



8th Grade Newsletter

February 2017

Dear 8th Grade Families,

Happy February! We hope you and your scholars are keeping warm in the Winter weather! Please check out this edition for important information about **8th grade dues** and your what your scholars are achieving in their classrooms!

Classroom News:

ELA	<p>As scholars develop their prowess as essay writers based around one book, they are in the throes of writing an essay. This time this extended response revolves around a variety of short texts allowing Mott Hall Illians to demonstrate their ability to develop essays that contain all the statements that belong in introductions, body paragraphs, and conclusions. Expect that your scholar will be able to organize ideas in paragraphs that you the reader can easily follow based on two separate literary essays.</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 starting their journey into data and statistics. Ask students to give you an example of a relationship that shows a positive or negative correlation, and one that is not correlated. We will work on scatter plots and two-way frequency tables which are both popular ways to broadcast data in the news and in written articles. Students in Regents Algebra I have started their big unit on quadratic equations: they have learned how to factor and solve using the zero product property and will next move on to the quadratic formula and completing the square. Ask your scholar why it's called the <i>zero</i> product property.</p> <p>Reminder that the math magazines with chameleons on the cover are due, completed, in class on Monday, February 27. Office Hours: Wednesdays during lunch with Ms. G. and Ms. Benowitz, Ms. G.'s student teacher.</p> <p>Email: mgiuliano@motthall2.org</p>
Science	<p>This month we are going to finish the cell unit and start the genetic unit. The genetic unit will include the following topics; DNA structure, DNA replications, DNA mutation, RNA and protein synthesis, Genetic engineering, Mendel and selective breeding.</p> <p>Assessment: Test 2/2nd Marking period on Thursday, January 12, 2017.</p> <p>Office Hours: Every Thursday during lunchtime in room 407.</p> <p>Email: sshetia@motthall2.org</p>
Social Studies	<p>This week, we will be working on our WWI projects. At home, you can ask your scholars about their project choices. Also, if you have any family members stories related to WWI, students love hearing them! Scholars are also often interested in issues surrounding the draft and the modern day selective service.</p> <p>Office Hours: Tuesday at lunch</p> <p>Email: lfletcher@motthall2.org</p>

Dance	<p>This month in dance, scholars will be developing choreography representative of Harriet Tubman and the Underground Railroad. We will analyze paintings by Jacob Lawrence to identify action words and descriptive words that can be used to inspire movement.</p> <p>Office Hours: Tuesdays during lunch Email: cstampolis@motthall2.org</p>
Music	<p>Students in 8th grade music have explored the music of the 1920's and have begun to examine the swing and big band era of the '30's and 40's. We have discussed dance marathons, Woody Guthrie's folk songs and the vocal brilliance of Ella Fitzgerald. Students continue to progress at the piano keyboard, focusing on Major and Minor chords.</p> <p>Office Hours: Friday during lunch in room 412 or by appointment. Email: sfeder@motthall2.org</p>
Latin	<p>Office Hours: Friday during lunch or by appointment Email: mbuturovic@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</p> <p>Office Hours: Wednesdays during lunch or by appointment. Email: achao@motthall2.org</p>
School Counselor	<p>RESPECT FOR ALL WEEK! Monday, February 13th kicks off respect for all week for 2017. Respect For All Week is a city wide initiative which maintains that ALL students are free from bullying, cyber bullying, harassment, discrimination and intimidation. I realize for some families, this is a particularly trying, worrisome and uncertain time, however we should continue to stress to our scholars that despite what is currently happening, we should treat all people, no matter where they are from, with respect. We are very proud that Mott Hall II fosters a safe, supportive and inclusive environment for all of our scholars, not only during Respect For All Week, but throughout the school year.</p> <p>We wanted to make you are aware of the events that are happening that week. Please help Mott Hall II celebrate diversity and respect this week by encouraging your scholar(s) to participate. Additionally, please find links to various resources so that you can continue these conversations at home about inclusivity and respect. Thank you in advance for your support.</p> <p>Links: http://schools.nyc.gov/RulesPolicies/RespectforAll/StudentResources/Helpful+Resources/default.htm http://schools.nyc.gov/RulesPolicies/RespectforAll/StudentResources/Helpful+Resources/bullying+and+conflict.htm https://www.stopbullying.gov/at-risk/warning-signs/index.html</p> <p><u>THEMED Dress Down Days</u></p> <p>Monday - "Team it up Tuesday" – students are encouraged to team up against bullying by dressing alike Tuesday – "Compassion/kindness day" Wear red/pink to show compassion and kindness Wednesday – "Wacky Tacky Wednesday" – Students are encouraged to wear bright and colorful clothing to not be afraid of who they are Thursday – "Sock-full Thursday" Students are encouraged to wear crazy socks to "sock" it to bullying Friday – "Flag Friday" – students are encouraged to wear an article of clothing representing their culture</p>

Daily Quotes

Each morning a scholar will read an inspirational quote during our announcements

School Counselor Bulletin Board

Please encourage your scholar to stop by the counseling bulletin board in the 8th grade hallway! The board will contain information on the themed days, websites to prevent bullying, positive affirmations, mindfulness activities, acts of kindness and more!

Assemblies

During assemblies, scholars will be watching kid-friendly, short videos on empowerment, bullying and respect.

Any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at

jrobbins@motthall2.org

Jodi Robbins

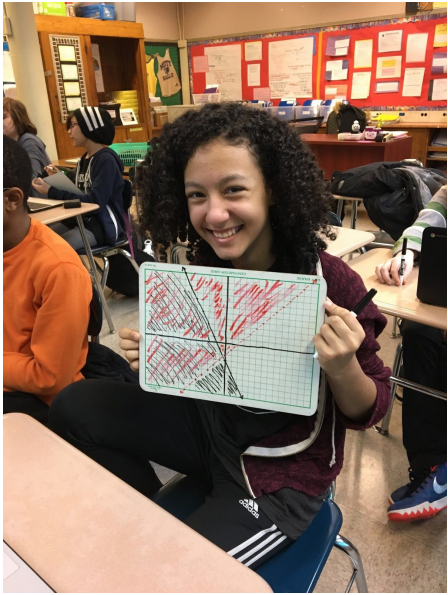
Coming Up This Month:

- Jazz in the Schools Performance: Wednesday, February 8 (10:30-11:30AM)
- Parent Conferences: Wednesday, February 8 and Friday, January 10 (by appointment only)
- Respect-for-All Week: February 13-17 (see e-mail from Ms. Robbins for details)
- Honor Roll Luncheons: Friday, February 17
- Mid-Winter Recess - Monday, February 20th - Friday, February 24th

Paperwork & Permission Slips:

- February Dues payments will be due on Tuesday, **February 28.**
- March Dues payments will be due on Wednesday, **March 15.**
- April Dues payments will be due on Wednesday, **April 5.**
- Permission slips for MHI's After-School Visual Arts Program are due ASAP - space is limited!

8th Grade Action Shots!



Scholars at the Cold Spring Harbor DNA Learning Center



DNA recombination lab to create glowing bacteria!



Scholars working hard on a Math scavenger hunt!

