

## The Lotus Lowdown

January 20, 2023



**Maria Francisco, Principal**

### **Semester 2 Elective selection**

On January 12, 2023, we emailed all parents the elective selection forms to be completed for Semester 2. We requested that all forms be submitted by 1/16/23 so that we can schedule students in time for the start of semester 2. Unfortunately, we still have about 60 students who have not filled out the selection forms. I am going to share the form below again. **Please note that students who have not selected electives by Monday, January 23rd will be placed into electives by our scheduling staff and unfortunately changes will not be made after we do so.** To access the selection form and course book, click on the following link: [Semester 2 Course Selection Form](#)

### **Student Council Meeting:**

Our student council will meet on January 24, 2023 immediately after school in room 111.

### **Bake Sale January 27, 2023**

Donations are needed for our Student Council Bake sale that will take place on 1/27/23 immediately after dismissal. Proceeds will go directly to our student council and for future school events. We are in the process of planning a winter social for February and plan to use some of the proceeds for the social. Please do keep in mind that we can only accept treats that are nut and allergy free. Please also ensure that ingredients are labeled. As always, we thank you in advance for your constant generosity. [Bake Sale Flyer](#)

### **Math Midterms:**

The Math Midterm will take place on 1/30 and 1/31 during student's scheduled Math Classes. The Midterm will cover the first half of the year's concepts and standards. Midterms count for 5% of a student's Final Math Grade. Teachers will review concepts with students in preparation for the Midterm. Should you have any questions, please contact Mr. Gazzillo @ [rgazzillo@montclair.k12.nj.us](mailto:rgazzillo@montclair.k12.nj.us)

### **Author Willie Mae Brown to visit Renaissance Middle School February 8, 2023**

**Willie Mae Brown** is a visual artist as well as an author who began writing stories about her childhood in 2012 and reading them in public in 2015. She is known for infusing her personal narratives with the vernacular of her Southern upbringing and has read at numerous public events including Martin Luther King Jr. Day celebrations at Brooklyn Borough Hall, as well as at many special events across the city, in her home state, and beyond. *My Selma* is her first book. We are absolutely thrilled to host Ms. Willie Mae Brown and grateful to our PTA president, Ms. Gretchen Devinsky for making this presentation possible for our students.

### **MSU robotics opportunity at Buzz Aldrin on Feb 8, 2023**

Participants in the Project Computer Science Girls (PCSG) club have been invited to a special opportunity on Wednesday, Feb 8, from 2:30-4:30 at BAMS. It is being presented by MSU.

The content of this two-hour visit is to inform and engage the students with respect to robotics and AI. We feel that this is a worthy opportunity for these aspiring girls in STEM and we hope that consideration can be made for them if they choose to take part.

[Notice to Parents](#)

## **School Tours Schedule 2023**

[School Tour Schedules](#)

## **3D Design Guest Speaker**

On Monday, January 23, 2023, our 3D design classes will have a special guest speaker. Former Renaissance, MHS student and current Montclair Fire Department Firefighter Ocival Pele Marquez will be joining our lessons. Pele is a well known local cosplayer who has used 3D printing extensively to make incredible replica costumes for characters like Naruto, Spiderman, and Iron Man. He will be showing our students his methods for creating these costumes using 3D printing as well as other maker methods.

## **Renaissance Mix It Up Day**

Renaissance students participated in a "Mix it Up" lunch on Wednesday, 1/18/23. Students were assigned a colored card at random and asked to sit at the lunch table with the colored tablecloth that matched their cards. Students were encouraged to meet new people and form new relationships with classmates they don't typically sit with or socialize with at lunch/recess. Talking points and questions were provided at certain intervals to help guide the conversation with new friends. Mr. Colon DJ'd each lunch period with fun music and encouraging motivation to help students embrace the fun of engaging with new classmates. Students culminated mix it up lunch with a dance party before heading out to recess! [MIX IT UP PHOTOS](#)

## **Restorative Justice News: Ms. Pastor, TOSA**

This week in our RJ elective classes, we discussed the influences that motivate and get in our way to accomplish necessary tasks, even when they are unpleasant. Our building RJ team is organizing an RJ family event, where families and caregivers can experience what their students are experiencing when they sit circle, as well as learn more about how Restorative Justice is being implemented at Renaissance! This event is scheduled for March, and details will be forthcoming! Aside from this caregiver event, the Renaissance RJ team is in the process of organizing student-wide community-building events for the upcoming months. Our January event was a Mix-It-Up Day during all lunch periods. We are asking for student input for future events! We are in the process of planning out the February event, and details are coming soon! Any questions you may please reach out to the Restorative Justice Teacher on Special Assignment, Ms. Candice Pastor at (cpastor@montclair.k12.nj.us).

## **A Message from SEPAC:**

[Upcoming Meeting Dates + Information](#)

[Dr. Priya Lalvani 1/30 @ 7:00pm](#)

[Black Literacy 2/8/23](#)

## **Anderson Park Short Story Contest**

Calling All Students!

