

March Parent News

Grades 5-8

Dr. James Philemy, Principal

March 2018 Edition

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All communications should come to imandel@schools.nyc.gov

COMMUNICATION: Upcoming Dates/Events

<i>March 5</i>	MET trip	<i>Class 503</i>
<i>March 6</i>	<i>Roundabout 9am</i>	<i>All parents invited</i>
<i>March 14</i>	<i>Parent teacher conferences- Half Day of school 1-3pm and 4:30-7:30pm</i>	<i>All grades</i>
<i>March 15</i>	<i>School spirit</i>	
<i>March 12</i>	<i>Science Fair set up</i>	<i>All students</i>
<i>March 16</i>	<i>Green Day</i>	<i>All students</i>
<i>March 16</i>	<i>Friday Madness All Star Game</i>	<i>Grades 6-8</i>
<i>March 19</i>	<i>MET trip</i>	<i>Class 502</i>
<i>March 30-April 8</i>	<i>Spring Break- school Closed- students return April 9</i>	

TIPS FOR PARENTS

Homework seems to be an ongoing problem with middle school students, the following are some tips to help your child succeed with the school home connection.



The Top Ten Homework Tips for Parents:

- 1. Establish a Routine**
- 2. Create Boundaries**
- 3. Get Organized**
- 4. Require Accountability and Responsibility**
- 5. Create a "Learning Space"**
- 6. Teach Prioritization**
- 7. Check Your Child's Progress**
- 8. Allow Freedoms When Earned**
- 9. Be a Study Buddy**
- 10. Encourage and Support**

Meadows Farm Fundraiser

Continue to fund raise for our Meadows Farm fundraiser. We truly appreciate your support. We are extending the due date to March 9th for your convenience.



Seniors

FYI: Looking forward

June 8- Senior BBQ

June 14th - Middle school awards night

June 25- Senior Trip

June 6- Prom: The Inn at New Hyde Park

June 19- Commencement Ceremony (school Auditorium)

*****Thank you to the PTA and the senior parents who have collaborated to raise money for senior extras. We appreciate your ongoing support!**

Please be reminded: That any 8th graders who fail 1 or more classes will not be promoted. These students will be slated for a summer school site and promotion will be based on criteria set forth by the summer school site. Senior dues are nonrefundable.

STUDENT ENGAGEMENT

Character Trait of the Month: Perseverance

Country of the Month: China



U.S. State of the Month: New Jersey

Parent Engagement

FOR YOUR INFORMATION . . .

Parent Engagement

- ✓ Please make sure that after seeing your child's report card, you have spoken to their teachers.
- ✓ Metro cards have been an on-going problem. If your child has a metro card, please talk to them about the importance of keeping it in a safe place where it will not be lost, bent or scratched. It will take up to 10 days to replace a metro card if it is lost.

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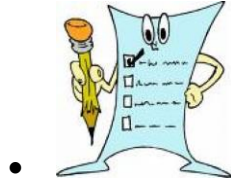
## Parent Surveys

Parent Surveys will be available for pick up during the month of March.

All parents are asked to come into the school to fill out their survey

The surveys will address the following:

- Safety and respect
- Academic expectations
- Communication
- Engagement



## Important Policies and Procedures

All changes in Dismissal arrangements must be **submitted in writing via letter to the teacher or by fax by 1:30pm**. To ensure student's safety, verbal requests will not be honored. In addition, students will only be released to names listed on the blue emergency cards. It is vital that you accurately fill in the name, relation, telephone numbers, addresses etc. If your phone number or address changes, please notify the teacher, nurse and Mrs. Clarke in the main office.

Grades 6 -8 can sign for the parent survey. It will then be used as their ticket for our all-star game taking place on March 16th during the 6<sup>th</sup> period. If you choose to fill out the survey on line, you must send in a note to Mr. Hunter's attention with your confirmation code or a print out of the actual confirmation code. This will let him know it has been completed so that they can receive a ticket.

