



# 8th Grade Newsletter

October 2016

Dear 8th Grade Families,

We are extremely excited to begin a new school year with you and your scholars! So far, the year has kicked off with a successful 8th Grade Walk-a-thon as our scholars walked 5 miles along the Hudson River to raise money for the 8th Grade Fund. In this newsletter, you will find: 1) **Classroom News**, 2) **High School Guidance News**, 3) **Coming Up This Month**, 4) **Paperwork & Permission Slips** and 5) **8th Grade Action Shots**. We have some exciting news for you both inside and outside of the classroom so keep reading below and please check in with your scholars about important paperwork, which we will also do our best to share with you electronically! This year, our 8th grade core subject teachers will have Office Hours instead of Study Hall. Each teacher's Office Hours are listed along with their subjects below.

## Classroom News:

<b>ELA</b>	<p>First and foremost, thank you to all of those families who have enhanced the ELA periodical section as your newspaper and magazine contributions have made a difference to the investigative journalism unit. We are making our way through this first unit of study as scholars shape a feature article around an issue that is of personal interest.</p> <p>Look out for the official upcoming due date for the newscast as it will be posted on the ELA page.</p> <p>By encouraging your child to read periodicals, not only will she more informed but will have a grasp of newscast writing.</p> <p><b>Office Hours:</b> 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>
<b>Math</b>	<p>Our eighth-grade math scholars are currently wrapping up their unit on solving one-variable equations; there will be a unit test coming up on Monday, October 24. Coming up next is our unit starting with identifying functions! Regents Algebra I students are currently ending their unit on functions, domain and range, and polynomials (also with a test coming up on Monday, October 24). All homework is posted daily on the class website.</p> <p><b>Office Hours:</b> There is math extra-help after school every Thursday from 2:45-3:45 in room 409 with Ms. Giuliano.</p>
<b>Science</b>	<p>This month in science class, scholars are learning about ecology. Specific topics that we are investigating include: how living organisms interact with the physical setting in their ecosystems, how nutrients and energy flow through ecosystems, and how rapid human population growth impacts biodiversity. Also we will continue collecting data and write a lab report for the long term investigation "The effect of different amount of fertilizers on plants' height".</p>

	<p><b>Upcoming Assessments:</b> There are a test1 on Friday, October 21, 2017 and text 2 on Friday November 4, 2017</p> <p>You can support your scholars by reviewing their homework assignments and study guides that are listed in their planner and on the Engrade Pro website. Also, please utilize the Urban Advantage Family Science Day Admission voucher to go to one of the special activities at one of the educational institutions in NYC that are listed on the voucher. (A scholar visit and reflection on one of those workshops will count as extra credit that will be equal to one lab grade).</p> <p>Great online resources that your scholar can use to prepare for the Regents exam are:</p> <p><a href="http://www.regentsprep.org/Regents/biology/biology.cfm">http://www.regentsprep.org/Regents/biology/biology.cfm</a></p> <p><a href="http://regentsprep.org/regents/core/questions/topics.cfm?Course=BIOL">http://regentsprep.org/regents/core/questions/topics.cfm?Course=BIOL</a></p> <p><b>Office Hours:</b> Every Thursday during lunchtime in room 407</p>
<p><b>Social Studies</b></p>	<p>Next week, 8th grade historians will begin studying the history of immigration in this country, with a particular focus on the experiences of people who arrived on our shores in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Scholars will soon begin writing narratives from the perspective of a person who immigrates to the United States at the turn of the 20th Century.</p> <p>At home, I encourage you to share immigration and migration stories from your family history to help your scholar connect what we are learning to their own lives. You can also discuss current issues in the news about immigration.</p> <p><b>Office Hours:</b> Tuesday at lunch</p>
<p><b>Dance</b></p>	<p>Current Unit of Study:</p> <p>7th Grade: Elements of Dance and Nature- 7th grade is learning about the dance making process by creating their own choreography about Air, Fire, Water, and Earth using the dance elements of Body, Space, Time, Energy, and Relationship.</p> <p>8th Grade: Me To We- 8th grade is exploring dancing and the dance making process as soloists, by creating duets and small group dances, and in unison as a large group.</p> <p>Upcoming Assessments/Dates: Unit Projects October 31-November 4.</p> <p>How you can support your scholar: Ask them to share their dance experiences with you at home. Check in with your scholar on google classroom for video and internet resources to reinforce dance learning.</p> <p><b>Office Hours:</b> Tuesdays during lunch</p>
<p><b>Music</b></p>	<p>Current Unit of Study: Fundamentals of Music</p> <p>Upcoming Assessments/Dates: October 31-Nov.4</p> <p>How you can support your scholar: Listen to music and sing along!</p> <p><b>Office Hours:</b> N/A</p>
<p><b>ICT Support</b></p>	<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><b>Office Hours: Wednesdays at lunch &amp; Thursdays 2:45pm - 4:00pm</b></p>

## High School Guidance News:

- Good luck to all students taking the SHSAT, and good luck also on all other high school admission exams coming up.

## News from the School Counselor:

- The National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) will be presenting to our scholars on Friday, October 28th, during their ELA classes. NAMI is the largest organization which helps to build and improve those lives who are affected with mental illness.
- "Ending The Silence" is a program which helps middle schoolers understand mental illness. The speakers will discuss warning signs and help to clear up myths about mental illness. During the presentation, scholars will get to hear from someone who has a mental illness and what life is like for him/her.
- I understand this is a very sensitive topic and discussion, which is also why the presentation will be held in a class sized group. Parents and guardian, this may also be a good opportunity to have a discussion with your scholar, about how they are feeling and doing. I am also available for support.
- Any questions/concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me.
- **Please see link below for more information**
- <http://www.nami.org/Find-Support/NAMI-Programs/NAMI-Ending-the-Silence>

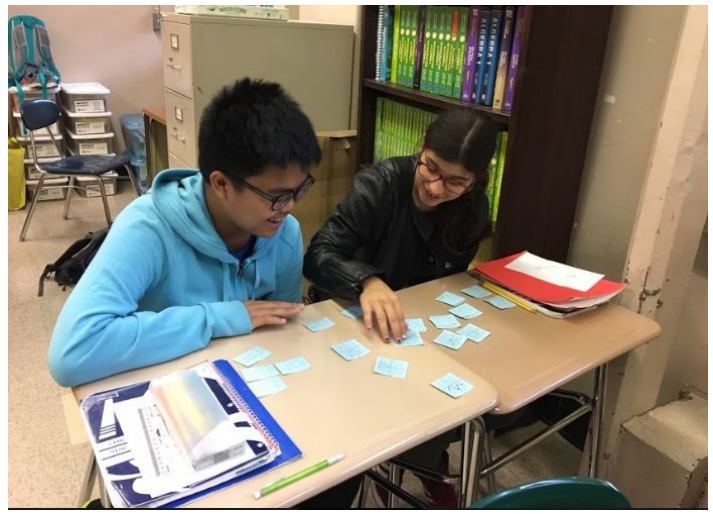
## Coming Up This Month:

- **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.**
- Jazz in the Schools - Weds. 10/26
- Friday 10/28 - Halloween Dance, 6pm
- Hudson River Ecology Science field trip (Nov. 2, Nov. 3)

## Paperwork & Permission Slips:

- **Submit Hudson River trip permission forms by Mon. 10/31 (HARD DEADLINE)**
- Put all high school materials in high school folders in homerooms!
- Urban Advantage Family Science Day Vouchers (all events are FREE!)

## 8th Grade Action Shots!



*Above and below: students work on partner activities in math class.*



*8th Graders in Dance Class - dancing to "Thriller"*

