



The Scholars' Academy

An Accelerated College Preparatory School for Grades 6-12

27Q323, A Teaching and Learning Organization

"Technology Today, Smarter Tomorrow: Removing Time and Place from Teaching and Learning"

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Principal

Brian O'Connell

Assistant Principals

HS and Math: Michele Smyth

MS and Foreign Language: Toni Marie Sorrentino

Safety/Discipline/Arts/Tech/PE: Drew Goodman*

June 8, 2011

Principal's PTA Report June, 2011

Technology/Innovation

- **I-Earn Special Announcements/Requests:** We are excited to announce that Scholars Academy will join the I-Earn community of learners. This organization brings students all over the world together to work on different projects. This is a secure sight that will allow our students to communicate with students in countries all over the world.

Music Music, Art, Film, etc.

- "The Scholars' Academy Sixth Grade Band, under the direction of Ms. Morritt, as well as both the Seventh and Eighth Grade and High School bands, under the direction of Mr. Leicht, achieved the second-to-highest rating possible at this year's NYSSMA (New York State School Music Association) Major Organization Evaluation Festival, SILVER. It is the first time our ensembles have attended NYSSMA Majors and achieved this honor. Congratulations to the all soloists that participated at the NYSSMA (pronounced NISS-MA) Festival this past Saturday. NYSSMA stands for the New York State School Music Association: The following students deserve particular recognition for their accomplishments: Jacqueline Libato scored an Outstanding (28 out of 28, perfect score) for a Level 4 violin solo. She also received a grade of A (95) for her Level 6 piano solo. Keep in mind that Level 6 is the highest level at NYSSMA. Yarden Flatow scored an Outstanding (26 out of 28) for a Level 4 Alto Saxophone solo.
- The annual Spring Arts Festival was a success, as always. Our performing ensembles continue to strive to attain new heights.
- The Scholars' Academy Marching Band and Cheerleaders performed ""You're A Grand Old Flag"" and ""Stick Street"" at the Rockaway Memorial Day Parade.
- The Scholars' Academy Pit Orchestra participated in the Broadway Jr. production of Annie.
- The bands will perform at MS and HS graduation ceremonies.

HS Application Report

- **HS Orientation:** On Monday, June 6th at 5pm the Scholars' Academy High School held its annual High School Orientation for incoming 9th graders. Students were given the opportunity to choose their electives, obtain summer reading, homework, and supply lists and were given an overview of their high school coursework and school policies along with a copy of the parent handbook. Any continuing 8th graders that were not able to attend this event should contact Ms. Rozman.
- **Grade 8:** By now all 8th graders should know which school they will be attending in September and should have attended orientation sessions at their respective high schools. Students who filed high school appeals will find out if their appeal was granted or not on or around June 24th.

College Application Report

- **Acceptances:**
 - 99% College Acceptance Rate
 - 2% two year colleges
 - 97% four year colleges
 - 1% not accepted
- **Scholarship Data**
 - Current total: \$4,998,912.00
 - Full Scholarships: 11
 - 1 - Alfred State College (SUNY)
 - 1 - Parsons School of Design
 - 1 - Hunter College (CUNY)
 - 1 - Pennsylvania State University
 - 4 - St. Francis College
 - 3 - Macaulay Honors (2 Hunter, 1 Brooklyn)
- **Noteworthy Acceptances:**
 - New York University
 - Johnson & Wales
 - Cornell University
 - Massachusetts Institute of Technology
 - Carnegie Mellon University

Community Service/ Youth Employment

- **NJHS Ceremony:**
 - This month a select group of 7th grade students are being recognized for their academic achievements, good citizenship, and involvement in the community by being inducted into the Scholars' Academy Chapter of the National Junior Honor Society on June 17th. A select group of 10th grade students were inducted into the National Honor Society for their achievements on June 3rd.
- **Community Service Matters:**

- Students that completed a minimum of 12 hours of community service for middle school, and 20 hours of community service for high school, will receive a certificate of completion on the last day of school. Students still looking for community service opportunities should check the guidance page on Edline for updates or see their guidance counselor.

Athletics

- **Physical Education/Sports**

The Physical Education Dept will be distributing the Fitnessgram results to all students. We will be evaluating scores and will be setting new goals for the summer.

- **Upcoming Summer Events:**

The following is an important list of dates of sporting events:

- 6/11 MS Boys Lacrosse Game 9:00 AM @ Beach Channel HS vs Brooklyn Prospect
- 6/13 HS Girls Volleyball (Open Tryout) 3:30pm @ Scholars
- 6/14 6th Grade Field Day @ Fort Tilden 9:30AM
- 6/15 Jordan Fundamental Grant MS Boys Volleyball Jamboree (MS 114 and MS 105) @ Scholars 10:00AM
- 6/25 Archery Tournament @ Automotive HS (Bedford Ave Brooklyn) 9:00am-1:30pm.