[Anderson Park Short Story Contest](#)

## **National Junior Honor Society**

NJHS Eligibility criteria:

The National Junior Honor Society was founded in 1929. The qualities of scholarship, leadership, citizenship and service apply to the selection process for this prestigious organization. To be considered for induction, 7th and 8th grade students need to have a 92.5 average in all subject areas for the first 3 marking periods. There are additional requirements for consideration as well. Please review the PPT below for further information. Should you have any questions, please email our NJHS advisor, Ms. Lanza at [jlanza@montclair.k12.nj.us](mailto:jlanza@montclair.k12.nj.us).

[National Junior Honor Society Requirements](#)

### **NJHS students to begin peer tutoring:**

As a means of providing community service opportunities for our students who are interested in becoming National Junior Honor Society members and for our current NJHS members, we will start peer tutoring on 1/19/23. In February, peer tutoring will take place on 2/9/23 and on 2/16/23. March tutoring dates will be forthcoming. If you would like for your child to **become** a peer tutor, please have your child speak with Ms. Lanza to sign up. This is only for students who are already NJHS members or currently meet the criteria for induction. (described above) If you would like to sign your child up **for** peer tutoring please fill out the google form below.

[Click here to sign your child up to receive peer tutoring](#)

### **Happy Lunar New Year to all who celebrate:**

AAPIMontclair's Education Committee would like to invite the Renaissance community to their Lunar New Year celebration at MAM on January 28th. They would love to have as many children and families as possible and have free tickets available for those with financial need.

Over 100 Montclair students will participate as performers and volunteers throughout the event. Some will be in our dragon parades at 11:15 and 1:50, many will perform on the outdoor stage from 12:10-12:40, and others will be running crafts in one of the art studios from 11:00-1:00. We hope many from Renaissance will come to support the Mandarin teachers and students, and join the festivities.

[Lunar New Year](#)

[Lunar New Year \(2\)](#)

### **6th Grade:**

Students should bring their own water bottles and headphones to school regularly.

Students should also charge their Chromebooks every night.

## **Math Update:**

This week we started our Unit on Numerical Expressions, focusing on exponents and order of operations. The students completed a Choice Assignment with leveled problems. We finished the week with a fun game of Order of Operations Bingo.

## **7th Grade:**

End of Marking Period 2:

Students must turn in all late work by Friday, January 27 for the 4 core classes.

## **Social Studies:**

Students are completing a writing assignment on the lost colonists of Roanoke colony. This is due on Monday, Jan 23 for the Thomas/Garzon homerooms and Tuesday, Jan 24 for the Cullen/Arnette homerooms.

In class we are focusing on the fact that early colonies were businesses. Students are working in class to prepare a presentation on a new Massachusetts colony. Anything they don't finish in class Friday needs to be finished at home for a presentation Monday, Jan 23 for Thomas/Garzon homerooms or Tues, Jan 24 for Cullen/Arnette homerooms.

## **Language Arts:**

Please have all Creative stories in by Monday for presentation in a display cabinet.

We will finish the life of Frederick Douglass. Our Murder Mystery (interviews) are heating up!

## **Science:**

Students will be wrapping up the in-class portion of their "Resistance Isn't Useless" Lab Friday and will then be responsible for finishing all written components, tables and graphs by January 26th . It will count as the last Science grade for MP2.

## **8th Grade:**

### **Essex County Schools of Technology Presentation for 8th Graders**

- Essex County Technical Schools confirmed for Thursday, January 26, 2023, at 6pm for the virtual presentation providing information CTE opportunities.
- [Essex County School of Technology](#)

### **Field Research Trip**

On February 17th, the 8th grade students will be taking a trip to the Meadowlands Environmental Center in Lyndhurst, NJ. Students will be engaged with a morning/afternoon science workshop titled Biobasics. We are encouraging students to wear layers as there will be multiple outdoor components no matter rain/shine. Students also need to bring their own lunch to eat on site. Permission slips will come out the week of February 13th.

## **Math**

The students are starting on a new unit called Exponential Functions. The end of the unit focuses on Exponential Growth. A small assignment will include the students define Albert Einstein's alleged quote "Compounding is the world's 8th wonder"

## Science

Are you eating metal when you eat breakfast cereal? This week students explored the role of iron in our body and proved that iron can be extracted from breakfast cereal. Iron is not only a transition metal from the periodic table but an essential mineral for our body. Students had to design their own tests in groups to determine if iron is really in their cereal.

## ELA

This week, we analyzed chapters 8-15 in our novel: *A Lesson Before Dying*. Just a reminder that we are watching the film in portions throughout the next couple of weeks alongside reading the novel. Students are engaged in conversations revolving around the characters, setting, and conflict while connecting it to real world issues such as injustice.

## Important Upcoming Dates:

- January 22, 2023 Lunar New Year
- January 26, 2023 Curriculum Thursday; 1:25 pm Dismissal
- January 30-31, 2023 Math Midterms (6-8)

*Lunar New Year is a celebration of the arrival of spring and the beginning of a new year on the lunisolar calendar. It is the most important holiday in China, and it is also widely celebrated in South Korea, Vietnam, and countries with a significant overseas Chinese population. While the official dates encompassing the holiday vary by culture, those celebrating consider it the time of the year to reunite with immediate and extended family.*

For more information please visit:

[National Museum of Asian Art](#)

