

GENERAL PTA MEETING

March 13, 2018

CO-PRESIDENTS REPORT

- Reviewed and approved February minutes
- Project Cicero book drive update was a big success
- All PTA positions available for next year; please consider running for a position
- SLT update- please come and hear discussion on how the changes this year have affected your kids.
- Middle School admissions update- Beginning with next year's middle school admission process the schools will be blind to ranking. This has been implemented to increase diversity in schools. There has also been a proposal to create academic floors (must accept 10% students scoring 1 on state tests; 15% scoring 2). Please come to the next meeting about this plan on 3/20 at Wadleigh at 215 West 114th street 630pm. Your voice matters and it will help if you come and share your thoughts.

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

School update

- Walkout tomorrow at 10am. The 8th graders are organizing it and there will be teachers supervising
- Yankees game coming up -look for information on the newsletter
- NYC Soccer Team game coming up-look for information on the newsletter

TREASURY

- Budget update
 - Thanks to the auction we are in the black!

FUNDRAISING

- Yankees game coming up
- NYC Soccer Team game coming up
- Annual Fund update-Hit our GOAL!
- Auction wrap up- Auction great success. We hit our numbers.
 - Meeting at 9am on Thursday at school to recap the auction
- Fairway – please remember to use your card when you shop
- Amazon – please remember to click on the Amazon link on our website prior to shopping

Introduced new Nurse Practitioner with Ryan Health Center

Fully functioning pediatric clinic

- Offers: Sick visits, immunizations, physicals
- Takes insurance

GUEST SPEAKERS

Teacher Panel – Upcoming State Tests

Ms. Mistal- ELA teacher

- April 11 and 12th ELA tests
- This year there are only 2 days of testing.
 - All students on Day 1 will have 5 passages, 35 multiple choice,
 - Day 2 is all writing, 6th grade-3 passages 6 short response 1 extended response
7th and 8th graders-3 passages, 7 short response and 1 extended response

Ms. Orcher -Math teacher

- 2 days May 1 and 2
 - Day 1 multiple choice
 - 31 multiple choice for 6th grade
 - 33 multiple choice for 7th and 8th grade
- Day 2: 7, 6, 8th graders 7 multiple ,7 short, 1 extended response
- 8th grade use protractors and have a 5 degree wiggle room
- All kids can use calculators
- If you are taking the 8th grade math regents you are not taking the state test
- Major change is that if students need to show work and if they do not show work won't get credit even if they have the right answer.

What you can do for help:

Math

- Kids need to know benchmark fractions, prime factorization, squares
- Review HW as a study guide-evaluate HW and do HW corrections
- Make study guide
- Do they know math vocabulary
- They need to memorize formulas
- Write neatly
- Come back to a problem if you cannot get it
- Do test corrections- where your weaknesses are is where you need to practice

ELA

- Get kids to read non fiction and fiction-things they won't normally be reading
- Read the science times for passages
- Pull a section of the newspaper and read it with them
- <https://newsela.com/articles-> they have test prep questions and passages
- Essay will be comparing two texts so have them practicing how things are different
- For extended response show some organization (i.e. paragraphs, conclusion, transition words)
- Ask them to compare their experiences so you can practice the comparison and giving evidence
- Encouraged kids to use planning sheet that is included

Common pitfalls

- Students give two claims rather than one claim but this does not help. Follow the directions and give them exactly what they want.
- Less is more, do not write them more than you are asked for
- Make sure you pay attention to the specific line numbers given in the questions

For previous tests you can check out: engageny.org

PTA and SLT information and minutes are on the school website under the PTA and SLT tab..

The PTA Exec

Board welcomes your comments and suggestions any time. Email us at pta@ms54pta.org.

Next PTA General Meeting: Please join us on Tuesday, April 10th at 7:00pm for our next meeting.