Looking Ahead:



Spring Break: March 30- April 8

Testing dates:

|                                     |             |
|-------------------------------------|-------------|
| Grades 3-8 English<br>Language Arts | April 11-12 |
| Grades 3-8 Mathematics              | May 2-3     |

### PARENT ENGAGEMENT

#### *Assistant Principal Positive Pupil Praise Award*



For the Month of March, I would like to recognize students who have shown Torch qualities. These students were recognized during our Torch ceremonies for being tolerant of others, responsible, caring and honest.

Congratulations to all of these Students! Keep up the great work!!! If you have a picture of your child with their award, please email it to me @imandel@schools.nyc.gov

**PS/IS 208 is now on Instagram...Follow us!**

**Twitter: Twitter.com/PS/IS208**



**Instagram: PSIS208Q**



## Spring 2018 Book Fair

The book fair is back! If you missed the Holiday Book Fair, this is your chance to get some new and exciting books. Come buy some books and spread the love of reading. The book fair will be from March 7 to March 14. The schedule is below for your convenience. Avoid Black Friday! This year, you can easily give the gift of knowledge and support your child's school. Parents/guardians are strongly encouraged to volunteer during these days. Interested parents/guardians should email Fee Nicoleau at [Nafeesah70@aol.com](mailto:Nafeesah70@aol.com) with Book Fair Volunteer in the Subject Line.

### eWallet! New for the Spring Fair!

#### What is a student eWallet?

An eWallet is a new, digital payment option that gives students a secure, cash-free way to shop the fair. Parents can pre-authorize a spending amount online, which can be looked up or scanned at checkout. More information is on the flyer.

### Spring 2018 Book Fair Schedule

| Period/Times            | Wednesday<br>3/7 | Thursday<br>3/8       | Friday<br>3/9  | Monday<br>3/12 | Tuesday<br>3/13 | Wednesday<br>3/14 |
|-------------------------|------------------|-----------------------|----------------|----------------|-----------------|-------------------|
| P2: 9:00 am – 9:42 am   | K-011            | 701                   | 203            | 402 and 404    | 803             | Last Call (K-2)   |
| P3: 9:44 am – 10:29 am  | 101              | 202                   | 601            | 403            | 702             | Last Call (3-5)   |
| P4: 10:32 am – 11:17 am | 602 and 604      | 603                   | FAIR<br>CLOSED | 401            | Fair<br>Closed  | Last Call (6-8)   |
| P5: 11:22 pm – 12:07 pm | K-012            | K-013<br>and<br>K-014 | 301            | Fair<br>Closed | 801 and 804     |                   |
| P6: 12:11 pm – 12:56 pm | 102              | 201                   | 303            | 501            | 502             |                   |



|                           |     |                    |                    |                    |                    |  |
|---------------------------|-----|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--|
| P7: 12:58 pm<br>– 1:43 pm | 103 | MAKE UP<br>And 802 | Make up<br>And 703 | Make up<br>And 302 | Make up<br>And 503 |  |
|---------------------------|-----|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--|

## Uniform Policy

Uniform is fully enforced. Please make sure that your child is in **FULL** uniform every day. If students choose to wear sneakers, the sneakers must be **ALL** black sneakers.

The school now has the online program called: **Mathletics**, an interactive mathematics program, where students engage in mathematics lessons and competitions. Students should have come home with log in information and have already engaged in some competitions.

## Queens South Support Center Awards

The Queens South Field Support Center is holding their Third Annual Awards Ceremony in the spring for students in Districts 27, 28, and 29. They have several awards up for grabs, with some having some money attached to them. **Please have students apply for these awards by submitting the required pieces to me via email [@imandel@schools.nyc.gov](mailto:imandel@schools.nyc.gov)**  
The list of awards and their criteria are listed below. Please email me the required documents by **March 27, 2018**.

