



The Scholars' Academy

Mission Statement: To Prepare for College and Careers of the 21st Century
"Technology Today, Smarter Tomorrow: Removing Time and Place from Teaching and Learning"
27Q323 is an Accelerated College Preparatory School for Grades 6-12
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Principal
Brian O'Connell

Assistant Principals
Toni Marie Viera, Michele Smyth, Scott Milczewski

Principal's Monthly Parent Association and School Leadership Team Report 2014-2015

Principal O'Connell's Statement:

November is a time that we affiliate with Thanksgiving or the concept of gratitude. We are very proud and grateful of the work that our students are doing with the support of several key staff to teach us all a valuable lesson about gratitude. During Hurricane Sandy, 60% of our students were homeless or displaced. Two years later, our students who are attending Millennium Development's after school program are leading the show "Thanks By Giving Toy Drive for Homeless Children." Toys are being anonymously collected for donation. The students are partnering with several Millennium Development sites, student government, key club, the student government of PS 132K in Williamsburg (They helped us during Hurricane Sandy too!), and Kid-Care NYC to donate toys to homeless children in our immediate area. The drive started on October 29th, 2014 and ends on November 24th, 2014, prior to Thanksgiving.

Scholars' Academy is also grateful for its hard working staff. Today, we are officially celebrating the tenure of several Scholars' Academy staffers:

Teacher Anna Bulatewicz
Teacher Kristin Cangemi
Teacher Susan Deruvo
Teacher Ryan Milano
Teacher Jessica Renna
Assistant Principal Toni Marie Viera

Tenure is earned through a lot of hard work and dedicated talent.

Tenured Staff Members Have:

- Documented Evidence of **Positively Impacting Student Learning** Through Professionalism with regard to Planning and Preparation
- Created a Positive Culture in the Classroom Environment
- Leveraged Engaging and Purposeful Classroom Instructional Practices
- Imparted Professional Contributions to a High Performing School Culture

Our school community should also be grateful for great news concerning our 2014-2015 new NYC School Quality Snapshot Report for:

Middle School: http://schools.nyc.gov/OA/SchoolReports/2013-14/School_Quality_Guide_2014_EMS_Q323.pdf

High School: http://schools.nyc.gov/OA/SchoolReports/2013-14/School_Quality_Guide_2014_HS_Q323.pdf

Both reports indicate that **our school exceeded its target for student progress, student achievement, school environment, and college and career readiness categories!**

We additional great news to be thankful for as well:

- Kerri Naples is receiving a Sloan Award for Excellence in Teaching Mathematics on December 3rd, 2014 at Cooper Union!
- Scholars' Academy student Annika, Magic Box CEO, Nelle Stokes, and I were featured on Fox TV. The segment acknowledged the powerful and positive impact that the student created documentary, titled "Dear World, A Letter from the Rockaways..." had upon on our school's morale after Hurricane Sandy.

<http://www.myfoxny.com/Clip/10815867/superstorm-sandy-documentary>

Additional School Information from Key Staff for November, 2014

School Leadership Team CEP Goal Report:

Currently the School Leadership Team is becoming Familiar with the "Capacity Framework" released by the chancellor's office.

The framework layers concepts in the following sequence:

Trust, Effective School Leadership, Strong Family-Community Ties, Rigorous Instruction, Collaborative Teachers, Supportive Environment, all supporting the apex of Student Achievement.

To this end, trust that our SLT is monitoring our pursuit of CEP Goal #1, by reviewing samples of the complex and engaging task designs across multiple subjects that differentiate for student ability, interest/choice, or talent. These tasks are designed by collaborative teacher teams to ensure that students are supported while engaged in rigorous instruction. SLT is also monitoring CEP Goal #2, which focuses on establishing a structured Student Advisory Program. The Advisory Program creates trust between students and staff, while also ensuring students feel supported. CEP Goal #3 is our Professional Development Plan which was reviewed in a prior meeting.

Athletics:

- The PSAL Girls Volleyball team finished the regular season with an undefeated record of 12-0. Playoffs begin Friday 11/14 at Scholars at 5pm.
- The PSAL Coed Bowling team reached the playoffs for the first time in school history. First playoff match is Thursday 11/13 at 4:00pm at Shell Lanes.
- PSAL Coed Swimming team will begin the season Thursday at 5pm at Richmond Hill HS.
- M.S. Girls Volleyball is currently 2-1 and play crosstown rival M.S. 105 this Friday at 10:00am at Scholars.
- The 2nd Annual M.S. Coed Soccer Turkey Bowl takes place Tuesday November 24th at 10:00am at Fort Tilden. There will be 8 schools from across Queens taking part in the event.

