



# The Scholars' Academy

**Mission Statement: To Prepare for College and Careers of the 21<sup>st</sup> 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**

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## **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**

March 11th, 2015

Top of the Morning Parents and Guardians:

March is Irish Heritage Month and I am grateful that I was selected to represent Scholars' Academy as a Deputy Grand Marshal in the Rockaway St. Patrick's Day Parade. The absolute highlight of my day was when, from the reviewing stand, I saw the sea of Scholars' vibrant blue marching toward me. The band, cheerleaders, and step team looked and sounded great. Mrs. Kostik, Mr. Leicht, and Mrs. Mainhart are a phenomenal team, each bringing their unique talents to help our students shine. Our step team, funded by Millennium Development's after school program was incredible. The middle school step team was led by Scholars' Academy Alumnus Delicia Hall and high school student, Nyree D.. Our school received recognition for having the most "Spirit." It is certainly most deserved.

More good news: Our boys high school basketball team made it to the playoffs for the second year in a row under Coach Tawil. Last month, the middle school step team took 3rd place out of 15 teams in the Daily News Black History Month Step Showcase. We also are proud of Scholars' students who attend the Millennium Program participated in the MoMath Competition. In addition, Millennium funded chess club members, Jonathan R. and Analeah C. took 2nd place in a recent chess tournament. The Millennium dance team that works with high school student, Victoria M. is preparing to be in a "Beyond the Stars" dance tournament in April. The Millennium funded Drama Club will be putting on a production of "Guys and Dolls" in the beginning of June and our middle school basketball team and robotics team will be competing against other Millennium after school SONYC sites. I am also proud to announce that Scholars' Academy has received recognition as a "Respect for All School" for our work to better connect with students, prevent bullying, and provide socio-emotional support for our students in a proactive manner.

As we pass the midway mark of the school year, it is important that students and staff alike remain focused on each task within each lesson. By having a granular focus as we execute our work, we will be in a better position to reap strong results on the often controversial end of the year high stakes exams. To support our staff and students in maximizing their results, we have a robust academic acceleration Saturday program planned for just about every exam and testing grade. It is imperative that students who are invited to these programs attend, so please remain on the lookout for notices and pupil path announcements. If you have any questions, you may contact your child's teacher of a respective subject you may be concerned about for more information. Please bring any questions you have to Parent Teacher Conferences tomorrow as well. By reviewing your child's report cards and grades online in advance and by writing down 1 or 2 questions, you may get more from your time with the teachers with whom you meet. You may also want to also prioritize which teachers you meet with based upon which subjects you are most concerned about.

**Thank you for partnering with us in the very important work that we do to educate our students.  
Please read below for additional announcements from other key stakeholders.**

Thank you,  
Principal O'Connell

### **Additional Announcements**

#### **STEM Family Night Celebration**

For questions, contact Mr. Milczewski [smilczewski@scholarsnyc.com](mailto:smilczewski@scholarsnyc.com)

- On Monday March 16th we will be hosting our annual STEM celebration. Students will be visiting various classrooms during the day and presenting their science projects via online Google Presentations. In the evening, from 5:30-7:00pm, all students are invited to present their projects to their families and friends, as well as participate in several math activities related to Super Pi day this year on March 15, 2015! We invite all parents and guardians to attend our evening event on Monday - hope to see you there!

#### **Science Recognition:**

- 9th Grade students Andriana L and Nasreen D are participating in the Urban Barcode Project! This competition increases these students' exposure to STEM activities and is a great extension of the content they are learning in their classes. Their goal will be to analyze specific vegetarian brands in order to determine if these so called "meatless" products are truthfully advertised or simply mislabeled. Students will be using equipment and instruments at the Harlem DNA Lab. This experience will help these students, and all students competing, learn valuable scientific skills needed to be college and career ready.

#### **Parent Teacher Conferences**

For questions, contact Ms. Williams [Fwilliams@scholarsnyc.com](mailto:Fwilliams@scholarsnyc.com)

- Parent Teacher Conferences will take place tomorrow, Thursday, March 12, 2015 from 8:30 am - 11:30 am, 1 pm - 3 pm and 5:30 pm - 8 pm. Parents and caregivers were asked to make appointments using our online appointment system. The GO store will be open during the conference times tomorrow if anyone would like to purchase Scholars' Academy apparel. The GO store takes payments in the form of cash

and/or checks. We would like to thank the PA for hosting a staff meal during this event. We would also like to thank all of our students who will be volunteering as time keepers for community service.

