



# 8th Grade Newsletter

November 2017

Dear Class of 2018 Families,

It's November and the school year is in full swing! We hope that you and your scholars are enjoying learning more about the various high schools around NYC. Please be sure to check the **[Paperwork and Permission Slips](#)** section below as we will be sending out [8th Grade Dues Letters](#) and the details of the [8th Grade Merit System](#) this coming week. **[Please note that the last day for high school advisement with Ms. Gorman is Nov. 22nd and high school applications are DUE FRIDAY DECEMBER 1st!!! See the Guidance Section below for more details.](#)**

## Classroom News:

<p><b>ELA</b> Ms. Julien-Ndjiki Email: <a href="mailto:mjulien-ndjiki@motthall2.org">mjulien-ndjiki@motthall2.org</a></p>	<p><b>Current Unit of Study:</b> Investigative Journalism <b>Upcoming Assessment:</b> Independent Reading Book Quiz: Wednesday, November 8 <b>Current Extended Writing:</b> Having just written a short news story that features a Mott Hall II topic, each member of the class of 2018 is investigating a story that is of genuine interest. When entering the ELA classroom, some scholars can be seen conducting research on bullying while others are seeking to figure out how shoe companies profit from marketing to teens. As the next week progresses, eighth grade Mott Hall Illians will have shaped their news stories into fluent paragraphs that are stacked with research and data results. <b>How to Support Your Scholar:</b> Ask about the topic your scholar is covering. <b>Office Hours:</b> Mondays from 1:15 - 2:00 in room 415 or by appointment</p>
<p><b>Math</b> Ms. Stassfurth Email: <a href="mailto:mstassfurth@motthall2.org">mstassfurth@motthall2.org</a></p>	<p><b>Current Unit of Study:</b> 8th Grade Math: Functions, Graphing, &amp; Rate of Change. Regents Algebra I: Rate of Change, Special Functions, &amp; Transformations. <b>Upcoming Assessments:</b> All classes had unit tests this week. Stay tuned on Engrade for the date of the next quiz in each class! <b>How to Support Your Scholar:</b> If they have homework, please take a look to see if they have a proper heading and to see if they showed their work. Please e-mail Ms. Stassfurth at anytime for an update on your scholar's progress, academically and/or socially in class! <b>Office Hours:</b> There is math extra-help after school every Wednesday from 2:45-3:30 in room 409 with Ms. Stassfurth.</p>
<p><b>Science</b> Mr. Shetia/Ms. Chao Email: <a href="mailto:Sshetia@motthall2.org">Sshetia@motthall2.org</a>  <b>Achao</b></p>	<p><b>Current Unit of Study:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Cell Biology</b>, we are going to learn how to manipulate the microscope and examine plant and animal cells using the microscope. Also scholars learn how do substances move across the cell membrane using energy and without using energy. In addition scholars differentiate between cells reproduce by mitosis and meiosis.</li> <li>• <b>Ecology (Ecological Succession, Matter &amp; Energy):</b> Alpha Wolves Scholars are in Chapter 2 of the <a href="#">Next Generation Science Standards</a></li> </ul>

