



# *The Scholars' Academy*

*An Accelerated College Preparatory School for Grades 6-12*

*27Q323, A Teaching and Learning Organization*

*"Technology Today, Smarter Tomorrow: Removing Time and Place from Teaching and Learning"*

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## **Principal**

**Brian O'Connell**

## **Assistant Principals**

**Math/Arts: Michele Smyth**

**Humanities/Foreign Language: Toni Marie Sorrentino**

**Science/Technology/Safety: Scott Milczewski, IA**

## **Principal's Monthly PTA November, 2011**

### **Guidance Team:**

- There will be a Financial Aid Workshop on Wednesday, December 14th from 6:00pm-7:30pm. All Junior and Senior Parents are encouraged to attend!
- Visiting college campuses is an important part of the college planning process. There's no substitute for a personal visit when it comes to assessing how a college fits with your personality and interests. It helps you to form your own opinions regarding the academics, social life and living environment of a college or university. In addition, many colleges do not consider a student a serious applicant if they have not visited campus. The best way for you to learn about the educational programs, faculty, atmosphere and spirit of a college is to visit the campus when the college is in session.
- November 14th-18th- is School Report Week for all seniors. Seniors may come into the college office anytime during this week to bring in all their school forms and envelopes.
- By now, all students and parents should have a FAFSA Pin. If you have not applied for your PIN, please go to: <http://www.pin.ed.gov>.
- Amendments to the Parent Handbook were attached to your child's report card with our new Absence Note. Please review these amendments carefully. They include our new attendance and lateness policy and important information on community service and our honor society.
- Public HS Applications are due Dec. 2nd for all 8th grade Students and select 9th grade students
- There will be another HS Applications workshop for 8th grade students and parents on Nov. 17th from 5:30 - 7pm (for those that were unable to attend the first workshop in Sept)
- The SHSAT is scheduled for Nov. 5th for 9th graders and students with test accommodations
- For students applying to Catholic Schools, the TACHS APPLICANT RECORD is due to Ms. Rozman by Nov. 18th. (see Edline for details)
- The SAHS INFORMATION SESSION & TOUR is on Thurs. Nov. 10th from 6-8pm, Reservations are Required to Attend.
- After School Peer Tutoring  
Every week Mon - Thurs, from 2:50-3:40 PM  
Tues & Wed - room 101, Mon & Thurs- room 100  
24 MS students are receiving peer tutoring after school,  
20 MS students are providing tutoring  
Anyone interested in getting tutoring for their child, or having their child volunteer to become a peer tutor- please download the permission slips on Edline and submit to Ms. Rozman
- On Parent/Teacher Conference Night (November 17th), Mrs. Villa will be hosting a Credit and Diploma Status Workshop. 9-12th grade students and parents are encouraged to attend!

The workshop will be from 5:30-6:30pm in the TEAL room on the 3rd floor.

Topics to be discussed are:

1. The differences between diploma types (Regents Diploma, Advanced Regents Diploma, and Advanced Regents with Honors Diploma)
2. The New York State Graduation Requirements
3. College Readiness Requirements

### **Spirit Week:**

- High School students celebrated the annual spirit week competition. This year's theme was Pixar films. Students worked as a grade to decorate a learning display for their assigned movie, students dressed up as characters from their movie on Monday, participated in a logic competition on Wednesday, and had a cheer competition on Thursday.

### **Technology Announcements:**

- Virtual Ribbon Cutting: Tuesday, November 15th is the Official Launch of Kindles and iPads.
- \$200,000 in Reso A Grant Funding is in process. These funds will have to add electric outlets, computers, and smartboards to rooms where integrated units are not set up yet.
- Safari Montage, a Video Tool to enhance learning will also be placing video boxes with each of the digital signs present at the entrances. Last year's student government raised funds for those two flatscreens.
- Kindles rolled out into all sixth grade classrooms.
- iPads in classrooms, official rollout next week.
- iLearnNYC online Advanced Placement classes progressing
- Lego Robotics program has received MacBook Pros.
- Seaside Chronicle working on online edition. Student Assessment Database launched.

### **School Safety/Discipline:**

- Infractions in the building are down from last year at this time.
- There have been several external occurrences between our students and students from neighboring schools.
- When traveling to and from school, Scholars' should be mindful of their surroundings and limit contact with outside groups. Electronic devices are prohibited in city schools in part due to the unwarranted attention they create. Do not use these devices in plain, public view.

