



# 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  
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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**

May 13, 2015

Dear Parents/Caregivers:

During the parent association meeting, parents will be voting on our school's request to adjust our calendar so that we may continue investing in our staff's ability to plan, assess, know, and support student learning as well as socio-emotional needs. Our staff overwhelmingly supported the school's "School Based Option" to adjust our school calendar and several UFT (teacher's union) contractual items so that we may better pursue our school's mission of excellence.

To maintain our school's high level of functionality, I ask that you consider voting during May 13's regular scheduled Parent Association Meeting to support the items included in our School Based Option calendar adjustments.

**Over 100 parents voted online (As of 5/11/15).**

<https://docs.google.com/a/scholarsnyc.com/forms/d/1kC9-3P1jq3-S9KluzRmb-UBsf1kgvghCaEtkJGaCRSU/viewform>

The following supportive results are in:

**100% Early Dismissal (mid-day) for grades 10-12 after completing the PSAT Exam on 10/15/14.**

**95% Non Attendance Day for all students to expand time for middle and high school students for Parent Teacher Conferences on Thursday 11/19/15 and Thursday 3/10/16. 11/17/15 and 3/17/16 will remain half days for students and the afternoon sessions for staff will include parent outreach and professional learning.**

**99% Non Attendance Day for Middle School Students on 2/1/16 to enable all day teacher data analysis sessions of Term I student work and grades on 2/1/16.**

**100% Early Dismissal for 8th graders with HS who will be completing, the Living Environment Exam on the morning of 6/15/16, the Algebra I Common Core Exam on the morning of 6/16/16, and the Spanish Proficiency Exam on the morning of 6/20/16**

**95% Continued 1:12pm Friday Dismissal for all students.**

As we enter the home-stretch of 2014-2015, I thank you for your continued trust and support. We are doing our very best to ensure that the quality of our school continues to function at a high level. Please read the information provided in the rest of this month's report to gain insight into more specific important "happenings" and news. Have a great May! Please remember to turn to the next page or scroll below (if reading online) for upcoming events and important news.

Sincerely,  
Principal O'Connell

## Upcoming Family and Community Events

For questions, email [FWilliams@scholarsnyc.com](mailto:FWilliams@scholarsnyc.com)

- On Tuesday, May 26th from 5:30 pm - 7 pm, The Parent Association will host a Radio Bingo event for Scholars' students. This is a free event that will take place in the school dining room. Radio Bingo is a combination of Name that Tune & Bingo. We are hoping that students attend Radio Bingo while their parents attend The Ryan's Story Presentation in the theater at the same time. T-Shirts and prizes will be given out at Radio Bingo.
- On the last day of school Friday June 26th, The Scholars' Academy community will join together and attend The Brooklyn Cyclones baseball game. On this evening, The Scholars' Academy 6th grade - 12th grade chorus will sing God Bless America during the 7th inning stretch. We are hoping to have many Scholars' staff, students, parents and families attend this event. There will also be a firework show on this evening in Coney Island. The game starts at 7pm and tickets will be sold soon out of the GO store during student lunch periods.

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

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

- All students, including students with disabilities, are encouraged to work toward the highest diploma option available; as of April 2015, the New York City Department of Education has communicated some changes to the current diploma requirements. For detailed information about the graduation requires, please go to: <http://schools.nyc.gov/RulesPolicies/GraduationRequirements>
- The Scholars' Academy strongly believes in the importance of students being connected to their community by giving back through service. In response to this importance, we work diligently to provide students with a variety of service opportunities throughout the year. Please visit our Community Service link on [www.scholarsnyc.com](http://www.scholarsnyc.com) to view current events and to view the monthly HS Student Opportunities Bulletin and MS Youth Opportunities. NYC Service (<http://www.nycservice.org/>) also provides information about service opportunities for students citywide
- In April 2015, the NYC Department of Education announced that they will offer a new Diploma Endorsement for students who meet a minimum of 100 hours of independent service, related service-learning, and/or a school-led service program **over his or her high school years**. Any senior who has logged a minimum of 100 hours of service can apply for a Service Seal
- Congratulations to our current seniors who have been awarded 281 scholarships, totaling: **\$15,811,230!**
- All 11th grade students must ask 1 teachers for a letter of recommendation, complete the counselor questionnaire, and the parents must complete the parent questionnaire in Naviance by May 29th
- All 11th grade parents are invited to schedule a college meeting with their child's college advisor. Please contact Mrs. Villa, Mrs. Caraccio, or Ms. Lagombra for a meeting

## National Honor Society

- 7th & 10th graders that met the criteria for NJHS/ NHS and submitted their applications on time will be notified on Friday, May 22nd with a formal invitation to the induction ceremony
- The NHS induction ceremony (10th graders) will take place on Wednesday, June 10th in the Scholars' Academy theater at 10:00 AM
- The NJHS induction ceremony (7th graders) will take place on Wednesday, June 10th in the Scholars' Academy theater at 1:00 PM

