

January 7, 2015

# THE “MIDDLE” MEMO

COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP CHARTER MIDDLE SCHOOL / TUESDAY LETTER

Dear Community Partnership Middle School Families:

Happy New Year!

We are so excited about welcoming our scholars back. We are equally excited about our continued partnership for the 2015-16 school year.

In just a few short weeks, the nation will celebrate the birth of Dr. Martin Luther King. It was Dr. King who said, “The function of education is to teach one to think intensively and to think critically. Intelligence plus character - that is the goal of true education.” As we move into the second half of the year, we continue to be invested in seeing our scholars make the strides they need-academically and socially- to be successful beyond the walls of CPCMS. Doing this requires teamwork, we invite you to join us on Wednesday, January 21st for Tea and Talk with CPCMS’ leadership team. During this time we will provide you with an overview of the: Common Core Learning Standards, the New York State assessment and our plan to get scholars prepared based on the data we have and answer your question. We will be meeting from 6:30-7:30pm.

2015 promises to be an event filled year. We look forward to seeing you soon.

For Our Kids,

Keisha Rattray

## Upcoming Events

CPCSEC Board Meeting @114 Kosciuszko	January 7th, 6pm
Saturday Academy Begins (by invitation only)	January 10th, 9am
Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day - School Closed	January 19th
Math Mock Assessments	January 20th -22nd
Tea & Talk	January 21st @6:30
After-school Cycle 2 Showcase	January 22nd
PTCC Meeting	January 23rd
Picture Retake day	January 26th
End of Quarter 2	January 27th
PD Day for Teachers - School Closed	February 2nd

## 5TH GRADE

Happy New Year!

Welcome Back! Our fifth grade team wishes you and your family all the best in the 2015 year. It was wonderful seeing our scholars come back with bright smiles and hearts ready to take on the second half of the year.

### SCIENCE

In science, we have been studying **ecosystems**. This week our focus is on **wetlands**. In addition, scholars are creating flash cards for the unit **vocabulary quiz this Friday, January 9<sup>th</sup>**. They will be receiving study sheets for the **January 16<sup>th</sup> Unit Exam**.

### ELA - Reading

We have begun our 4<sup>th</sup> Units in ELA this week, in both reading and writing. In reading our focus is "Close Reading", where students will read complex texts closely to analyze textual details and deepen understanding. Students learn what it means to read a text closely by attending to and analyzing textual details. In this unit our mentor texts will come from a collection of Langston Hughes short stories.

**NOTE:** In an effort to strengthen our cognitive reading strategies, we will be focusing on one particular Common Core Standard per week, and students will be quizzed on that standard every Friday.

### ELA - Writing

In writing, we will seamlessly transition into studying realistic fiction. Scholars will learn specific craft techniques from mentor authors, in preparation to write and publish their own realistic fiction stories. Exciting!!

### MATH

This week our mathematicians are reviewing chapters 2 – 4, in preparation for their **Benchmark Assessment next week Tuesday, January 13<sup>th</sup>**. They should be practicing these skills at home:

- mutinying and dividing 2 digits numbers
- adding and subtracting unlike fractions
- multiplying and dividing fractions
- words problems using the above skills

### HISTORY

In History this week we are beginning our unit on European Exploration. There will be a **history test next Thursday, January 15<sup>th</sup>**. Students should study from notes written in their notebook.

### DATES TO REMEMBER:

Friday, January 9<sup>th</sup> – ELA quiz and Science quiz

Tuesday, January 13<sup>th</sup> – Math Benchmark Assessment (Chapters 1-4)

Thursday, January 15<sup>th</sup> – History Exam

Friday, January 16<sup>th</sup> – Science Exam and ELA quiz

Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, January 20<sup>th</sup>, 21<sup>st</sup>, 22<sup>nd</sup> – Math Mock Assessments

Friday, January 23<sup>rd</sup> – ELA quiz

Tuesday, January 27<sup>th</sup> – Seven book reviews due

Tuesday, January 27<sup>th</sup> – End of marking period

Friday, January 30<sup>th</sup> – ELA quiz

## 6TH GRADE

The 6th grade is starting back as a team focusing on vocabulary. Ask your scholar about the word of the week and see if they can use it in a sentence! On Thursday Ms. Miller-Hughes will be hosting a pizza lunch for the 6th grade scholar who earned the highest GPA's in the first two quarters. During this lunch students will learn the significance of GPA along with how to calculate their own.

## 7TH GRADE

7th Grade Science scholars will be examining various classifications of organisms other than animals. Be sure to ask your child about fungi, bacteria, and protists. Ask them what makes them different from animals and plants!

In 7th grade Social Studies we are picking up where we left off in the Revolutionary War! This week, we'll be focusing on the Declaration of Independence.

## 8TH GRADE

In 8th grade ELA we are embarking on a new unit in both reading and writing. We will be addressing the Language standards as we discover how punctuation and sentence structure impacts our comprehension of texts and how we can develop sentence fluency and variety as writers.

8th Grade Science scholars will be participating in two labs to open unit 3: Weathering & Erosion. You can help your scholar in this unit by asking them to identify examples of weathering on the steps and buildings in Brooklyn. We are surrounded by natural building materials (granite, marble, limestone) that wear down over time by exposure to wind, acid rain, and snow.

In 8th grade Social Studies this week we are starting World War II. This week we'll be learning a lot about totalitarian governments, dictators and when countries are the most vulnerable.



# CHARTER SCHOOL ADVOCACY DAY 2015

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 3

Join us for Charter School Advocacy Day 2015

When? February 3, 2015

Where? Albany, NY

## Info Every CPCMS Family Should Know

- 8th Grade
  - \$270 Senior dues\*\* .....final payment due by 4/2/15
  - Complete 50 book reviews
  - Complete Exit Portfolio..... due June 3rd
  - \$200 End of Year Trip (this is an earned opportunity)
  - \*\*non refundable
- 7th Grade
  - Complete 40 Book Reviews
  - \$200 for the End of Year trip (this is an earned opportunity)
- 6th Grade
  - Complete 35 Book Reviews
  - \$200 for the End of Year trip (this is an earned opportunity)
- 5th Grade
  - Complete 25 Book Reviews
  - \$200 for the End of Year trip (this is an earned opportunity)