



8th Grade Newsletter

November 2016

Dear 8th Grade Families,

As the First Marking Period comes to a close, the High School application process continues for our 8th graders. Please feel free to contact us, especially Ms. Gorman, if you have any questions. In addition, Ms. Gorman will begin having **Lunchtime HS Application Open Sessions** 3 times a week to give our scholars extra support throughout this process. These sessions will take place on Mondays (Room 409), Tuesdays (Room 415) and Thursdays (Room 405), beginning **Monday, November 14th**. We're also excited to announce Student-Led Advisory conferences. Please check in with your scholar as they should have received a letter detailing this process. Please note some changes in the Office Hours, due to availability of rooms during the week. This month, we'll begin collecting **8th Grade Dues!** Please ask your scholar about the Dues letter, which we will also e-mail to you. We're very excited to reveal that our ***new 8th Grade Senior Trip destinations will be Philadelphia, PA and Hershey Park!*** Please stay tuned for further information.

Classroom News:

ELA	<p>Scholars in ELA are making their way from journalism and are moving into the world of literary fiction via Mark Haddon's novel, <i>The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night Time</i>. Themes will be developed, challenged, and documented through discussions, short paragraph writing (with an emphasis on coordinating conjunctions) - all culminating with a literary essay. To complement our class reading, scholars are encouraged to read an independent reading book so that they compare and contrast similar themes across stories.</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>Scholars in eighth-grade mathematics have started their unit on functions, rate of change, and graphing lines. This is one of the major topics in our curriculum; the study of slope and rates of change is a fundamental step in the eventual road to calculus! At home, take notice of any applications of this: what speed are you traveling in your car? What was the pace of the winning marathoner? How many texts do scholars typically send per hour (when not in school, of course)?</p> <p>In Regents Algebra I, scholars are beginning their study of inequalities. After learning about compound inequalities, students are starting their inequalities business project. Ask your scholar about their group and what type of business they are creating in this project.</p> <p>Office Hours: Note that, as per an e-mail sent on Thursday, November 3, math extra-help is now being held during lunch on Wednesdays in room 409. Scholars may bring lunch. They must arrive either between 1:05-1:15 or between 1:30-1:35. Email: mgiuliano@motthall2.org</p>

Science	<p>This month in science class, scholars are continuing learning about ecology. Specific topics that we are investigating include: biodiversity and conservation where scholars discuss human population growth and its impact on biodiversity, carrying capacity, different biomes and how organisms adapt in each biome and the importance of ecological succession to restore an ecosystem.</p> <p>Upcoming Assessments: There is a unit test the last week of November that will cover ecology unit.</p> <p>You can support your scholars by reviewing their homework assignments on the Engrade Pro website. Also, be sure that your scholar has their science textbook home, most of the homework assigned from the textbook.</p> <p>Office Hours: Every Thursday during lunchtime in room 407.</p> <p>Email: sshetia@motthall2.org</p>
Social Studies	<p>Office Hours: Tuesday at lunch</p> <p>We have just launched our immigration narrative project! For this project, students will be writing “memoirs” in the voice of Jewish immigrants from Eastern Europe who immigrated to this country at the turn of the 20th century and settled on the Lower East Side. Ask your scholar about his/her “character” and what s/he will include in the narrative!</p> <p>Whatever your feelings about this Tuesday’s election results, I urge you to talk with your scholar about what they might expect in the coming months. Many scholars have expressed anxiety, confusion, and pessimism about the state of our nation. Others are calm and hopeful. If nothing else, this election reminds me that our young people really <i>are</i> watching and listening.</p> <p>Email: lfletcher@motthall2.org</p>
Dance	<p>Current Unit of Study:</p> <p>Office Hours: Tuesdays during lunch Email: cstampolis@motthall2.org</p>
Music	<p>Scholars are exploring the history of American popular music. Americans created their popular music through a process of exchange across social lines, the same lines where American identity is formed and continually reformed, and where diverse cultural traditions meet, collide and mix. We are also continuing to advance at keyboard playing.</p> <p>Office Hours: Friday during lunch in room 412 or by appointment.</p> <p>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</p> <p>Office Hours: Wednesdays during lunch or by appointment.</p> <p>Email: achao@motthall2.org</p>

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)

to give you additional support. 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!

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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.** À

Coming Up This Month:

- Walk-a-thon Pledge Money - bring it in! All money is now PAST due-- please submit everything as soon as possible! Thanks to all who fundraised.**

Parent Teacher Conferences, Thurs. 11/17 & Fri. 11/18 (all sign-ups are ONLINE - please see letter backpacked home on Monday, November 7). Note that there will be an early dismissal (11:30AM) for all scholars on Friday, November 18.

Thanksgiving Break NO SCHOOL, Thurs. 11/24 & Fri. 11/25

Picture Day, Weds. 11/30/16

- 8th Grade Senior Dues Letter & First Payment: Due Weds., Nov. 30th**

