



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
320 Beach 104 Street, Rockaway Park, NY 11694
<http://schools.nyc.gov/SchoolPortals/27/Q323>
Tel: (718) 474-6918 Fax: (718) 945-8958

Principal

Brian O'Connell: *Physical Education/Technology*

Assistant Principals

Michele Smyth: *Math/Arts*

Scott Milczewski: *Science/Safety/Spanish*

Toni Marie Viera: *Humanities/Special Education*

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

Dear Parents and Caregivers:

In less than two weeks, the school will be on break for the holidays. I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone for their hard work, while wishing one and all a healthy and happy holiday season. Many of our students will be celebrating a Happy Kwanzaa, a Happy Hanukkah, a Merry Christmas, a Happy New Year, etc. Many different cultures celebrate this time of year in unique ways. Each day, I witness how the variety of cultural backgrounds of our students adds value to our school. I was recently interviewed by a press agency inquiring about our school's diversity and learning environment. It did not surprise me that **Scholars' Academy is one of the most diverse schools in New York City. In fact, one website (K12.niche.com) depicts us as the second most diverse school in the state and the 18th most diverse school in the country!**

<https://k12.niche.com/rankings/public-high-schools/most-diverse/s/new-york/>

<https://k12.niche.com/rankings/public-high-schools/most-diverse/>

Students at Scholars' Academy represent a wide array of cultures and backgrounds which benefits us all through the sharing of our unique perspectives at the table of learning each day. It is a privilege and honor to work in such a dynamic and respectful learning environment.

Our students recently demonstrated the spirit of *Showing Thanks and Giving*. A cross section of student clubs raised over 750 toys for homeless children as well as over 750 toys, plus an additional 2,400 teddy bears, named Ben Flyin', from the Happy Hearts Fund and United Airlines, which are being donated to children of the Rockaways impacted by Hurricane Sandy. Many toys and bears were donated at the Lil' North Pole Event, run by Mr. Joseph Mure and a tremendous cast of local supporters, which focuses on raising awareness for the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation. Our phenomenal band, led by Mr. Leicht, choruses led by Ms. Kostik and Ms. Kohn, and Step Team, led by Scholars' Alumnus, Delicia Hall performed before more than a thousand people at the event this past Sunday. We are very proud of the work toward this end by our students in our student government, key club, and Millennium Development afterschool program. Our Millennium Development students are also conducting a canned food drive.

Our school's School Quality Guides and Snapshot Reports are online. This is essentially the reworked New York City school report card or progress report. Go to the link below for details. We are celebrating the fact that our school earned a ranking of **Exceeding the Target** in every category on the report: **Student Progress, Student Achievement, and Learning Environment**. We are very grateful for everyone's contributions to this success.

<http://schools.nyc.gov/SchoolPortals/27/Q323/AboutUs/Statistics/default.htm>

Great teaching is a big part of the successful School Quality scores we received. We recently celebrated two very important staff members of our Seawolf Culture. **Ms. Naples, HS Algebra II and Trigonometry teacher, received a Sloan Award for Excellence in Teaching Mathematics and Science.** The award brought \$5,000 to Ms. Naples math classroom as well as \$2,500 to our school's mathematics program. Ms. Naples was honored at the Great Hall on the Cooper Union Campus. This is the same auditorium where Abraham Lincoln delivered a speech on February 27th, 1860. In this speech, Abraham Lincoln defined his views on slavery and his belief and agreement that the Founding Fathers would not want slavery expanded into the western territories. This speech is considered important in the later success Lincoln had becoming the Republican nominee for the presidency.

We also celebrated a long overdue celebration of Mr. Joseph Lunati, our school's athletic director at the High School Outstanding Scholar Assembly. Mr. Lunati is a charter member of our Scholars' Staff, who works tirelessly to build a great fitness and sports program at our school. Mr. Lunati has brought us more than 18 teams spanning middle and high school grades.

Go Seawolves! You can watch the celebration via this link:

<http://www.highschoolcube.com/event/high-school-outstanding-scholar-marking-period-1-389686>

Please continue reading this month's report, as this report has multiple contributors from across our school's numerous teams. Thank you for reading and for supporting our school. I wish each and every one of you and your families a Healthy and Happy New Year!

