



8th Grade Newsletter

January 2017

Dear 8th Grade Families,

It's the start of a new year! Happy 2017! We have 2 trips coming up this month! First, with great thanks to the PTA, our school will be attending a screening of the movie **"Hidden Figures"** highlighting the contributions of 3 brilliant African-American women working at NASA. Second, we have the 8th grade trip to the **Cold Spring Harbor DNA Learning Center** where our scholars will conduct laboratory experiments using gel electrophoresis and DNA Glowing Gene recombination. **The DNA Lab trip has an \$8 fee for transportation, which is due this FRIDAY, JAN. 13th!** We look forward to these two exciting January trips!

Classroom News:

ELA	Scholars are honing their essay writing skills in ELA as they journey from developing outlines to writing full fledged body paragraphs about themes or craft moves (how an author writes) in <i>The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night Time</i> . By the end of the month, scholars should have a polished literary essay that is replete with elaborated details, quotes, and transitional words and phrases. 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. Email: mjulien-ndjiki@motthall2.org
Math	Students in eighth-grade mathematics have begun their major unit on systems of linear equations. Students know how to identify intersection points by graphing and will next move in to using substitution and elimination to identify solutions. Ask your scholar why, in terms of lines, two cars that travel at the same speed, but start in different places, will never intersect. Students in Regents Algebra I are also working on systems of linear equations and will next be moving onto graphing systems of linear inequalities - these will involve shading on graphs and infinitely many solutions! Ask your students about the "Secret Pairs" "trick" shown in class. Reminder that the math magazines with Moana on the cover are due, completed, in class on Friday, January 13. As per an e-mail sent in December, magazines will now be mandatory (as to promote reading and number fluency, as well as general use of the magazines): students will always have one edition in the classroom for classroom use, and another to take home to be turned in on the announced dates. These will comprise 5% of each marking period grade moving forward. Office Hours: Wednesdays during lunch (students must enter between 1:05-1:15 or between 1:30-1:35). Email: mgiuliano@motthall2.org
Science	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. Assessment: Test 2/2nd Marking period on Thursday, January 12, 2017. Office Hours: Every Thursday during lunchtime in room 407.

	Email: sshetia@motthall2.org
Social Studies	<p>This week, we will begin our study of World War I. We'll examine the root causes of the war, the experiences of the people who fought in the trenches, and America's decision to join the conflict. At home, you can talk about the factors that countries and individuals make when deciding to go to war and the impact war has on both civilians and soldiers. Students are often interested in issues surrounding the draft and the modern day selective service.</p> <p>Office Hours: Tuesday at lunch Email: lfletcher@motthall2.org</p>
Dance	Office Hours: Tuesdays during lunch Email: cstampolis@motthall2.org
Music	<p>Students in 8th grade music are continuing to study the history of American Music. We have listened and discussed the music of Louis Armstrong, Jelly Roll Morton and Duke Ellington. We are continuing with the music and themes of the Broadway Musical, "Guys and Dolls" and will also discover the music of George Gershwin.</p> <p>Students continue to progress at the piano keyboard, practicing increasingly difficult pieces of music.</p> <p>Office Hours: Friday during lunch in room 412 or by appointment. Email: sfeder@motthall2.org</p>
Latin	<p>Students in 8th grade Latin are learning to translate and compose simple Latin sentences involving present-tense verbs and feminine nouns. They are studying the different founding myths of Rome for their parallels to modern political problems: especially, issues of immigration.</p> <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	

Coming Up This Month:

- "Hidden Figures" movie trip - Weds., Jan. 18th at AMC Lincoln Square
- DNA Lab Trip to Cold Spring Harbor - Mon., Jan. 23rd and Tues., Jan 24th
- Marking Period 2 Report Cards - Thurs., Jan. 26th

Paperwork & Permission Slips:

- DNA Lab Trip (\$8 fee) and "Hidden Figures" permission slips due on **Friday, Jan. 13th**
- The next **Eighth-Grade Dues** payments will be due on **Tuesday, Jan. 31st**

8th Grade Action Shots!

