



The Michael J. Petrides School

Middle School Newsletter Grade 5

January 2019



“Write it on your heart that every day is the best day in the year.” Ralph Waldo Emerson

Dear Middle School Parents,

Welcome back and best wishes for a wonderful new year. I hope 2019 brings you nothing but good things. We certainly have some exciting things planned for January! Our middle school holiday celebrations were a big success. I thank you for your participation. The children had lots of fun.

The Middle School teachers have scheduled the following opportunities for you to visit and spend some time with us during the month of January. Please note the dates here:

Grade	Class	Date	Time/Period	Parents as Partners Workshop
5	520	January 22, 2019	1:00 – 1:30	Fiesta for Esperanza
5	521	January 22, 2019	9:00 – 9:30	Fiesta for Esperanza
5	522	January 22, 2019	11:15 – 11:45	Fiesta for Esperanza
7	720	January 23, 2019	9:45 – 10:15	Rise Up! Hamilton
7	721	January 23, 2019	9:00 – 9:30	Rise Up! Hamilton
7	722	January 23, 2019	10:30 – 11:00	Rise Up! Hamilton

I am VERY EXCITED to announce that Habitat for Humanity Club will be working with middle school students for a talent show/lip sync competition on February 13, 2019. Our first Middle School “**Spotlight Fight**” will be fantastic. Students can perform in groups or individually. I want to encourage as many students as possible to participate. There will be multiple rehearsal opportunities for each grade level. Rehearsals are on the attached calendar. Acts must be limited to 2 minutes. More information will be forthcoming.

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. Ms. Calimano meets with 7th grade members on Tuesday each week. 8th grade members can meet every Wednesday and 6th grade students applying can meet on Fridays after school in Room B204. 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.

We are continuing our Box Top for Education collection. Attached you will find an easy collection sheet.

We are organizing a Middle School Bowling League for students in collaboration with our PAL after school program. Bowlers will meet at Rabs Country Lanes starting Tuesday, January 8, 2019. Bowling will be every Tuesday for eight weeks. Bowling is open to the first twenty students who would like to participate. The cost is \$60 charge. PAL and Petrides will offset the additional lane fees. Please see Mr. Keith Dragonetti or myself for an application.

Middle School Wrestling and Floor Hockey after school applications have also been distributed. Please contact me if your child would like to participate.

There are still seats available to students in grades 6 – 8 for our PAL after school program. We offer at least one hour per day of **tutoring** in Math and ELA by our licensed middle school teachers and one hour of **homework help** each day by our licensed middle school teachers. We also offer arts and crafts, STEM, cooking, track, robotics and much more! I strongly encourage all families to join PAL after school and take advantage of this free service provided. Please contact me directly to arrange the tutoring or homework help to meet your child’s needs.

As per our new school uniform policy, **ALL** students are required to wear uniforms every day to school. The uniform policy consists of light blue top and navy blue bottoms. Middle school students can wear Petrides Phys Ed uniforms on Phys Ed days. Uniforms can be ordered online at josephsportnv@yahoo.com. **The telephone number is 347 – 768 – 2049.** Uniforms will be delivered to school and distributed by Mr. Michael Duffy. You may also purchase a school uniform at any local store that carries school uniform wear. It has come to my attention many students are wearing hooded sweatshirts over their uniforms. Only school logo sweatshirts or light blue sweatshirts are allowed

If you have any questions or concerns, feel free to contact me at any time at (718) 815-0186 extension 22171 or BSouffrin@schools.nyc.gov.

Sincerely,

BettyAnn Souffrin
Assistant Principal,
Middle School

What topics will the students learn today?

ELA - In January, students will complete the novel “Esperanza Rising” and their correlating non-fiction writing pieces. Students will construct culminating book projects and reflect on their efforts. Next, we will begin the novel “Maniac Magee,” by Jerry Spinelli. Our focus will continue to be on studying characters through the lens of a realistic fiction reader.

