



The Michael J. Petrides School

Middle School Newsletter Grade 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 5th graders for a **Sip & Share** to talk with the 5th 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 8th grade **Sip & Share** has been scheduled for **Wednesday, October 11, 2017 at 8:15am.** You will be able to talk with the 8th 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.

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 or in my office (room 217). 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.

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 15th and November 16th, 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 or at (718)815-0186 extension 22171.

Sincerely,

BettyAnn Souffrin
Assistant Principal

What topics will the students learn today?

ELA – During the month of October the students will be writing a narrative based on a message they want to send to their reader. Their story should be realistic or historical fiction or a memoir. I want their stories to come alive with their characters and descriptions of their setting,

Math – In September the students learned how to simplify polynomials by multiplying, subtracting and adding expressions. During the month of October the students will expand on this topic by solving multi-step equations and inequalities.

Science – The students will identify how an ecosystem is shaped by the non-living environment as well as its interacting species. They will also analyze food webs, food chains, and energy pyramids. 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 understand the compromises during the writing of the U S Constitution and the precedents set by George Washington. They will also learn about the unpopular Presidency of John Adams and the Louisiana Purchase by Thomas Jefferson.



Test/Projects Dates

- Oct 5th & 6th – US History Exam #1
- Oct 6th – Science Vocabulary quiz
- Oct 10th & 11th – ELA Short Story exam
- Oct 10th & 11th – Math Exam#2
- Oct 13th – Science Moon Phase Project due
- Oct 16th – This week Science Quiz: Chapter 4
- Oct 19th – ELA Narrative Essay - Draft due
- Oct 20th – ELA Wordly Wise Exam #1
- Oct 26th & 27th - US History Exam #2
- Oct 27th – Science Exam: Chapter 4

Please check www.pupilpath.com for exact Science exam dates.

Dates of Math tests will be posted on www.pupilpath.com and classes will be given a few days' notice. A review will be given before each exam.



REMINDERS!

Wordly Wise will begin on October 10th. Tests are every other Friday

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 be annotating their Math notes on a nightly basis.

Please join us for a Sip & Share on Tuesday, Oct. 11th 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.

Please send in a baby photo (not an original copy) to Ms. Carrara for the Yearbook. Please put your child's name and class on the back of the photo. Note that the photo will NOT be returned. Thank you.

Required Reading



ELA – *The Lottery* by Shirley Jackson; Independent reading book read at home

Math – Students should be **annotating** their class notes daily and reviewing what they understand or are still having difficulty with.

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

Social Studies – *The Jungle* by Upton Sinclair; *How the Other Half Lives* by Jacob Riis

School Closing

**October 9
Columbus Day observed**

The Petrides School



Grade 8

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4	5 ELA Short Story Exam US History Exam #1 Multiple Choice	6 ELA Short Story Exam US History Exam #1 Essay	7
8	9 No School Columbus Day	10 Math Exam #2	11 Sip & Share 8:15am Math Exam #2	12	13	14
15	16 This week Science Quiz: Chapter 4	17	18 PTA Meeting 7pm	19 ELA Narrative Essay Draft due	20 ELA Wordly Wise Exam #1	21
22	23	24	25	26 US History Exam #2 Multiple Choice	27 US History Exam #2 Essay Science exam #2: Chapter 4	28
29	30 Halloween Dance 2:30-4:30	31				

Important Upcoming Dates:

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

