Essay this month.



Test/Projects Dates

Feb 5th – Science test: Ch. 10, 11, 23
Feb 14 – Math Quiz - check pupil path for updates



REMINDERS!

Please bring a graphing calculator to school daily.
Be sure to study US History notes for 15 minutes a night.

Required Reading

ELA – *Of Mice and Men* by John Steinbeck
Science – Textbook chapters 23, 12, 13



Please join us for a Parents as Partners Science Lab: Rat Dissection, Class 820: Thursday Feb 27th – @ 1:00-2:20pm; Class 821: Thursday Feb 27th @ 8:15-9:30am; Class 822: Friday Feb 28th @ 9:00-10:15am



SCHOOL CLOSING

Feb 17th – 21st Midwinter Recess

Middle School Social Studies Fair Projects are due March 2nd.

Important Upcoming Dates

Regents’ exams are administered on the following dates:

- Living Environment - Wed. June 17th @ 1:15pm
- US History & Government t Thurs. June 18th @ 9:15am
- Algebra 1 – Thurs. June 18th @ 1:15 pm
(GRAPHING CALCULATOR REQUIRED)

Our Middle School Social Studies Fair is scheduled for March 3rd, at the Borough President's Hall of Science, A-Building. Parents of Grades 5 & 8 are invited for project viewing from 8:30-9:30am; Parents of Grades 6 & 7 are invited for project viewing from 9:30-10:30am.

Visit <https://www.nysedregents.org> to study Regents questions for all Regents exams.

The New York State ELA exam will be administered on March 25th and 26th.

The Petrides School

February 2020

Grade 8



Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
						1
2	3	4	5 Science Test: Ch. 10, 11, 23	6 S.S. Fair Team Workshop 2:30-4:30pm	7 "Gimme a Pizza your Heart" Fundraiser	8
9 PTA Sweetheart Dance 2:00-5:00pm	10	11 Report Cards Distributed	12	13 "Spotlight Fight" 12:45-2:15pm	14 Math Quiz Valentine's Day Movie 1:00-2:20pm	15
16	17 No School Midwinter Recess	18 No School Midwinter Recess	19 No School Midwinter Recess	20 No School Midwinter Recess	21 No School Midwinter Recess	22
23	24	25	26	27 Parents as Partners "Rat Lab" Class 820-1:00-2:20pm Class 821-8:15-9:30am	28 Parents as Partners "Rat Lab" Class 822-9:00-10:15am	29

Important Upcoming Dates:

**March 3rd - S.S. Fair-Borough President's Hall of Science -A-Building;
8:30- 9:30-Grades 5 & 8; 9:30-10:30-Grades 6 & 7**

March 5th - Parent Teachers Conferences

March 6th - Spring School Picture Day

March 25th - 26th - NY State ELA Exam

April 22nd - 23rd - NY State Math Exam