Parent Information & Involvement:

- Thursday, November 20th is a non-attendance day for all students – students will not report to school on this day.
- Parent Teacher Conferences will take place on Thursday, November 20, 2014 from 8:30-11:30am, 1pm to 3pm and 5:30pm to 8:00pm at The Scholars' Academy.
- The online system for selecting the most convenient time slot is now available.
- Please click on [this link](#) or go to tinyurl.com/PTCFall2014 to indicate the time you wish to attend. Parents and guardians who schedule a time through this system will be seen first. You must create an account in order to select a time slot. If you need assistance with using this system, please contact one of our parent coordinators: Marta Laczynski, mlaczynski@scholarsnyc.com or Felicia Williams, fwilliams@scholarsnyc.com.
- **We will be hosting Open Classrooms on Friday, November 21**
- This will take place from 9:00am – 11:00am (during period 2, 3 and 4 classes)
- Please come visit on this day to watch teaching and learning in person
- You may also stay on this day for small group workshops during period 5 on how to use Pupil Path to stay informed of your child's performance and school events

College and Career Readiness Office

- In order to ensure that this year's Local Community/Career Awareness day is just as successful as our first, we are asking for your help! We welcome participants from diverse occupational backgrounds (including local business owners and entrepreneurs), with varied amounts of experience to speak to our students in a small classroom setting. We hope that you will consider participating in our Local Community/Career Awareness day on January 14th. It is a wonderful event that offers you the opportunity to shape the future of our youth. If you are interested in participating, please contact Mr. Moretta at gmoretta@scholarsnyc.com.
- The College Office hosted a College Standardized Testing Workshop tonight from 6-7pm. All 9th-11th grade students and parents were invited to attend
- The College Office is excited to announce that we have packaged 54 students to apply to college early, an increase from 32 students last year!
- 18 11th grade students will be selected to participate in our yearly Broadridge Financial Solutions Ambassador Program. Students are selected based on an essay application process. These 18 students will have an opportunity to work, firsthand, with professionals in their field, visit the Broadridge headquarters in Edgewood, New York, participate in a college and career day panel, as well as benefit from interview and resume-writing workshops organized by Broadridge. Lastly, one of our Broadridge finalists will be awarded a \$5000 scholarship, presented by the CEO of Broadridge, Richard Daly.

Science Team:

- There are two upcoming STEM science trips to the Bodies Museum in Times Square. Both the Biology Club and the 8th grade will be attending.
- This year students have been using Vernier software and probes, as well as other hands on lab equipment, which were purchased last year with funds from the PA. We are looking to increase the labs students investigate in the area of nuclear chemistry too with more equipment for the spring. Thank you!

Spanish Team:

- The entire 9th grade is going to see “The Book of Life” this month. This movie is both in English and Spanish and will give students an opportunity to practice the skills they are learning in class!

Humanities Team:

- Every middle school class will partake in a spelling bee and the class finalists will compete in a school-wide spelling bee this month. Our school-wide finalists will participate in the borough and hopefully city-wide spelling bees later in the school year.
- Tonight is Reading Celebration Night until 8 pm throughout the library and select second floor classrooms. Students can play games such as “book bingo” and “are you smarter than a humanities teacher”, as well as blog and talk about favorite books, engage in a book swap, create bookmarks, speak to a published author and watch our 6th grade drama group perform. Assemblyman Goldfeder is also attending to hand out certificates to students who participated in the Summer Reading Challenge.
- Many students are on their way to reaching the goal of reading at least 25 books this year! Have you seen your child reading at home lately? Help support this goal by reading with your child at home!
- The entire 8th grade will travel to Ellis Island this Thursday for a full day field trip. Thank you to all parents who volunteered to assist with this tip.

Deans Office:

- OORS Data based Goal:
 - After analyzing OORS data, and from observations in and around the building, we will be focusing on the use of cell phones by students in the next marking period. This type of infractions (B05) are up from 15 to 20 during the same time period last year
 - In order to address these items, the safety team will take the following steps:
 - Create two morning messages per week designed to ensure expectations and rules are clear with students, and to dissuade cell phone use
 - Create Pupil Path alerts to parents asking them to speak with their children about proper cell phone use on campus
 - Ensure that each month a reminder of the no cell phone policy is in the PA agenda
 - Have student government and PBIS mentors speak to students and HRs about this
 - Conduct mini commercials during morning lineup for students
- Respect for All Poster Contest:
 - Ms. Worster, working with her middle school students, submitted the top entries in the Respect for All poster contest to our Network Youth Development team
 - The winning posters will be displayed at Tweed, 52 Chambers Street, and recognized at a ceremony during the week of December 8th (information forthcoming from DOE).

Thank you,
Principal O'Connell