

# January

## Newsletter

From Early Scholars Learning Center



### Welcome

Greetings, parents and families! Happy New Year and best wishes for 2014! We hope everyone stayed cozy during our recent cold snap, and we welcome you warmly to the January edition of the Early Scholars Learning Center PS 18Q newsletter. We look forward to starting a new semester and gearing up for the upcoming spring assessments. Please read on to hear what we've got in store, and, as always, feel free to contact us at [info@earlyscholarsny.com](mailto:info@earlyscholarsny.com) or (347) 494-1640.

### Academic Update

We're tackling a number of ELA strategies and skills this month to build on the lessons learned in the fall and give every student a strong foundation that they can use to succeed on the spring state assessment. In our small group sessions, we'll be working hard on the following ELA skills:

- Reading Comprehension of Literary Texts. We'll focus on identifying new vocabulary words from context's clues as well as the author's purpose, and we'll work on analyzing ideas from the texts.
- Short Responses. We'll practice writing short responses to the text that include specific details from the piece of literature.
- Prefix/Suffix. Learning these word parts help students make sense of challenging vocabulary words they will encounter in the texts on the state assessment.
- Context Clues. Context clues are a powerful tool for figuring out what words mean! Encourage your students to explore context at home by reading articles from the newspaper together.
- Figurative Language. Students will learn how to identify figurative techniques in fiction, including simile, metaphor and oxymoron.
- Extended Writing. Finally, students will work on longer writing responses that focus on identifying the main idea and details of a piece of writing.

Our Math enrichment sessions continue to be very rigorous, and this month the aim is on numbers and operations in base ten. Ask your scholar to show you some of their math practice to help them internalize the thinking skills behind these strategies!

## Capstone Project

Last month, we wrapped up several fall enrichment activities to culminate in a capstone project. Now with the winter holidays over, we're shifting focus from enrichment to test preparation to ensure all of our scholars are ready for the state assessments that are right around the corner! Learn more about how this shift will take place in our CSI club update, below!

### Art Club

Our art students will learn cartooning techniques in January by drawing geometrical shapes, proportional lines and learning about symmetry. We also continue to expose students to well-known artists; in January, tutors will introduce students to the work of Andy Warhol, an iconic pop culture artist who still has influence on contemporary artists like Lady Gaga!

### CSI Club

As mentioned earlier, we completed a capstone project in our CSI club and will pause our investigative activities during the next few months in order to devote more time to test prep for the coming ELA and Math state exams.

### Important Dates:

No School- January 20<sup>th</sup>, Martin  
Luther King Day

### Contact Information:

We love to hear from our parents, so feel free to contact us with any questions or concerns. We look forward to a bright and successful year working with you!

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Thanks, as always, for your support of Early Scholars. Stay warm, scholars!