**STEM:**

- 20 Students from 6th, 7th, 8th, 9th, and 10th grade were chosen to participate in the NSL (national science league) exam competition. Students participated in a 35 minute exam and the top ten highest scoring students (from each grade) will be entered on the CM League website along with rewarded with a paper certificate.
- Two members of the Biology Club, 9th grade students Nasreen D. and Andriana L. are participating in the Urban Barcoding Project, sponsored by the DNA Learning Center of Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory. Andriana and Nasreen will present their project, "Fooling Vegetarians is a Missed-Streak" on May 27th from 3:00-6:00pm at the Museum of Natural History. This competition exposed these students to sophisticated molecular techniques used to extract and analyze DNA.

**Music Team:**

- Spring Music & Arts Festival, Wed., May 20, 2015, 6:30 p.m.
- Memorial Day Parade, Mon., May 25, 2015, 11:30 a.m.

**Athletics:**

- PSAL Baseball team ended the season strong with three wins in a row, the team is awaiting the playoffs which will begin next week.
- PSAL Golf team is 6-3 and has a match @Douglaston GC on 5/14 @4:30pm
- Congratulations to James M., Zach M., and Christian A. with their selection into the PSAL Individual Golf Championship taking place on 5/13 @ Split Rock Golf Course
- PSAL Softball team finished the regular season with an impressive 12-2 record. Playoffs for Softball begin next week
- PSAL STUNT has a tournament on 5/16 @ HS of Fashion @10am
- PSAL Tennis finished the regular season with an 8-4 record and have now advanced to the 2nd round of the playoffs, next match is 5/13 @ Grover Cleveland HS @ 4pm
- MS Coed Track and Field team has a meet Thursday 5/14 @10am @ Astoria Park
- A big thank you to the PA for their support of the 6th Annual Sports Awards dinner which is taking place on Wednesday 5/27 @6pm @ Roma View. Any parents or athletes interested in purchasing tickets please contact Ms. Molino at JMolino@scholarsnyc.com . Tickets are \$40 and can be purchased up until 5/20.
- 10th annual Field Day will take place on 5/18 for Cohort 6a and 608 and 5/19 for Cohort 6B and 607. The event will take place at Bergen Beach starting at 10am.

**Visual Arts Team:**

- Ninth grade students in the Sculpture course will be participating in the World of Art Program at the Metropolitan Museum of Art. *The World of Art* program is designed specifically for high school students and presents them the unique opportunity to explore the galleries in small groups, with a museum instructor. Students will visit the Museum for three separate thematic tours, focusing on a cross-cultural introduction to the Museum's collection.
- Congratulations to Christine C., one of three finalists in the Dedalus Art History Foundation Contest. Christine has been awarded a \$1000 scholarship.
- Congratulations to Mariah M. who is a P.S. Art Finalist, which is a five borough competition. Mariah's art work will be displayed at the Metropolitan Museum of art from 6/10/15 to 10/18/15. Her artwork will then be displayed in TWEED Courthouse until the end of the year.
- Congratulations to Terry C, Julia K, Christine C., and Breana M. These students are a part of the Diversity Lens Photography Program and their artwork will be displayed at TWEED Courthouse from 5/26/15 to 10/10/15.

### **Math Team:**

- Ms. Melzer and Ms. White took 30 6th, 7th, and 8th graders to the Pi 5 Math Competition on Saturday, May 2nd, where they competed against other top New York City schools. Although Scholars' Academy did not place, all the students had a great time.
- The math team has partnered up with Lincoln HS and CFN 112 for three days of professional learning facilitated by Ann Shannon. The first session took place Monday, May 11th here at Scholars' and the math teachers got to work closely with the students in the classroom to explore strategies to help our students get a deeper understanding of the concepts. The team will travel to Lincoln HS on May 28th and June 3rd.

### **Humanities Team:**

- On Monday May 18th Ms. Earle and Ms. Sadykov will bring 7th and 12th grade Scholars' poet finalists to our CFN's Annual Poetry Slam at The Poet's House where students from around the city will recite their poems.
- Ms. Cangemi, Ms. Earle and Mrs. Viera are currently applying for Scholars' to participate in a program for next year titled: Teen Thursdays. This is an afterschool initiative to engage students in grades 7-8 from across New York City in a series of rich, experiential, afterschool learning opportunities available through local historical cultural institutions.

