



8th Grade Newsletter

December 2016

Dear 8th Grade Families,

It's amazing how time flies when we're having fun! As the holidays and the end of the year approach, we are so proud of the 8th grade class as we reflect on how much they have learned already this school year. Want to keep your scholar academically engaged during Winter Break? We have great and exciting resources for you! NewsELA, an online reading resource has amazing Reading Clubs to engage your scholar in reading over the break, and TenMarks and BrainPop provide fun and engaging reviews in Math and other subjects! Please see our special section on [Winter Break Resources](#) below!

Classroom News:

ELA	<p>We are making our way through Mark Haddon's novel, <i>The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night Time</i>. As we examine characters, we are developing claims and evidence through the use of topic sentences and collecting details to enable us to organize our ideas through the use of quick and transitional outlines. These outlines will be the hallmark to the construction of a literary essay that scholars will embark on after the holiday recess.</p> <p>Office Hours: Scholars should feel free to come the official ELA office hours on Mondays from 1:15 - 2:00 in room 415. Otherwise, scholars should feel free to come during other lunch days by appointment.</p> <p>Email: mjulien-ndjiki@motthall2.org</p>
Math	<p>Students in eighth-grade mathematics are mid-unit on linear functions. They are wrapping up a partner project involving rate of change, fixed costs, and how to compare two functions. Parents can give their students an example of a rate of change (taxi speed, pace of running) and ask their scholars how they would graph a line with that slope.</p> <p>Students in Regents Algebra I are beginning the topic of piecewise functions in class. Parents can ask their scholars about our snowstorm graph and ask them to explain why this was broken up into three "pieces." All students did a great job on their inequalities t-shirt projects.</p> <p>Reminder to both classes that students may log into TenMarks at any time and complete (non-evaluative) Jam Sessions! These are great opportunities to get instant feedback and practice math skills. Students may also use their coins in the TenMarket to buy games at any time at home.</p> <p>Office Hours: Wednesdays during lunch (students must enter between 1:05-1:15 or between 1:30-1:35). Email: mgiuliano@motthall2.org</p>
Science	<p>We will be studying chemistry and the basic building blocks of life! We will be conducting many lab experiments that require your attendance in class, so please try to be at school every day!</p> <p>You can help your scholar by:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Asking them to practice Regents questions from their Blue and Red

	<p>Barron's Review books, or from the questions available online at: http://www.nysedregents.org/livingenvironment/</p> <p>2. BrainPop! - ask your scholar to login to BrainPop to watch videos and take quizzes to review concepts.</p> <p>Office Hours: Every Thursday during lunchtime in room 407. Email: sshetia@motthall2.org</p>
Social Studies	<p>We have begun our unit on the Progressive Era! We are focussing on how Americans used their First Amendment rights to make change to their society. Important figures of the time period include Upton Sinclair, Mother Jones, W.E.B DuBois, Ida B Wells, Alice Paul, and other inspirational change-makers. At home, you can talk with your scholar about present-day American activists (Black Lives Matter, the DAPL protesters, etc) are working to address problems they see around them. We will have a unit test on December 16, and the week before break our unit will culminate in a mini-project.</p> <p>Office Hours: Tuesday at lunch Email: lfletcher@motthall2.org</p>
Dance	<p>This month we are exploring ballet technique and learning about significant figures in ballet history. So far, we have learned about Misty Copeland's rise to fame as the first black principal dancer at American Ballet Theater, the important, yet overlooked, role that men play in the ballet world, the seven movements of classical ballet technique, and the five positions of the feet. You can support your scholar by watching ballet videos with them on YouTube, as well as asking them to show and explain to you the skills and vocabulary they have learned in class.</p> <p>Office Hours: Tuesdays during lunch Email: cstampolis@motthall2.org</p>
Music	<p>This month we continue learning about the history of American music. We will discuss Duke Ellington and the significance of the Harlem Renaissance. We will also continue to progress at the keyboard, practicing independence of the left and right hand and learning to play chords. You can support your scholar by encouraging him to listen to jazz.</p> <p>Office Hours: Friday during lunch in room 412 or by appointment. Email: sfeder@motthall2.org</p>
ICT Support	<p>Ms. Chao (8th Grade ICT teacher) - If your scholar needs support in classwork, homework or organization, feel free to see me during Office Hours: Wednesdays during lunch or by appointment.</p> <p>Email: achao@motthall2.org</p>
School Counselor	<p>Law and Justice Institute (LJI), formerly known as Summer Law Institute, will be presenting to our 8th graders on Thursday, December 15th during their ELA class. The LJI is a five week program for rising 9th graders, looking to seek academic excellence and possibly pursue a career in law. Students will be exposed to the court system, meet attorneys, judges and more! Please see link below for more information. The presentation will consist of a mock trial and informal discussion of the program.</p> <p>https://legaloutreach.org/?page_id=155</p>

Winter Break Resources!

Here are some resources to keep your scholar academically engaged during the Winter Break:

1. **NewsELA online reading clubs! (Literacy)** Use these codes to have your scholar join an online reading club, complete with very interesting news articles and reading comprehension quizzes, all carefully curated by the NewsELA team!
 - a. Join the #TrendingIn2016 Club:
<https://newsela.com/join/#/NRN6FR>
 - b. Join the P.O.V. Pros Club:
<https://newsela.com/join/#/FQEJBT>
2. **TenMarks Jam Sessions! (Math)** Jam Sessions! These are great opportunities to get instant feedback and practice math skills. Students may also use their coins in the TenMarket to buy games at any time at home. www.tenmarks.com
3. **BrainPop! (All subjects)** BrainPop! is a fun and interactive way to watch videos and review content from ALL your classes. Take review quizzes to test your knowledge! **Login username:** your Mott Hall II gmail account. **Login password:** motthall2. www.brainpop.com

High School Guidance News:

*** Extra Help and Guidance for the HS Process Now Available! ***

Ms. Gorman will be available during lunch time on:

Mondays (Rm 409)

Tuesdays (Rm 415)

Thursdays (Rm 405)

This time is meant to be utilized in anyway that you find helpful-it can be a time for you to vent your frustrations, share your concerns, ask questions or even practice your interviewing skills!

We can also discuss coping strategies to alleviate and manage your stress and anxiety. On Thursdays, Ms Strazza will join me during lunch in room 405. We are hoping with these three lunch hours of additional support, you will be able to finish up this process feeling good about your high school prospects and get some sense of relief!Á

Remember, you have a support system here at Mott Hall II! Your 8th grade teachers, me, Ms. Robbins, Ms. Strazza and your Advisors are all here to help you through the high school process and 8th grade in general!

Please stop by, we look forward to supporting you through this process.

****** Important Reminders ******

1. **All applications must be signed by both student and a parent or guardian.**
2. **Please do not complete your application in pencil. Black or Blue ink is preferable. Please do not use red ink under any circumstances.**
3. **If there are legitimate extenuating circumstances for excessive absence or lateness (for example, an injury, illness, death in family) please circle the extenuating circumstance box and provide official documentation. Á**