<p><a href="mailto:@motthall2.org">@motthall2.org</a></p>	<p>aligned national curriculum developed by the American Museum of Natural History and the Lawrence Hall of Science in California. Scholars are learning about ecological succession and the biochemical cycles that occur: oxygen cycle, carbon cycle, water cycle and nitrogen cycle as well as what happens when a disruption occurs in the ecosystem.</p> <p><b>Upcoming Assessments:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Test 2 on Thursday November 9, 2017, it will cover “Biochemistry and Cell Biology Topic”</li> <li>• Alpha Wolves, Test 2 on Friday, November 10.</li> </ul> <p>How to Support Your Scholar: Please review the study guide with your scholars using the Barron’s review book “red book” and the following great online resources that your scholar can use to prepare for the Regents exam are:</p> <p><a href="http://www.regentsprep.org/Regents/biology/biology.cfm">http://www.regentsprep.org/Regents/biology/biology.cfm</a>  <a href="http://regentsprep.org/regents/core/questions/topics.cfm?Course=BIOL">http://regentsprep.org/regents/core/questions/topics.cfm?Course=BIOL</a></p> <p><b>Office Hours:</b> Every Wednesday during lunchtime in room 407</p>
<p><b>Social Studies</b>  Ms. Fletcher  Email:  <a href="mailto:lfletcher@motthall2.org">lfletcher@motthall2.org</a></p>	<p><b>Current Unit of Study: Progressive Era</b>  Following their unit test on Monday November 6, scholars will begin their study of the Progressive Era. We will examine how key events and reformers led to legislation that improved the lives of Americans and continue to impact our lives today. Key topics include: The Triangle Fire, child labor, Upton Sinclair &amp; the Meatpacking industry, and John Muir’s conservation efforts.</p> <p><b>Upcoming Assessments: Unit Test on Monday 11/6</b>  <b>How to Support Your Scholar:</b> Discuss ways in which individuals and groups today use their power as citizens to affect change in their communities.</p> <p><b>Office Hours:</b> Tuesday at lunch in room 405</p>
<p><b>Dance</b>  Ms. Stampoulis  Email:  <a href="mailto:Cstampolis@motthall2.org">Cstampolis@motthall2.org</a></p>	<p><b>Current Unit of Study: Advocacy Through The Arts</b>  <b>How to Support Your Scholar:</b> Encourage your scholar to be an active participant in dance class!  <b>Office Hours:</b> Tuesdays at lunch</p>
<p><b>Music</b>  Ms. Feder  Email:  <a href="mailto:Sfeder@motthall2.org">Sfeder@motthall2.org</a></p>	<p><b>Current Unit of Study: Technique and Keyboard Skills</b>  Finger drills. Quarter notes and eighth notes, hands separately, chord progressions, standard and popular repertoire  <b>Office Hours:</b> Fridays during lunch</p>
<p><b>ICT Teacher/8th Grade Team Leader</b>  Ms. Chao  Email:  <a href="mailto:Achao">Achao</a></p>	<p>I co-teach all four of the core content subjects: Math, Science, ELA and Social Studies.</p> <p>If your scholar needs support in classwork, homework or organization, they can drop in during my office hours or make an appointment to see me any other day of the week.</p> <p><b>Office Hours: Wednesdays</b> during lunch and by appointment in Room 409</p>

## Coming Up This Month:

- No school for students (Election Day): Tuesday, November 7
- End of the first marking period: Friday, November 10
- Report cards distributed: Thursday, November 16
- MHII Hang-Out Night: Friday, November 17
- Thanksgiving Recess: Thursday-Friday, November 23-24

## Paperwork & Permission Slips:

- **Report Cards:** will be distributed during Advisory on Thursday, November 16! Please return a signed copy to homeroom teachers.
- **8th Grade Merit System:** coming soon! Stay tuned for this important new initiative being rolled out by your eighth-grade teachers to help students take accountability for their actions and to grow as learners and humans.
- **8th Grade Dues Letters:** These will be distributed this coming week! Please keep an eye out for the letter which will be backpacked home. We will also send a PDF of the Dues Letter via email.

## From the School Counselors

### High School Information:

- **Please make an appointment with Mrs Gorman for high school advisement ASAP- last date is 11/22.**
- **High School Applications will be due on or before 12/1**
- **NYC iSchool applicants must complete their online activity ASAP and no later than 12/1**
- **Check websites and emails for open house dates and times**
- **Please put all high school documents, letters of recommendation requests in the high school folder located in your homeroom**

Any questions, please email at [bgorman@motthall2.org](mailto:bgorman@motthall2.org) or see Mrs. Gorman in room 420A

Dear 8th grade Families:

The National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) will be presenting to our 8th grade scholars on Tuesday, December 12th during their Latin classes. NAMI is the largest organization which helps to build and improve those lives who are affected with mental illness.

"Ending The Silence" is a program which helps middle schoolers understand mental illness. The speakers will discuss warning signs and help to clear up myths about mental illness. During the presentation, scholars will get to hear from someone who has a mental illness and what life is like for him/her.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Ms. Robbins - [jrobbins@motthall2.org](mailto:jrobbins@motthall2.org)