### **Dean's' Report:**

- **NYPD visits The Scholars' Academy**
  - On May 18, 21, and 22 NYPD Community Officers will be visiting our high school students. In this digital age, it is important that everyone is using the internet wisely; therefore NYPD Community Officers have been invited to visit all high school students and conduct an open forum discussion about topics such as: internet safety, inappropriate behavior through social media, impulsive behavior, and guilt by association. Students are also encouraged to come with any questions they may have.
- **Ryan's Story**
  - Bullying is a problem that has been increasingly gaining attention in the media. We are committed to taking serious, proactive steps to curb this epidemic for both students and their parents. On **Tuesday, May 26th at 5:30 p.m.**, there will be a presentation by John Halligan. He will relay his own tragic experience as a father whose 13 year old son took his life after incessant bullying by peers, both in school and online. He will provide parents with tools to discuss appropriate online behavior as well as identify signs of bullying.
  - On **Thursday, May 28th**, Mr. Halligan will present his story to our 7th grade students. This particular grade was chosen based on the data we have about suicide ideations in our own school community. We hope these presentations open dialogue between parents and their children to help curtail a serious nationwide problem.
- **Scholars' Academy's OORS/Safety Summary from Director of Youth Development**
  - Data shared was from 7/1/2014 through 4/30/2015
  - Scholars' Academy did not make the list of the top 25 schools with levels 4s and 5s
  - Scholars' Academy did not make the list of the top 25 schools with accidents or accidents resulting from behavioral incidents
  - Scholars' Academy did not make the list of the top 25 schools for most incidents during the last 20 days
  - For year, Scholars' has 19 Level 4 incidents. **According to the Director of Youth Development, this, and all of our OORS data, falls in line with where we should be for a school of our size and we were commended for doing a "stellar job" this year.**
  - Scholars' Academy was not placed on a single "red flag" category list
- **Boardwalk-a-thon**
  - The Scholars' Academy Boardwalk-a-thon will take place on Friday, June 5, 2015 from 9am-11am. The annual Boardwalk-a-thon is a fun and exciting Parent Association

sponsored fundraising event for the entire school. Our students, for the first time since *Super Storm Sandy*, will walk on Rockaway's newly constructed boardwalk!

- This year our goal is to improve and increase the STEM (Science-Technology-Engineering-Math) program within our school.
- Students are encouraged to participate and gain sponsors by contacting family, friends, and businesses. As an extra incentive, students will have the opportunity to earn a "school approved" Scholars' Academy Boardwalk-a-thon T-Shirt, in addition to other prizes.
- To ensure that this event happens, and that it runs safely and smoothly, it is imperative that the parents in our school community volunteer as chaperones. **We need a total of 50 chaperones to run this event. Contact Stacey Amato if you are available.**
- **Advisory**
  - Advisory Session #5 took place on May 12th. The advisory feedback has been extremely positive from students and teachers.
- **Testing Team**
  - Middle school testing dates:
    - May 21, 22, and May 26 - Grade 7 New York State Science Practical Exam
    - June 1 - Grade 7 New York State Science Written Exam
    - June 16 - Grade 8 - Living Environment Regents (PM)
    - June 17 - Grade 8 - Common Core Algebra 1 Regents (PM)
    - June 22 - Grade 8 - Spanish Proficiency Exam (AM)
      - The speaking portion of the exam will take place on May 21 & 28
  - High school testing dates:
    - June 2 - Regents in Geometry (Common Core) (PM) Please note that: June 2 is a regular day of school for all high school students except for students taking the RE Geometry Common Core Exam. Students taking the Geometry exam will report to school on this day at 11:00 am, the exam will start promptly at 11:30.
    - June 16 - US History and Government Regents (AM), Living Environment (PM)
    - June 17 - Global History & Geography Regents (AM), Physics Regents (PM), Algebra I Regents (Common Core) (PM)
    - June 18 - Earth Science Regents (AM), Comprehensive English (PM)
    - June 19 - Algebra 2/Trigonometry (AM), Geometry Regents (PM)
    - June 22 - Spanish Proficiency (AM), Spanish LOTE (AM)
    - June 23 - Chemistry Regents (AM)
  - A letter with detailed information will be sent out. You can check the Scholars' Parent Testing Resources link for more information.
- **Eighth Grade End of Year Events Information:**
  - We proudly congratulate Jessica from 808 as the Valedictorian & Maeve from 801 as the Salutatorian for their graduating 8th grade class of 2015! They received their congratulatory letters today and will begin writing their speeches shortly!
  - The 8th grade end of year trip will take place on Tuesday, May 26th to Chelsea Piers in NYC. Students must arrive to school at 7:30 am and will return around 4pm. The dress code is: trip T-Shirt with jeans, khakis, or sweatpants and sneakers. Short shorts and flip flops are not permitted.
  - The 8th grade dance will take place at Russo's on The Bay on Thursday, June 4th from 12 pm - 4 pm. There is no school on this day for students. The dress code is business casual / semi-formal attire. Short/revealing attire and flip flops are not permitted.
  - The 8th grade commencement ceremony will take place on Thursday, June 25th at Beach Channel High School. Doors open at 9am, ceremony begins at 9:30 am. The dress code is: business casual. Short/revealing attire and flip flops are not permitted.