



The Michael J. Petrides School  
September Newsletter  
Elementary School Edition



# WELCOME TO PRE-K!

## A MESSAGE FROM MS. PONZI

Happy September! Smiles are contagious throughout the hallways of Petrides. I am already noticing that our students are familiar with school rules and routines and have been working hard in their classrooms. Our readers, writers, and mathematicians need your support. I am very excited for the new school year and am looking forward to a wonderful year with you and your children!

## MEET OUR TEACHERS

We are excited to have your child in class and look forward to a wonderful year with you and your children. In the month of September we will be working on school readiness skills. Your child will learn our class routines and build their social and emotional skills. Please continue to work on self-care skills such as bathroom, getting dressed, putting shoes on and off and packing and unpacking their backpacks. Our monthly newsletters will be updating you about our current learning themes and any important classroom news.

### Class 001 - Ms. Premus

Hi! My name is Maria Premus. I am the Pre-K teacher for Class 001. I came to teaching as a second career and I have been teaching at Petrides for eighteen years. I mostly taught 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> grades but when I heard that Petrides was starting a Pre-K program I wanted to be part of it. Knowing the expectations for our children as they reach 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> grade, I wanted to be part of a program that not only nurtures who they are but that also provides them with the foundational skills that will help them be successful as they continue in the grades. This will be my sixth year teaching Pre-K and I love working with the children and seeing the amazing growth they make from September to June. It is a joy to be with them and they make my heart happy! On a personal note, I enjoy walking, yoga, crafting, and the beach. And I love, love, love to read! I have three grown children, twins Matthew and Jason, and a daughter Katie. This summer my son Jason and his wife Claire had a baby boy named Dominic. I am so excited to be a grandma! I also have a rescue dog named Frankie! I look forward to partnering with you to make this year a happy and exciting experience for your child. I thank you for the opportunity to be your child's teacher.

### Class 002 - Ms. Luca

Hi! My name is Natalie Luca and I am a UPK teacher. I have been teaching UPK for eleven years. My passion is teaching early childhood education. As an educator it is wonderful to see children experience school for the first time and watch their incredible growth throughout the year. I believe a strong foundation in early childhood education is important for children to have success in their future education. My goal is not only to help children achieve a strong academic foundation, but for them to love school. Each day I learn from three and four year olds, which impacts my teaching. As an adult, young children remind you to enjoy life, laugh and brighten your day. On a personal note, I am married now for three years. I enjoy reading on my down time and going to the beach. I am a huge sports fan and I am always routing for the New York Giants and New York Rangers. I am also very active and enjoy Pilates, Yoga and Zumba. I am looking forward to a great year with you and your children.

# LOOKING FORWARD TO A WONDERFUL YEAR!