### **Parent Surveys**

For questions, contact Ms. Williams [Fwilliams@scholarsnyc.com](mailto:Fwilliams@scholarsnyc.com)

- Parent Surveys will be distributed tomorrow to all parents during PTC. There will be various survey centers located throughout the building where you can receive your paper survey and/or complete the survey using technology. It is our goal that all of our parents complete the parent survey this school-year.

### **Middle School Parent Workshops**

- There will be two parent workshops tomorrow, March 12, 2015 focusing on how parents can help prepare their students for the **Middle School Common Core ELA & Math Assessments**. These workshops take place in the theater from 11:00am-11:30am and between 5pm-5:30 pm.

### **Deans Office**

For questions contact: Mr. Brandeis for MS [sbrandeis@scholarsnyc.com](mailto:sbrandeis@scholarsnyc.com) or Ms. Brown for HS [rbrown@scholarsnyc.com](mailto:rbrown@scholarsnyc.com)

- The Scholars' Academy continues its partnership corporate partnership with Broadridge Financial Solutions, through the collaborative efforts of PENCIL. Broadridge's Human Resources division will be offering our 11th grade workshops on resume writing, interviewing skills and personal branding. The next two workshops are on March 20th and April 21st.
- PBIS and Scholar Dollar Redemption Program
  - Students have been redeeming many scholar dollars for incentives and prizes. Students receive these dollars from teachers for exhibiting positive, scholarly behavior.
  - Today was scholar dollar redemption day and students redeemed over 200 dollars!! This means that students are exhibiting excellent behavior and teachers and staff are taking notice.
  - There will be a big pizza party next week to celebrate these students for all of their hard work and CHART behavior!!

### **Testing Report by Ms. Colleran**

For questions, contact Ms. Colleran. [dcolleran@scholarsnyc.com](mailto:dcolleran@scholarsnyc.com)

#### **NYS ELA and Math Exams**

- The NYS ELA exam will take place on April 14, 15, & 16
- Grades 6 & 7 will take the NYS Math exam on April 22, 23 & 24
- Extra help and support classes for these exams began in February. Contact your child's math or humanities teachers for more information about these programs

#### **MS ELA Updates**

- Students will continue to prepare for the NYS ELA exam by working on ELA test prep materials such as NY Ready, Castle Learning, Newsela, Myonreader, and a variety of resources

#### **MS Math Updates**

- Students will continue to prepare for the NYS Math exam by working on math test prep materials such as NY Ready and a variety of other sources

#### **HS Testing Updates**

- AP Exam Registration took place throughout February, information regarding exam dates can be found on the Parent Resource page located on the Scholars' Academy Landing Page
- SAT and SAT Subject Exams Registration is open for the May 2nd exam date, information regarding these exams can be found on College Board
- June Regents will take place on June 2nd and the week of June 16 through the 24th

#### **Advisory Updates**

- The next Student Advisory Session will take place on March 18th during periods 2 and 3
- The theme for the session is to identify stressors and supports
- The feedback from students and advisors continues to be very positive
- The advisory task force would like to thank Counseling in Schools, SLT and the PA for their continued support of this program

### **Guidance Team Report**

#### **College and Career Readiness Office Report by Ms. Villa**

For questions, contact Ms. Villa. [Mvilla@scholarsnyc.com](mailto:Mvilla@scholarsnyc.com)

- Individual Junior College Meetings began on Monday, March 2nd. Every Junior is scheduled for an individual meeting with a college counselor.
- March 23rd-March 27th is March to College Week for 10th grade students. The week is filled with preparation and activities that focus on College and Career Readiness.
- Our annual College Fair is scheduled for Wednesday, April 1st from 6:30-8:00pm. All Junior students should attend and Freshman and Sophomore students are invited as well!
- We are hosting our very first overnight Junior College Trip April 16-17th. All Junior students were invited to attend.
- All High School results came in on March 6th and students are in the process of accepting or declining their offers. Students have until March 20th or accept or decline their placement.

