

The Lotus Lowdown
October 14, 2022
Maria Francisco, Principal



Renaissance @ Rand Middle School

NY JETS Game:

JETS

INFORMAL POLL - We are thinking of having a school outing to a Jet game and were wondering how much interest there is. The price per ticket would probably be in the \$50-\$60 range plus parking. A tentative date is the October 30 1:00 game against the Patriots, but no date has been chosen yet. Please email Mr. Stulbaum at mstulbaum@montclair.k12.nj.us if you might be interested. It is not a commitment to buy tickets, but indicating the number of tickets you might buy would be helpful. Extended family and friends would be welcome to join.

Executive Functioning Class for students:

We are thrilled to announce Renaissance Middle School will be offering a 4-week session focused on developing executive function skills. This 4-week session will be offered on Thursdays during lunch throughout the month of December.

SESSION DETAILS:

This 4-week session will focus on developing the following executive function skills for middle school students: working memory (accessing information, remembering instructions, paying attention), inhibitory control (impulse control, emotional regulation) and cognitive flexibility (flexible thinking, ability to adapt behavior). This session will provide students with essential skills needed to be successful in school and beyond. Each session parents will be provided with a follow-up summary and "homework". Homework is not required but strongly encouraged in order to deepen your child's experience.

SESSION FACILITATOR: Kristen Niemczyk-Kistner, Ph.D.

Dr. K is the child study team school social worker based out of Renaissance Middle School and Montclair High School. Dr. K has a bachelor's degree in psychology and both a master's and a Ph.D. in social work. Dr. K is also a certified Positive Discipline

Parent Educator, certified school social worker, and a licensed social worker. Dr. K has acquired approximately 18 years of professional experience as a child study team school social worker in three New Jersey school districts. Dr. K also has approximately 7 years of teaching experience working as an adjunct professor at both William Paterson University and Montclair State University. Dr. K is the co-owner of Success Street, LLC, a private parent and teen coaching organization with a special focus on developing executive function skills in children, teens and young adults.

If you are interested in your child joining this session, please click on the link, <https://forms.gle/BK9A7fRzS3kaAftc8>, complete and submit the form. Please note that space is limited and students will be included in the program on a first come first served basis. Please note that additional sessions may be offered in January.

MFEE NEWS:

There's no better way to meet Montclair's newest residents than through tasting their beloved food. On October 29th, you can reserve a delicious home-cooked tasting plate as part of a fundraiser from the Montclair Fund for Educational Excellence ([MFEE](#)). [Sabor Montclair](#) celebrates the unique "sabor" that our Latinx community members bring to Montclair. Familias in MFEE's Navegadores Escolares program have helped design this event which features delicious take-out meals highlighting their culture, while also sharing recipes and family stories. In just one year, [MFEE's Navegadores Escolares](#) program has expanded to support 60 families and over 105 Montclair Public School students – and it continues to grow quickly! Donate and reserve your delicious dinner here: <https://givebutter.com/sabormontclair2022>.

Car Wash Postponed:

See communication below.

-  Car Wash Postponed

Montclair Community Pre-K Community Service Opportunities for students

The Montclair Community Pre K is hosting a Harvest Festival on October 29th from 10am-12pm at the Montclair Community Prek (49 Orange Road, Montclair) and are in need of student volunteers to help with the festival.

Students who would like to sign up to help may do so by clicking the link [HERE](#). Parents of students interested who may have questions can reach out to Ms. Molly Brennan, Director of Admissions and Fundraising at MCPK by email @ molly.brennan@montclairprek.org.

Nurse's Kaplan's Notes

Per NJ State Law, all 6th graders (11y/o) need 1 dose of Tdap and Menactra vaccines. If you haven't done so, please forward your child's updated vaccination record to the nurse. Parents have been notified.

The exclusion date is 10/24/2022.

All students with Asthma or a Life-Threatening Allergy must have Action Plans signed by the doctor and submitted to the health office with the appropriate medication.

The forms can be located on the MPS website: PARENTS&FORMS;ACTION PLAN.

- Please complete the section that allows students trained by the doctor to self-administer and carry medication with them.

Please remember that without the appropriate action plans and medications, children will be unable to attend Field Trips.

Picture Day:

- **SAVE THE DATE: OCTOBER 26, 2022-PICTURE DAY:** More information will be provided as the date approaches.

6th Grade:

Social Studies Update:

This week in Social Studies we finished our lesson on absolute location by playing a Kahoot game. We then moved into our Early Humans unit by watching and discussing videos regarding the Agricultural Revolution and then delving deeper into learning about each hominid by creating Early Humans Books.

Science Update:

Students should be taking home any projects that are still in Ms. Hittel's class this week. Any projects that are still here on Monday will go to the Great Project Gig in the Sky.

7th Grade:

The 7th grade will be taking their October field research trip on Friday, October 21st. This trip follows Ms. Cullen's curriculum regarding geology and also Ms. Thomas' social studies curriculum looking at the history of the Hudson Valley region and the effects of political action in the preservation of our natural environment. Students will view the online exhibit Hudson Rising before taking the trip and will be

required to submit work to Ms. Cullen after the trip. Please make sure both permission slips are turned in, along with the cost of the trips.

Grades for Marking Period 1 progress reports are due this Thursday. Please encourage your students to get their work in on time.

Algebra

In Algebra we have expanded our knowledge upon proportional relationships. We now understand how proportional relationships of tables, equations and graphs are related to each other. Our Module 1 assessment will be on Monday (Arnette/Cullen) and Tuesday (Garzon/Thomas).

8th Grade:

Field Research Trip

On November 18th, the 8th grade will be going to the 9/11 Memorial and Museum. For detailed information about the museum, please visit their website <https://www.911memorial.org/visit/museum>. The cost is \$20.

Parent Conferences

Any parent/caregiver wishing to meet with the 8th Grade team can make an appointment with Jackson (rjackson@montclair.k12.nj.us). We are available to meet Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday at 2 pm via Zoom or in person.

We are noticing students are using their cellphones in school (during classes). Please note, the district's policy is that all cell phones must be off and away during school hours. All students have been warned. Please see the Student Handbook for district policy. After the first time a student's phone is confiscated, the parent/s/caregiver/s must pick up the phone from the main office if it is confiscated a second time.

ELA

This week, students were assigned their first set of comprehension questions for The House on Mango Street. Please know that if students forget to bring their books, they are expected to keep up with the reading from the online book version that I posted on our Google Classroom page.

Math

There will be a quiz on Monday covering sections 4.2 (slope) and 4.3 (slope-intercept form). The homework problems can be used as a study guide

Several students have taken the opportunity to participate in the stock market challenge and/or a math league competition. I would like to see more students participate. I think both are great opportunities to see real world implications of math and for the students to challenge themselves. For the stock market challenge, students can work together or with an adult.

- **Important Upcoming Dates:**

- October 18, 2022 Interim Reports MP 1
- October 20, 2022 Curriculum Thursday 1:25pm Dismissal
- October 24, 2022 Diwali-School Closed
- October 26, 2022 Picture Day