Math – The students will finish Operations and Algebraic Thinking/Numerical Expressions, Patterns and Relationships. Students will use variables to write expressions, follow order of operations to simplify and evaluate expressions. They will then begin adding and subtracting fractions with unlike denominators. The students will estimate fraction sums and differences, find common denominators and equivalent fractions, and add and subtract mixed numbers.

Science – We will soar through our studies of Aviation Basics while expanding our knowledge of how airplanes work and the history of aviation in the world. Students continue their ongoing exploration of variables by conducting controlled experiments, recording and analyzing data from their experiments, and by identifying relationships between the independent and dependent variables. Students work on building their academic vocabulary to help them navigate through science journals and content specific informational texts.

Social Studies – Students will examine the impact Columbus’ voyages had on both the old and new worlds using both primary and secondary sources. They will also continue to use context clues to identify unknown or difficult words as well as annotate the text to better understand the passages they read.



Test/Projects Dates

- Jan 4th – ELA Winter Break Packet due
- Jan. 4th - Math Winter Break packet due
- Jan. 8th – Math Exam: Buckle Down Unit 1/Pearson Topic 8
- Jan. 11th – Math Exam: Benchmark Cumulative
- Jan 14th - Science Exam: Variables
- Jan. 24th – Math Exam: Add/subtract Fractions
- Jan. 29th – Math Vocabulary Quiz
- Jan In class SS packets will be completed and graded



REMINDERS!

Independent Reading Book, 20 minutes daily

Please join us for a Parents as Partners workshop, “A Fiesta for Esperanza” on Tuesday January 22nd, 2019: Class 520 from 1:00-1:30pm; Class 521 from 9:00-9:30am; and Class 522 from 11:15-11:45am.

Come to class daily with Math notebook, folder, Buckle Down book, and pencils.

Start taking online Practice Math Test from past units that you may have struggled with to help you prepare for the upcoming Benchmark Cumulative Exam on Jan. 11th.

Please keep updated on Math daily Remind app and work with your child on thinkcentral.com and/or Pearsonsuccessnet.com.

Encourage your child to be curious about why and how things work in their world around them. There are amazing cultural resources throughout our Staten Island that can enrich your exploration together...SICM, SIZoo, John Noble Maritime Collection, SI Greenbelt/Nature Center, the Public Libraries, and more. Enjoy!

Thank you to all the parents who joined us for our “Fingerprinting Lab” last month in Science class. A special thank you to CROSSROADS FARMS at GROSSMAN’S in Malverne, LI who came to our classes and taught us to sort, clean, thresh and sort organic seeds. Visit them together.

Required Reading

- ELA - *Esperanza Rising* by Pam Munoz Ryan; *Maniac Magee* by Jerry Spinelli
- Math – Buckle Down Unit 1 & Pearson Topic 8
Go Math Ch. 6 & Pearson Topics 9 & 10
- Science – Students are always encouraged to enhance their growth as knowledgeable investigative scientists on their own. They are welcome to write a one-page summary of what they have independently read/learned and it will be awarded extra credit towards their report card average. All reading materials for our unit are provided in class.



School Closing

January 21st – Martin Luther King Jr. Day

The Petrides School

January 2019

Grade 5

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
		1 Schools Closed Winter Break	2	3	4 ELA & Math Winter Break Packet due	5
6	7	8 Math Exam: Buckle Down Unit 1/Pearson Topic 8	9	10	11 Math Exam: Benchmark Cumulative	12
13	14 Science Exam: Variables	15	16	17	18	19
20	21 Schools Closed Martin Luther King Jr. Day	22 Parents as Partners "Fiesta for Esperanza" Class 520-1:00-1:30 Class 521-9:00-9:30 Class 522-11:15-11:45	23	24 Math Exam: Add/subtract Fractions	25 Talent Show Practice 12:00-12:45pm Auditorium	26
27	28 End of Second Marking Period	29 Math Vocabulary Quiz	30	31	2/1 Talent Show Practice 12:00-12:45pm Auditorium	

Important Upcoming Dates:

February 5th – School Closed Lunar New Year
 February 13th - Middle School Talent Show
 February 18th through 22nd – Midwinter Recess
 February 25th – Classes Resume