Trips/Events:

- **Trips:**

- **Grade 6 Trip:** Our 6th grade students, guardians and staff attended a "Cooking & Chemistry" lesson at the Applebee's headquarters in NYC on their June 1st trip.
- **8th grade Trip:** The 8th grade trip took place today in Manhattan to Madame Tussaud's Wax Museum, Ripley's Believe it or Not & Dave and Buster's. We hope it was enjoyed by all!
- **7th grade Philadelphia Trip:** On May 25th & May 26th 155 7th graders, 4 parents and many Scholars' staff traveled to Philadelphia on 3 coach buses for a 2 day trip. The large group visited Franklin Institute, The Edgar Allen Poe's House, The Liberty Bell, The National Constitution Center, Independence Hall, & Eastern State Penitentiary. Strangers complimented the trip chaperones various times for the scholarly behavior exhibited by our students in the exhibits, restaurants and even hotel!
- **February 2012 Italy Trip (HS):** To date, there are 22 HS students and four adults registered for the SAHS February 2012 Italy Trip. Current students in grades 8-11 are eligible to sign up before June 30th for extra savings. See Mr. Bierman or Ms. Sorrentino for further information.

- **Events:**

- **Sports Night:** High School Events and Trips (Foti, Sorrentino, Smyth) Thank you to many high school students and Mr. Coscia for a great evening out at this year's Sports Awards Dinner which took place June 1st at Roma View.

- **Annie Jr. Play:** On June 2nd the theatre was packed for our annual Middle School Broadway Junior performance. Students in drama, band, chorus and set design showed off their talents with this year's Annie Jr. performance. We raised double the amount of funds from last year. This evening was enjoyed by all. Thank you to all students, as well as Ms. Barget, Todes, Conlisk, Colleran, Henck, Shannon & Mr. Leicht.
 - **Saturday Programs:** June 11th and June 18th are the last 2 days for Saturday classes. Please note that articles such as **short shorts, pajamas, headwear and flip flops are never permitted in the building**, including Saturdays.
 - **HS Sports Awards:** On June 1st we had our 2nd annual HS Sports Awards Dinner. The event was a huge success. It was a great night to recognize all of the hard work that our student athletes and coaches have put in throughout the year. A special thank you goes to Mr Coscia for helping organize the event.
 - **Thankful Physical Education Team:** The Physical Education Dept would like to thank the PTA for all of their ongoing support and for their generous donation. We will be using the equipment next week for our annual Field Day at Fort Tilden.
- **Dean's Office End-of-Year Reminders:**
 - **June Focus:** The behavioral and academic expectations that were established in September have not changed or diminished. We wish all students a successful and safe June. Dress code, hallway, cafeteria, schoolyard and classroom activities will continue to be monitored and any misbehavior will be addressed. It is not our intent to be punitive, rather to be proactive.
 - **End of year information:** Congratulations to the parents of the 8th and 12th grade graduates. We are looking forward to the ceremonies which will be held on Thursday June 23rd at 9am in Beach Channel H.S. auditorium for the Middle School Graduation, and on Monday June 27th at 5pm in Kingsborough Community College auditorium for the High School Graduation. We thank you for being our partner in your children's education.
 - **Looking Forward:** Parent workshops are held each month at 6pm, preceding the 7pm general membership meeting of the PTA. During the next school year we would like to provide you with the most meaningful and informative information possible. Please email Ms. Brady (jbrady4@scholarsnyc.com or jbrady4@schools.nyc.gov) at any time that you have suggestions/requests for topics that you would find helpful in engaging and involving your participation in the academic support of your child.
 - **School Yard Upgrades Forthcoming! Facility Enhancements/Issues:**
 - **Landscaping:** "We are waiting for contractor and SCA to begin landscaping the school's grounds on B104 Street. A more enhanced design was provided to them courtesy of Mr. Kempner, a professional landscaper. We are appreciative of his help.
 - **School Yard Tennis:** We are also facing the possibility of having the United States Tennis Association potentially get involved with our school yard upgrade which could

impact our renovation plan by increasing the surface of the tennis courts quality from the basic asphalt.

- **Air Conditioning Project:** The air conditioning is not active yet as that project is still incomplete.
- **Custodial Services:** As you may know we have a new building manager, in lieu of a custodian engineer, as we have acquired the services of TEMCO, a private custodial care management company. Already, our building manager, Mr. Ray Velez, has been leveraging technology to gather needs related to building maintenance from our teachers via google.docs!
- **School Leadership/CEP:**
 - **Budget:** The budget for next year has not been released. We are making arrangements and preparing for the worst case scenario. Still, we are not able to announce any adjustments since we do not have the information we need yet. Budgets, to my knowledge will be released later this month.
 - **Comprehensive Education Plan (CEP) 2010-2011 and CEP 2011-2012:** Our School Leadership Team (SLT) has been reviewing our progress toward this year's CEP goals, including those relevant to Title I Funding, and Title I Parent Involvement Funding for 2010-2011. SLT has also examined our goals for 2011-2012 as we are using some innovative ways of increasing efficiency between SLT work and Teacher Inquiry goal formation/work.
 - **Transparency:** Our 2010-2011 CEP is available online via our website. Our SLT Agenda and Minutes are also available online.

Year End Note:

Thank you for all of your hard work that you do with your children to support their learning and academic achievement.

We will be asking for you to continue that critical work during 2011-2012. We will continue to ask you for ways that you believe you can contribute to our school's mission. If you believe you have a talent, skill, or access to any funding source, please do not hesitate to contact us.

We wish you a relaxing and fruitful Summer!

Sincerely,

Brian O'Connell
Principal