### **Admissions/Recruitment/Enrollment Events:**

- We hosted the first 2 of 4 sessions for the MS Information Sessions & Tours on Thursday Nov 3.
- We had 738 people attend last Thursday night.
- We are expecting another 300 people this Thursday Nov 10 at 9:00am and have 180 people registered for building tours only on Monday Nov 21 at 9:30 am so far.
- Our MS application is live and on our website. As of Monday we already received 200 applications.
- The online application may be accessed by visiting the Scholars' Academy Website at <http://schools.nyc.gov/SchoolPortals/27/Q323/default.htm>

**Sports and Fitness Education:**

- The HS Girls Volleyball team is currently 12-0 and received a #1 ranking and will have their playoff match on Tuesday November 15th starting time TBA.
- The MS Girls Volleyball team is currently 1-0 and has a game tomorrow at 10:00am at MS 114
- The HS Bowling team is 9-5 and will have their first playoff match this Thursday at Harlem Lanes at 4:00pm
- A special thank you to Anthony Rodriguez of the Brooklyn Golf Center for allowing our students to use the driving range for the past four weeks. He will be offering six lessons for \$15 in the Spring through the First Tee Program. All students are welcome.
- Both our HS Boys and Girls Basketball teams have concluded their Tryouts and have their first home game at the end of November.
- We are planning to use the iPads during fitness classes, leveraging videos to demonstrate form and technique for a variety of strength, flexibility, stamina, and core activities.
- **Trips:** More Trips than ever are being mandated into our curriculum. here will be a parent and student meeting on Wednesday, December 14<sup>th</sup> from 6pm to 7pm as well for the upcoming high school trip to Italy.

**2010-2011 Trips**

	<b>Term 1</b>	<b>Term 1</b>	<b>Term 2</b>	<b>Term 2</b>
<b>Grade 6</b>	1. Museum of Natural History	2. The Brooklyn Museum	3. Queens Hall of Science 4. The History of Motown 5. The Hunger Games Movie	6. Applebee's Cooking with Chemistry
<b>Grade 7</b>	1. Fort Hamilton Army Base	2. Band-Operation Santa 3. Poet's House	4. Philadelphia	
<b>Grade 8</b>	1. Ellis Island	2. Bodies Exhibit 3. Band-Operation Santa	4. Chelsea Piers	
<b>Grade 9</b>	1.	2. Band-Operation Santa	3. 6 Flags 4. Italy	
<b>Grade 10</b>	1.	2. Band-Operation Santa	3. Medieval Times 4. Italy	

<b>Grade 11</b>	1. Philladelphia	2. Band-Operation Santa	3. Washington DC 4. Italy	
<b>Grade 12</b>	1.	2. Band-Operation Santa	3. Disney 4. Metropolitan Museum of Art (Sadykov)	5. Senior Picnic 6. Graduation Rehearsal @KCC 7. Italy

**Facility Enhancements:**

- After much lobbying, the School Construction Authority has moved to complete our school yard renovation.  
The school yard is currently under intense construction.  
The plans are posted at the B104 entrance.  
We are slated for two full and two practice sized tennis courts and eight half court basketball courts.
- After much lobbying, the long overdue Landscaping Work is taking place on B104 Street.  
The professional landscaping is being done by Super Scapes Incorporated. Take a look next time you drive by. The grounds are going to be gorgeous!

**Parent Teacher Conferences and Open School Week:**

- **Open Classroom Day is Wednesday, November 16th, 2011.**  
Parents/Caregivers may enter the through the B104 Street entrance and go to the library between 8:30-8:45am for coffee/refreshments.  
Open Classrooms will begin at 9:00AM (period 2).  
Parents must refer to the copy of the schedule provided with the letter that is sent home.
- **Parent Teacher Conferences take place on Thursday, November 17th, 2011, from 1-3pm and 5:30-8:00pm.**
- **Scheduled Specific Parent Teacher Conferences** will also take place on **Friday November 18th, for select students and by teacher initiated appointment only.** These conferences will take place during the early afternoon after students are dismissed. By having these extra conferences, we are able to better focus on students requiring unique support, while also permitting the possibility for less crowding and (hopefully) longer conferences on Thursday afternoon and evening.