



Marie Curie Middle School 158 Queens Magnet School for Mathematics, Science and Technology

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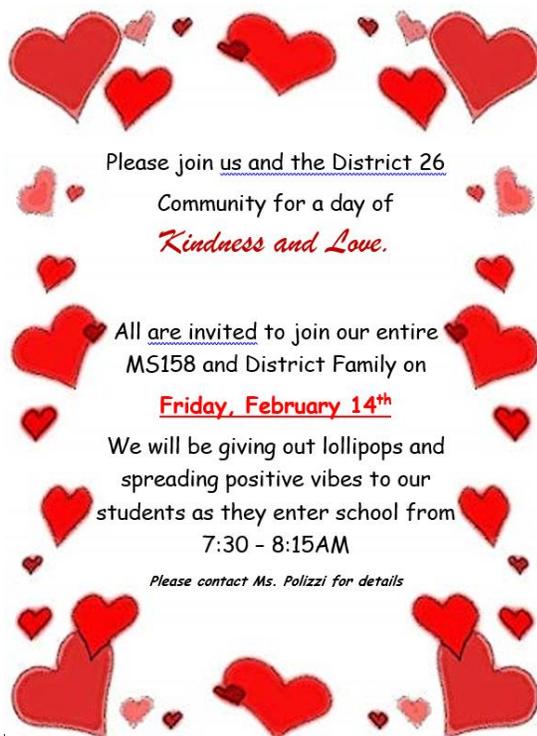
Henry Schandel
Principal

Melissa Corbett
Calia Kelly
Robert LoCastro
Assistant Principals

Friday 5
February 7, 2020

Welcome to the close of another fantastic week at [Marie Curie Middle School!](#) Here is your weekly dose of the "Friday 5" – a list of what is happening at our school and what is on my mind. As always, please give me feedback. What information do you like the most? What do you want more or less of? Other suggestions? Let me know!!

Come Join us for Valentine's Day Arrival --



Before the Winter Recess back in December, I toured each classroom to spread some holiday cheer with students and brought with me members of our support staff to remind them that they have a team of people working to keep them safe and are accessible to them to provide guidance and support.

Before we head into our Mid-Winter Recess, I would like to remind our students that not only do we have a support staff looking out for them, but an entire community that supports and loves them with their best interest in mind.

I have been working with our PTA and SLT parents to purchase almost 60lbs. of heart lollipops to hand out to students as they come in to school on **February 14th (Valentine's Day)**. We would love if you could join us to hand out lollipops, cheers, and high-fives as they arrive to remind them we all have their back!

(flyer attached)

Brainpower Visits --

As part of our Social Emotional Learning program, we are now in year 2 of our partnership with [Brainpower](#). This program teaches our staff and students physical and mental brain breaks, mindfulness practices, and classroom management strategies that are all anchored to social emotional wellness. One of my favorite elements of our partnership is their student leadership program. This week, all of our 7th graders participated in instructional activities on strategies on how to manage stress that was co-facilitated by our Brainpower coaches and student leaders both in classrooms and in grade assemblies. A big thank-you to Ms. Rey who is our Brainpower Master Teacher and guides our student leaders. We are all proud of their work to bring mindfulness practices to their classmates and look forward to their next round and assembly in March.



Welcome to the 111 Precinct Community Outreach --

As part of our partnership with local law enforcement, we were lucky to have officers of the 111 Precinct School Safety Division and Community Outreach Unit visit our school to conduct the first of a series of visits with our 6th graders. Today they visited some of Mr. Giorgianni's Health classes to talk with our students about common youth-involved crimes and their legal implications. The officers defined different laws around assault, theft, sexual harassment, and bullying and what happens when these laws are broken.



Safety in the Community --

On Wednesday, I met with all grades for a brief assembly to discuss strategies they can use to keep themselves safe when walking to and from school. Below is a screenshot of the short presentation which outlines 10 things for them to consider. I urge you to read and review these with your children so we can work together to nurture their independence in the community while also keeping them safe. If your child walks or takes public transportation, please review with them what their travel route is and what experiences they are having. Most of the time when we ask them how their walk home went, I am sure many times they will say "fine", but ask more questions such as "Who were you with? Did you see anything out of the ordinary? What would you do if a stranger approached you?" **I will cover this and other safety topics with parents at our Town Hall Safety Meeting during the PTA Meeting on Tuesday at 7PM. All are welcome to attend.**

- If possible, walk with at least one other person. Two or three is even better
- Stick to the route you discussed with your parents. Never use shortcuts through parks, alleys, fields, etc.
- NO HEADPHONES. You need to be aware of your surroundings.
- Say "NO!" to strangers. Especially if they are offering you a ride.
- ASK FOR HELP. If someone is following you go to where there are other people – to a neighbor's home or into a store. Run away! If you have a phone – CALL 911
- The best defense is NOISE – yell, scream, shout, scatter books/papers/belongings if forced into a car.
- Back away from cars that pull up to bus stops
- Do not judge strangers on their appearance.
- Cross at the crosswalk
- Trust your instincts – if it feels wrong, it probably is wrong

Quote I'm Pondering –

"It is easier to act yourself into a new way of thinking, than it is to think yourself into a new way of acting." – [Millard Fuller](#)

Have a wonder weekend!!

