

Principal's Report

March 9, 2011

School Leadership Team

The SLT is analyzing largely positive results of on-going CEP benchmark goals for every marking period in every subject. Over time, this process is designed with the intent to become increasingly predictive of annual goal attainment. Our teachers must be applauded for their hard work: planning, teaching, assessing, analyzing, and following up on student performance.

Technology Funding and Forthcoming Objectives

Great news! Principal O'Connell secured over \$300,000 to be dedicated to the next leg of our "Technology Today, Smarter Tomorrow" journey.

Purchases likely to take place before June 2011:

iPads (students targeted to be determined)

Kindles (part of ebook and paperless, school bag diet initiative). Likely a grade six pilot.

Laptops

Smart boards

Music

Congratulations to the Scholars' Academy Marching Band and Cheerleaders that were awarded a trophy for First Place Youth Group at the annual Queens County St. Patrick's Day Parade on Saturday, March 5, 2011.

Learning Survey 2011

The School Learning Surveys will be distributed in the next few weeks. I encourage all parents to use this opportunity to give us feedback. It is part of your partnership with the school to help us chart the course for improvement.

Parent Workshops/Events

- This Saturday from 10am-2:30pm please attend our third annual Blood Drive sponsored by the Long Island Blood Services, Scholars' Academy Key Club and Scholars' Academy PTA. Students will earn 1 hour of community service for each person they refer to donate.
- On Tuesday March 15th, Ms. Cave will be holding a parent workshop demonstrating the use of Powerspeak in the 7th grade classroom. We encourage parents to attend and learn how to help support their child's learning in this subject.
- On Thursday March 24th we will have our second annual College Fair from 6-8pm
- On Wednesday April 13th Ms. Lewner and Mr. Bradley will be hosting their second annual Family Math Night on the third floor between 5:30 and 7pm stop by and see Math from a new perspective.

Athletics

MS Sports

The MS Boys Basketball team is currently 3-2 and have their next game this Friday against Chappie James MS (Mr. Perry's school) at 10:30 AM (Home)

The MS Wrestling team had 2 students represent Scholars Academy in the NY State competition held at Bay Shore HS.

The Spring permission slips are being sent home Monday 3/14 for our MS Teams) Teams include: Boys Lacrosse, Coed Tennis, Cheerleading, Girls Basketball.

HS Sports

We have had added a HS Archery team which will begin on Monday 3/14 at 7:00AM. Practices will be held on Mon/Thurs. from 7:00-8:00AM. This was a grant we received from Easton Foundations through US Archery. We are part of 6 new programs throughout NYC.

The HS Girls Basketball team has a game on 3/8 at 5pm. This is their 3rd round playoff game.

HS Girls Softball will have a meeting this week with Ms J Henck to discuss the Spring Season

HS Boys Golf will meet with Mr Hilgendorf this week to discuss new HS Rules. We were also just granted HS Girls PSAL Golf!

Safety/Transportation/Logistics/Youth Development

- All of the arms and projectors and smartboards have been installed and are operational. 95% of all classrooms have smartboards. iPod touches have been distributed and are use by both high school and middle school teachers.
- The Scholars' Academy staff and members of our parent community are very excited for this Friday evening's Emerald dinner dance to see Mr. O'Connell receive the Award of Principal of the Year at Terrace on the Park!!!
- MS auditions are taking place this week for the upcoming talent show. Each day this week students audition under various categories, such as singing, dancing, instrumental and MC. We are very excited to see who makes the cut! Thank you to Mrs. Pallotta, Morrirt, Mainhart & Barget for assisting and John S & Saviana B for running this event!

High School Applications (Rozman)

This past February students that took the Specialized High School Test received the results of the exam and were either offered a seat to one of the specialized high school plus one of their non-specialized high school choices or they were informed that they did not score high enough on the exam to be offered a seat.

Of the 140 students that took the exam, 22 were offered a seat to Brooklyn Tech, 8 to Stuyvesant, 7 to Brooklyn Latin, 1 to Bronx Science, and 3 to LaGuardia for visual arts. Of these 41 seat offerings, 24 will be attending a specialized high school, 8 have chosen to stay with Scholars, 2 have chosen to attend private school, and 6 will attend their non-specialized high school offer. None of our current 9th graders will be transferring to another school for 10th grade.

On March 31st all students that did not take the specialized high school test or took the test and did not receive an offer, will receive their main round match to a non-specialized high school. At that time, students will be asked to submit their final decisions regarding which high school they will attend in September, whether it is Scholars' Academy, another non-specialized school, a specialized high school, or a private school.

This past February, the Scholars' Academy incorporated principles of the NYC Respect for All initiative during the citywide Respect for All Week: February 14th - 18th. Students participated in a school wide Respect for All poster contest and had lessons in the classroom promoting appreciation for diversity and prevention of bias-based harassment, intimidation, and/or bullying.

8th graders had a "Changing & Growing" seminar last month that focused on making healthy decisions as they transition into becoming teenagers. 6th graders will be having a similar, age-appropriate seminar on decision making, peer pressure, and body image this Monday, March 14th.

The after school peer tutoring program is continuing to grow and improve as both middle and high school students volunteer their time to stay after school Mon-Thurs with Ms. Rozman either working to improve their grades or helping other students in subjects that they excel.

Professional Development Happenings

A phenomenal series of technology workshops were conducted on Friday morning March 4 2011 by Mr. Bradley, Mr. Kinney, Mrs. Nuss, Mrs. Lewner, Mr. Bierman, Mrs. Colleran, great job!!!

High School Events and Trips

Our 12 HS students, along with Ms. Pinedo & Ms. Sorrentino had a safe, educational, and lovely time traveling through Spain over the February break and studied the country's languages, history, art, religious beliefs, and culture. We look forward to more of these travel opportunities in the future!

High School Guidance

During "Respect for All Week" (2/14-18) three select groups of high school students created educational and informative skits, exhibiting respect for all issues, and performed them for 9th, 10th and 11th grade students. The skits were followed up by small group discussion (facilitated by the same HS seniors) on how to deal with those issues, how to prevent similar issues and ways to implement plans of action here at scholars'.

College Applications

College acceptances are steadily coming in which is expected to increase due to the majority of colleges notifying students in next few weeks.