### Trifecta Award (GRADE 5, GRADE 8, and GRADE 12)

The Trifecta Award will be given to nine students in terminal grades (Grade 5, 8, and 12) who demonstrate excellence in each of the core academic courses (90% or greater in English, Mathematics, Science, and Social Studies); possess leadership qualities and personal behaviors that allow them to persevere through adversities; and are actively involved in the development of their school's community.

**Description:** A student eligible for this award demonstrates success in three different areas at a given time. The Trifecta Award will be given to **ONE** student on each of the terminal grades who has shown great ambition and drive. There will be one recipient from each grade level per district. To be eligible for this award, a student must:

- ☐ Be in a terminal grade (Grade 5, Grade 8 or Grade 12)
- ☐ Demonstrate excellence in each of the core academic courses (90% average in English, Mathematics, Science, & Social Studies)
- ☐ Possess leadership qualities and skills that have allowed them to persevere through adversities,
- ☐ Have active involvement within their school community
- ☐ Submit a 500-word essay that highlights these qualities in response to the following question: **What is one positive change that you have made within your**

**community? Explain why that change needed to occur, how you went about making that change, and what impact it had on the community as a whole. In addition, explain how you exercised your leadership skills to bring about this change.**

- ☐ Submit a letter of recommendation from a teacher or principal

#### **Social Awareness Award (GRADES K TO 12)**

The Social Awareness Award will be given to 15 students across grades K through 12 that has a passion for exploring and addressing an important social issue through any form of social action using a range of digital or technological platforms.

**Description:** The community in which we live plays an integral role in the development of our character. There are many social issues taking place within our society that play a major role in this development. Some examples of social issues include but are not limited to: Obesity, Bullying, Violence, Cultural Diversity, War, Racism, Equal Rights, Environmental Protection, Immigration issues, etc.

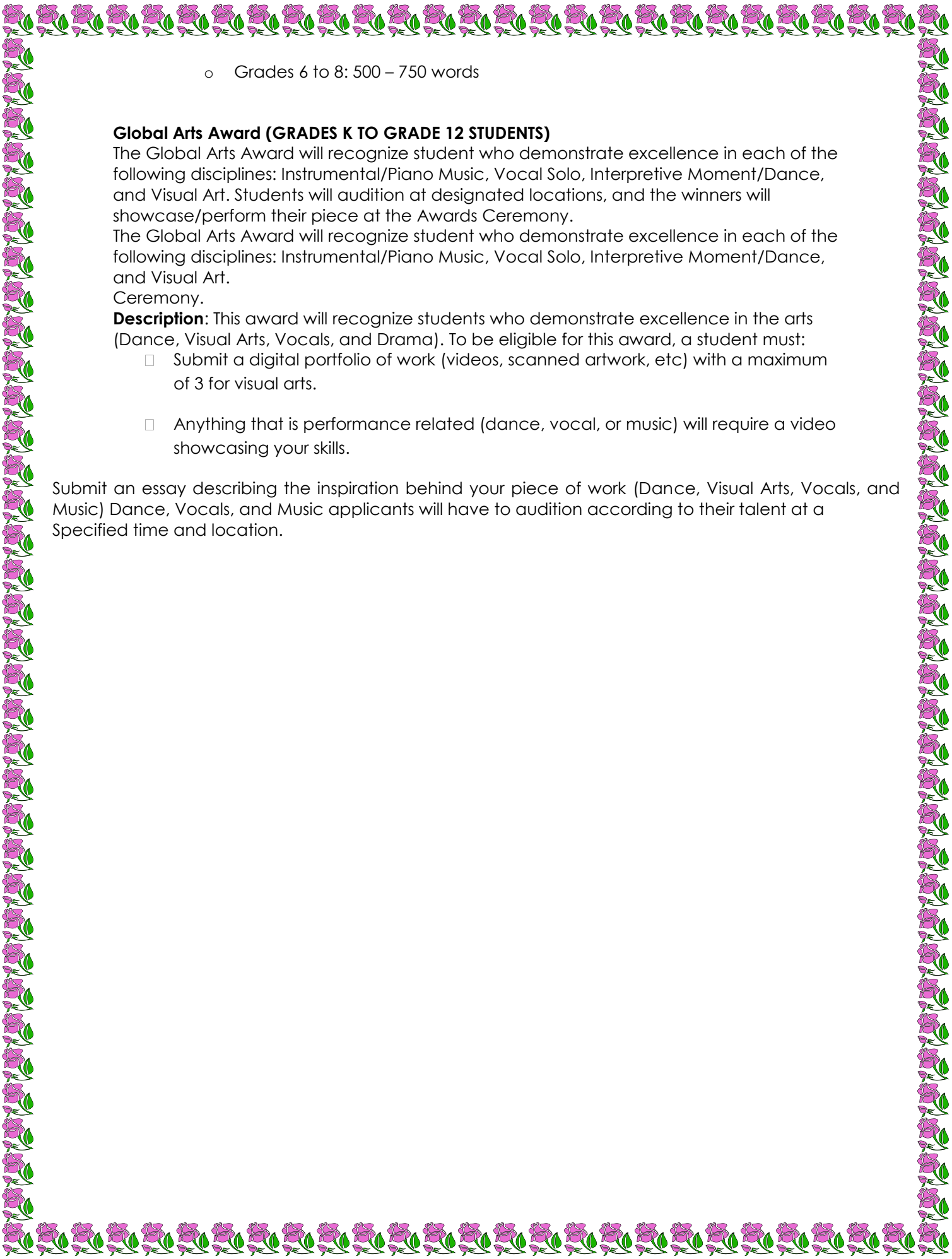
- ☐ Create a digital presentation that illustrates the importance of a particular social issue and its solution Explain in either written or oral form how you devised the solution/call to action for this social issue