Happy Holidays,
Principal O'Connell

College and Career Readiness Office

For questions, contact Ms. Villa. Mvilla@scholarsnyc.com

- 35 students were accepted to LIU Brooklyn during their on-site decision day on Monday 12/8 and received \$428,000.00 in scholarship money
- 11th grade students will participate in our annual Broadridge Career Day tomorrow, 12/11
- St. Francis College will be sending two admissions representatives to Scholars' on Friday 12/12 to interview 12th graders. SFC will be giving every 12th grader an admissions decision and scholarship information on the spot at this on-site admissions day
- All 10th and 11th grade students will receive their PSAT score reports, along with a lesson on how to make the most of the score reports in their English classes on Friday 12/12
- Monday, 12/15 is our annual Financial Aid Night. A financial aid representative from the Higher Education Department of NY State will be at Scholars' Academy discussing the FAFSA, TAP and all matters of financial aid for all 12th grade students and parents
- School Report Week for all 12th grade students is 12/15-12/19. This is the week that the College Office sends all required documents to the colleges to which the students are applying

Deans Office

For Questions, contact Sean Brandeis at Sbrandeis@scholarsnyc.com

- Thursday, December 11th is our yearly Broadridge Career Day event. Six professionals from Broadridge Financial Solutions, our corporate partner, will be visiting Scholars' and offering a Career Day panel for our 11th grade students. This is the second, of multiple events throughout the year, as part of our Broadridge/Scholars'/PENCIL Partnership
- OORS Incident Summary by Location (Since First Day of School to Date Compared to last year during this same time frame)

Note that the typical Level 1 Infraction is lateness to class or cell phone

LOCATION	2013	2014
Auditorium	4	1 (1 Level 1 and 1 Level 4)
Bathroom	3	1 (2 Level 1's)
Cafeteria	2	5 (3 Level 1's, 1 Level 4, and 1 Level 5)
Classroom	45	27 (19 Level 1's, 2 Level 2's, 5 Level 3's, 1 Level 4)
Gym	6	4 (3 Level 3's and 1 Level 4)
Hall	6	3 (1 Level 1 and 2 Level 3's)
Playground	21	10 (9 Level 1's, 1 Level 3)

- The number of dress code infractions continues to decline as the school year proceeds. Students are taking the dress code policy seriously and are adhering to the rules. We officially started counting dress code infractions on September 15, 2014. From September 15 - October 31, 2014, there were **150** infractions. For the month of November, we had **88** infractions. This is a huge improvement!

Athletics

Contact Mr. Lunati with any questions at jlunati@scholarsnyc.com

- Our 2nd Annual Turkey Bowl MS Soccer Tournament took place at Ft. Tilden on 11/29. Scholars took home 1st place (5 teams competed)
- MS Boys Basketball tryouts begin 12/15 at 3:00pm, coached by Ms Bender.
- MS Volleyball Championship takes place on 12/18 at MS 207 at 10:0am.
- PSAL Boys Basketball team is currently 3-0, next game today at August Martin HS
- PSAL Girls Basketball team is currently 1-1, next game is today at home.
- PSAL Coed Swimming has their next “home” match 12/10 at Richmond Hill HS

Testing

Contact Ms. Collieran with any questions at dcolleran@scholarsnyc.com

- Middle school students will take a practice ELA Exam January 14, 16, & 17
- Middle school students will take mid-term exams in January, please check pupilpath for specific dates
- Term 1 Finals and January Regents week will take place the week of January 26-30. High school students will be in attendance only for their scheduled exams

Advisory

Contact Ms. Collieran with any questions dcolleran@scholarsnyc.com

- The second session of Advisory took place on November 24th, the student responses for this session was extremely positive
- The next Advisory session is scheduled for January 22nd
- We would like to thank the PA/SLT and the Executive Board for your support with this program. The designated funds will be used to purchase supplies to improve the quality of the Advisory sessions.

December Trips and School Events

Contact Mr. Brandeis with any questions at sbrandeis@scholarsnyc.com

- **12/10** - Operation Santa - Scholars' Academy band students performed holiday songs today at JFK Airport Hanger for students with disabilities today, Key Club hosted a movie afternoon where students watched Home Alone in the Theater and brought canned foods as donations for December's food drive
- **12/12** - 7th grade Humanities Theater Trip Brooklyn College
- **12/22 & 12/23** - 8th Grade STEM trip to Bodies Museum in Manhattan
- **12/17** - Winter Concert 6:30 pm
- **12/19** - Middle School Outstanding Scholar Breakfast 7am and Assembly 10am
- **12/22** - High School Chorus Caroling Trip to Rockaway Nursing Homes
- **12/24** - School closed / School resumes on Monday, January 5th
- **1/14/15** - Next PA Meeting

Sincerely,



Brian O'Connell, Principal