

Principal's Report March 11, 2009

Thank you to Eileen and Helen and the entire PTA for running the Family Skate Night. Also, thank you for the generous donations for teacher appreciation. We received about 20 donations for our Saturday Professional Development event at our Business Partner, Rich Daly's Broadridge Financial Headquarters. We have approximately 40 teachers that will be in attendance which is a testimony to their commitment to the children of our school and their professional growth.

Also, thank you for the PTA yearly budget support that has been providing instructional supplies, instrument repair, and books. We will be finalizing the remaining instructional funds to go toward library books and Smart Boards. We still have approximately \$10,000 in instructional supplies to spend. \$5,000 will go to library books. (I am matching it with \$10,000 in school funds). The remaining funds will go toward Smart Boards.

School Leadership Team: meets this coming Monday. We will be working on the CEP online and we will be reviewing the 2008-2009 finalized CEP which will be available at some point on the website.

Saturday classes: Saturday Regents Prep Classes are being scheduled by the teachers and a notice will be going home soon. Classes include: Living Environment, Earth Science, Algebra, Math B, Global Studies, and Physics.

Guidance and Youth Development: Of the 37 students that were offered seats to specialized high schools, over 20% have chosen to remain at Scholars' Academy for high school next year. March 25th – students will receive letters indicating which non-specialized public school they were matched to; any student that does not receive a match will enter the supplementary round in April, directions for the appeals process will be on the back of the letters.

“March To College” Event is March 24th : 10th grade students will be split up into 5 groups of 20 and taken on trips to 5 different colleges within the 5 boroughs and long island for campus tours, followed by a college bowl back at school on everything they learned on these trips. We will also have a special presentation on April 22nd at 6:30 pm by Brother David, a college admissions specialist from Manhattan College, on the abc's of college applications.

Community Service: There will be a blood drive and flea market on Saturday March 14th. Students can earn community service hours by getting donors, 1 pint donated equals one hour community service. Students will also be offered a chance to set up the flea market on Friday evening before the sale March 13. We are also working on two separate service events: A Scholars' Sweep and a Pillar Painting Project. Two grants are being applied for through CitizensNYC.org.

Grants: We applied for a \$5,000 School Spirit Grant via Sprint. We are completing a huge \$200,000 arts grant application. A \$3,000 grant is being applied for to support our Scholars' Sweep Initiative, otherwise we will have to find donations to support this event. Mr. Lunati and Ms. Khouri are working on applying for a \$5,000 Jordan Fundamentals Grant, which is a secondary level grant that we are eligible for thanks to the hard work of Ms. Rivera last year who obtained the \$2,500 grant for our volleyball program.

Student Government: The Scholars' Academy student government has been working to promote the Blood Drive and Thrift Sale. Student Government will begin meeting in the main conference room on the first floor.

Events The school was well represented at the Rockaway St Patrick's' day parade. Our band, step team and cheerleaders did a phenomenal job! Special thanks to: Ms. Morritt, Mr. Leicht, and Ms. Sorrentino. Thanks to all who participated.

There are 3 trips planned for the 7th grade to the Museum of the Moving Image this month.

Parent Outreach/Learning Survey: In the 3rd week of March the learning surveys will be sent home. We encourage all parents to complete the survey and return the affidavit to the school as soon as you receive it. Your children will be receiving incentives to encourage you to participate. This is your opportunity to evaluate our school. We use the results to make improvements

Proactive initiatives the Scholars' Academy has taken since last year's parent survey was conducted.

- Increased the frequency and availability of information and news including services such as tutoring, after school programs, teams, and parenting information, etc. through our website, backpacked notices, and through the phone message system.
- Invited, parents to visit classrooms during open school week, during teacher specific classroom events, curriculum overview, sporting events, science fair, Scholar of the Month and Outstanding Scholar Assemblies, Winter and Spring concerts, our yearly Student Drama Performance , Arts Exhibits in school and in outside galleries.
- Parent workshops on Discipline Policy, Organization, High School admission process, H.S. transcripts and curriculum, ELA and Acuity
- Dramatically increased the number of school trips and opportunities for parents to attend these trips with our teachers and students.
- Improved the quality of information and availability of school personnel via use of email, phone system, appointments, progress reports, etc.
- Increased the availability and access to school administrators through use of email, phone system, posting of principal's report online and in the school, ensuring administrative representation at each PTA meeting.
- Worked with MS and HS Planning Committee to ensure student credit accumulation for graduation and acceleration.
- Students are given increased opportunities to choose their elective courses for extended day and HS courses.
- Dramatically increased the amount of direct teacher and parent contact through phone, email, or paper notices to enhance and tighten the home/school connection in support of each student's learning.
- Promoted the home and school use of the Acuity Math and ELA websites to inform parents of student progress and improve math and ELA scores.
- Created an e-mail distribution list for parents to receive calendars and school wide announcements electronically.

Home-School Communication: We are asking parents to ask students daily if any notices or letters have been sent from the school. Please check your child's planners regularly to keep informed about upcoming tests, assignments and projects.

MS Interviews: Letters have been sent home to those who have been scheduled for interviews. They will be conducted on March 19th and March 26th from 4-7pm.

Summer School: We plan to offer summer school enrichment for students who wish to retake any Regents Exam. The site may be at our school or at BCHS. Students will attend Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday from 8:30-11:30AM. This will take place for three weeks prior to the August Regents Exams. July: 21, 22, 23, 28, 29, 30 and Aug: 4, 5, 6 and (12, 13, 14 Test Dates) We are also planning several varsity sports summer camps for students during this same time period: basketball, volleyball, and possibly golf.

Budget and Planning: We will be rolling over some funding to help us weather budget cuts in 2009 2010. At moment, we are purchasing all of our needed texts, books, and supplies so that we have them prior to summer. Any non-essential funds will be rolled over to next year's budget. We anticipate rolling over \$25,000-\$30,000. This means half of that amount will be in our May (new budget) and the other half will be given to us in late October, early November.

Sports:

- We just began our Beat the Streets Wrestling program which is a Coed League for the MS/HS. We have expanding this year to participate against schools across Queens and Brooklyn. We will offer an opportunity for these students to attend a free Wrestling summer Camp.
- Our Boys and Girls MS Basketball teams are about to begin their CHAMPS season. Games will be played on Saturdays. The P.A.L. Boys team is currently 4-0 (In School League)
- The HS Boys and Girls PSAL Basketball teams are in the middle of their season . The Boys are currently 1-1 and the girls are 1-0. The Boys have 2 more home games schedule for 3/18 and 3/25
- MS Lacrosse will begin March 17th
- MS Tennis will begin March 24th.
- Both our MS and HS Cheerleading team did a wonderful job during the Parade, their seasons are ongoing.
- We are exploring our options and seriously considering offering a HS Boys Baseball and HS Girls Softball team.
- We have been granted PSAL Golf for our HS students
- We have also received MS Champs Girls' Crew

Please check our website and phone message system for updated information.

Respectfully,

Brian O'Connell