



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*

Principal's PTA Monthly Report November, 2010

School Leadership/CEP/Academic Reporting

This Tuesday, November 16th PTC 1-3pm and 5-8pm

Academic acceleration classes in math and ela in middle school for struggling students

Peer tutoring program to start next week period 9 Monday through Thursday supervised by Ms. Rozman

High School study hall and extra help classes in place now as well

Tuesday, 8:30am - 9:30am Summer Reading Challenge Assembly with Audrey

Pfeiffer 150 students will be given certificates, 6th & 7th grade students will be the audience

Thursday, November 18th MS Information Night & Open House

Theory of Action

Technology Innovations/Updates

- Principal O'Connell has been invited to attend an International Technology and Innovative Instructional Summit in Manhattan, including a dinner at Gracie Mansion. This is a good exposure for our school's short and long term technology goals.
- Mr. Kinney, Technology Teacher, continues to add value through creative ways to maintain school meeting agendas, minutes, and other online surveys and resources for our school.
- Presidential & Vice Speeches seen by whole school via smart boards & video clips this year, removing time and place from teaching and learning!
- Morning Message is no longer provided in text format. Use right side link from Morning Message Screen. Morning Message Screen may be accessed from our school's website.
- We are waiting for Smartboard projector arms and projectors to be delivered and then all Smartboards and projectors will be installed by subcontractor. Printers have been delivered and more computers are forthcoming. Such have been ordered.
- We are ordering more video cameras for our video inquiry team and other innovation groups we have organized in the school. More teachers are experimenting with recording aspects of their instruction for access from Edline.net.
- Teachers updated their Edline.net web pages on November 2nd, so check for updates.
- The Internet Cafe is up and running. Students have access to the room during lunch periods and teachers can bring their classes in for instructional use.

- The School Leadership Team Agendas and Minutes are now on Google Docs to increase transparency.
- High school and middle school orientation presentations are being published to the school's website.
- Reso A equipment is scheduled to arrive in the next week. This includes a 20-inch iMac computer in many of our classrooms, 110 laptops, and approximately 37 printers.

Facility Enhancements/Issues

- Curtains and Sound System are Complete.
- We are waiting for new lighting installation in theatre.
- Microphones descending from stage ceiling will be motorized.
- Music Technology Room is almost complete. The floor was put in and the room was painted. We are awaiting new chairs for this room, the internet cafe, the technology lab, and the library.
- We do have a leak in the roof over the gym. It has been reported since September 2010. We have informed all relevant SCA and DSF points of contact.
- We are awaiting budgetary parameters for landscaping. If anyone has suggestions, we are interested in low maintenance and beautiful!
- Duct work installation is moving slowly in most rooms.

Safety/Transportation/Logistics/Youth Development

- Parent meeting and workshop this month focus: Bullying, cyber-bullying, safe and inclusive school setting.
- A letter was sent home reminding all students and parents about Discipline Policy Items, specifically things that are considered non-negotiable weapons classifications such as toy guns, laser pointers, snaps, cap gun caps, etc. All parents were reminded to read through the discipline policy again with their children. We will send a similar letter home before and after the winter break and again in the spring.
- Examination of the area between Seaside Avenue and B105 Street subway at night indicates that it is dimly lit. It will be suggested to student government to take this issue up with the DOT. Parents should consider this issue as well if they have any contacts who may assist with this matter. This will be an issue as the subway station becomes more active and students must walk to such in the dark/early evening after practice.
- The DEP was responsive and widened the sidewalk between B104 and B105 Street.
- No action has been taken by the DOT or Keyfood to remove the trip hazard at B105 Street and Rockaway Freeway. This has been communicated to them numerous times over the past 5 years!

Music, Art, Film, etc.

- Broadway Junior production will take place this Spring
- Thanks to the PTA's \$4500 grant a new camera has been purchased that will be used to document a variety of activities around the school. The Scholars' Academy stage crew members will be trained to use the new camera.
- The Scholars' Academy Seawolves Marching Band participated in the annual Halloween Hayride, which took place on October 28, 2010 at Floyd Bennett Field. This event provided band students from the Scholars' Academy an opportunity to entertain special education students from District 75, making it a more memorable event for both. Please visit the Scholars' Academy website and click on arts to watch a video of the band performing *Poker Face*.

Physical Education/Sports

- PSAL has not provided funding for any spring sports. There is no recourse of which we are aware. The school has questions regard to the criteria used by the PSAL for determining sports in addition to the policies of the PSAL which the school feels are not good for student athletes, specifically the rule that if you attend school A with a one team, for example bowling, and school A does not have a football team, then you may not play football on school B that does have a football team. The Scholars' Academy believes these rules force students to make decisions between sports and academics.

We also believe that these rules harm student college scholarship opportunities. We are proposing that the PSAL rethink these rules given the numerous small high schools that exist and that parameters are drafted to permit campus clusters of schools by sports. It is our position that this will save taxpayers money, improve competition, and meet the needs of all student athletes. The Scholars' Academy has many questions as to how the PSAL is funded and to whom it is accountable. Perhaps if this was known, we would know who to reach out to in order to obtain an audience for our ideas.

- PSAL Girls' Volleyball
- PSAL HS Bowling
- PSAL Boys and Girls Basketball
- PSAL Swimming
- Self Funded Sports
- Middle School Sports
- Jordan Fundamentals Grant Received! \$12,000

Middle School Guidance/Youth Development/Community Service

Ms. Rozman and Mr. Augarten are continuing to go into middle school classes for character education workshops; this month's topic addresses the bullying/teasing faced by LGBTQ teens. Ms. Rozman also began a Girls' Group this month called "The Girl's Perspective" for middle school girls, meets on Mondays during 5th period in room 111. Any parents interested in having their daughter join this group, please contact Ms. Rozman.

High School Applications

HS Apps. have been distributed to all 8th graders and select 9th graders. Completed and signed apps. are due by Dec. 3rd- although they can be submitted to Ms. Rozman anytime before then. TACHS Applicant Records for catholic/private schools are due to Ms. Rozman by Nov. 19th. Results of the Specialized High School Admissions Test will be available in February 2011. The Scholars' Academy High School Info Session & Tour took place on Nov. 4th.

High School Guidance/Youth Development/Community Service

High School students recently came together and started a Key Club- an internationally recognized service club for high school students. Club meets every Monday at 3:30 pm and Thursday at 8:15 am in room 138. Ms. Trpic and Ms. Rozman are the staff advisors. First project will be to organize a clothing and canned food drive to take place in Nov. or Dec.

College Applications

Intake takes place every morning and during lunch every day with Mr. Johnson and Mrs. Caraccio in Mrs. Smyth's office

Middle School Events and Trips

7th grade Historical & Science based Overnight Trip to Philadelphia, May 25/26
Chemistry in the Classroom 6th grade trip to Applebee's in June
7th grade trip to Greenwood Cemetery December 3rd & 10th

High School Events and Trips

Music of India musicians will visit Ms. Morrith's class this month.

Thank you to all students and staff that volunteered their time to assist at the High School Info session and tour!

On November 4th, select Seniors and Juniors participated in a tour and workshop program at the Cooper-Hewitt Design Museum. The program highlighted new design innovations in communication which is featured in the National Design Triennial.

Spain meeting took place at 6pm tonight. we have 11 students attending this trip in February.

Professional Development Happenings

Productive and highly engaging staff pd day took place on Election Day

Awards and Recognitions

Staff Member Award - Mrs. Lyons & Mrs. Caraccio__