



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

HS and Math: Michele Smyth

MS and Foreign Language: Toni Marie Sorrentino

Safety/Discipline/Arts/Tech/PE: Drew Goodman*

October, 2010

Principal's Monthly PTA Report, presented by Principal O'Connell 10/13/10

Progress Report Information:

Our School Received an A for Middle School in 2009-2010.

We anticipate strong grades, but will not receive a High School Grade until next year when we have graduation rates in.

School Leadership Team Update:

Consistent with our school's **Theory of Action** this year which is:

"To use technology to enhance student learning through increased efficiency and communication," our School Leadership Team is going digital. Our meeting agendas and minutes will be online. This will create a better communication forum and storage forum of our work, including our CEP revision process. Agendas and Minutes will then be uploaded to the internet for general parent information, as well as the one or two copies on display in the offices and bulletin boards. Currently we are in the process of analyzing student, teacher, and parent surveys, determining a course of action concerning the scale score "cut offs" for students aspiring to attend Scholars' Academy in 2011-2012. It seems that we are going to maintain, within one or two insignificant points the ELA cut off score, lowering it to 671, while maintaining the math cut off score at 688. This will be official and final once the new applications come out.

Innovations/Technology/Facility Updates:

Internet Café, Music Room, TEAL room, and Tech Lab have received extensive wiring and internet access upgrades. We are waiting for final "tie-ins" and equipment to be delivered.

Sound system in theatre received an extensive upgrade, 5 wireless headsets, 5 wireless microphones, new projector and new curtains!

Lights are on the horizon!

Routines/Procedures/Safety/Transportation/School Climate:

The tone of the building is the best I have witnessed since starting the school. Teacher focus and student focus and cooperation are at extremely high levels.

The issue of traffic patterns in the afternoon has subsided and our routines are much more fluid. Parents should still be mindful of discharging to the curb on Beach Channel Drive and reinforce using sidewalks whenever possible.

We had a temporary walkway put in on Rockaway Freeway and we received curbside bus pick ups from the MTA which are alleviating the number of students crossing the Freeway in the afternoon.

Music and Art Happenings:

Art: The halls are being filled with art on a daily basis, courtesy of our students through Ms. Trpic and Conlisk. Our art teachers are appreciative of PTA support.

Music: We have a Music of India Program, A Queens Symphony Orchestra Teaching Artist Program taking place courtesy of Councilman Eric Ulrich, and our bands are performing in more public forums than ever before. Our music and film teachers are appreciative of PTA support.

Also: Teaching artists from the Queens Symphony Orchestra are teaching free Master Classes afterschool on Wednesdays for Flute, Clarinet, and Saxophone from 3-5 p.m.

- HS Band performs at Scholar of the Month Assembly October 27.
- Scholars' Academy Seawolves Marching Band performs on October 28 at Floyd Bennett Field for Halloween Hayride. Chaperones needed.

Sports: Mr. Lunati is doing a phenomenal job!

- Golf Night every Wednesday 5pm grades 6/7, 6pm grade 7/8/9, 7pm grades 10/11/12
- Girls Basketball No Cut Tryouts being held afterschool both at Scholars and PS 114
- MS/HS Cross Country team has a race this weekend at 11:30AM Van Cortland Park for the Kurt Steiner Race.
- HS Wrestling begins preseason today @ 3:45pm. Athletes are getting prepared if we are granted a PSAL position. If not we will run an Independent HS team.
- MS Beat the Streets Wrestling practices every Thursday @ 2:50pm (preseason) Season begins in November
- Boys Varsity Basketball Tryouts begin Monday 10/25 @ 7:00am
- MS Coed Swimming begins the week of 10/25 times and location TBD
- MS Girls Volleyball Tryouts being held. Practices will begin every Wed morning @ 7:00Am
- We are speaking with BCHS about acquiring their equipment for Crew. We have Tom Curry from the New York Rowing Association offering to work with our team to get the students in the water to help them prepare for the Spring season.
- PSAL Spring teams will be announced the week of 11/1, we applied for Crew, Boys Volleyball and Girls Softball
- We are looking to improve of fitness room and if there is anyone looking to donate fitness equipment (treadmill, elliptical, exercise bike) we are looking for donations.
- Scoreboards are up and running!!!!
- Archery will begin in November, the program will run in the AM, times and dates TBD

HS Applications:

- High school Applications will be distributed to 8th graders beginning Friday and through next week; they are due back to Ms. Rozman on December 3rd
- Tickets for the Specialized High School Admissions test will also be distributed this Friday to those students that signed up to take the test
- 9th graders that wish to re-apply to high schools and transfer to another school in the 10th grade must request a high school application from Ms. Rozman

Upcoming Events:

- This weekend the Borough High School Fairs are taking place Saturday & Sunday from 11am - 3pm. The Queens High School Fair will be held at Francis Lewis High School
- The Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation annual walk in Queens is taking place on Sunday, October 24th at 8:00 am at Flushing Meadows Park- students can register online and join the Scholars' Academy Team
- Students seeking community service opportunities can attend the Breast Cancer Walk on Sunday October 17th, volunteer at the Rockaway Fall Festival on October 17th, or "Light the Night" Walk for Leukemia on Sat. Oct. 16th from 5:30 - 8:30 pm at Forest Park in Queens

Miscellaneous Items:

Consistent with our Theory of Action: Student Government presidential candidate speeches will be video-taped this year and humanities teachers will play dvd in class on one day in early November. Using technology will enable us to be remove time and place and become more time efficient and avoid interruptions of extra assemblies.

MS Events: 6th grade stepping up ceremony, 6th grade trip to Museum of Natural History took place, 8th grade will be visiting Museum of Natural History last week in October, 7th grade trip to Pennsylvania will take place in late May, currently surveying 8th grade for new trip ideas for their one day trip in June.

HS Events: Interest letters went home to survey HS students and parents for possible trips to Spain. 12th grade will be going to Disney World! We anticipate continuing our Washington Trip this year.

Upcoming Events: SAT classes with Mr. Wong start this Saturday 830-1230

Thank you's and Recognitions: Alice O'Connor for all of her work for Book Fair, Monique Quinn for all of her work with picture days

Thank you to all parents who drop off and pick up their children on Beach Channel Drive. Remember please, Seaside Ave is for buses only.

Curriculum Map takes place next Thursday, October 21st opening up with the book fair at 4:00pm and class visits at 5pm. We hope to see you there.

Thank you,

Mr. O