#### **Perseverance Award (GRADES 3 TO GRADE 12 STUDENTS ONLY)**

The Perseverance Award will be given to 10 students across grades 3 to 12 who are currently residing or have resided in a shelter or have been displaced this school year; and have demonstrated a commitment to learning that has resulted in remarkable growth and/or success despite enduring tremendous hardships.

**Description:** Perseverance is defined by Merriam-Webster as "the continued effort to do or achieve something despite difficulties, failure, or opposition." Perseverance is an honorable attribute to have because it shows determination and a strong will to succeed. The recipient of this honor is one who has maintained a positive mindset despite challenges, and persists to achieve both personal and academic goals. To be eligible for this award, a student must:

- ☐ Be in any grade among Grade 3 and 12
- ☐ Currently reside or have resided in a shelter OR have been displaced during the 2017/2018 school year
- ☐ Demonstrate a commitment to learning despite tremendous hardship by showing remarkable growth and/or success
- ☐ Possess an overall average of 85% or greater
- ☐ Submit an essay answering the following question: Identify one major challenge that you have experienced this school year, and based on the definition of "perseverance" as written above, explain how you have overcome this challenge in the amount of words specified for your grade below.
  - o Grades 3 to 5: 350 – 500 words

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- Grades 6 to 8: 500 – 750 words

**Global Arts Award (GRADES K TO GRADE 12 STUDENTS)**

The Global Arts Award will recognize student who demonstrate excellence in each of the following disciplines: Instrumental/Piano Music, Vocal Solo, Interpretive Moment/Dance, and Visual Art. Students will audition at designated locations, and the winners will showcase/perform their piece at the Awards Ceremony.

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Ceremony.

**Description:** This award will recognize students who demonstrate excellence in the arts (Dance, Visual Arts, Vocals, and Drama). To be eligible for this award, a student must:

- ☐ Submit a digital portfolio of work (videos, scanned artwork, etc) with a maximum of 3 for visual arts.
- ☐ Anything that is performance related (dance, vocal, or music) will require a video showcasing your skills.

Submit an essay describing the inspiration behind your piece of work (Dance, Visual Arts, Vocals, and Music) Dance, Vocals, and Music applicants will have to audition according to their talent at a Specified time and location.