

# SciTech Parent Newsletter

October 2014

## Inside this issue:

Advanced Placement Celebration	2
Pittsburgh Promise Walk	2
PSAT's Grades 10-11	3
How to Do a Great Science Fair	3
Phone Numbers and Addresses	3
Parent Involvement Policy	3

## Parent Teacher Conferences

Our parent teacher conferences will take place on Thursday, October 16th from 4:00 PM to 7:00 PM and Friday, October 17th from 8:00 AM to 12:00 PM. Please note that October 16th is a half day for students and all students will need to leave the school building at dismissal. There is no school for students Friday, October 17th. We are encouraging parents and guardians to schedule individual appointments with teachers in advance, as there is a limited amount of time available to meet throughout the day. On the day of the conference a schedule will be placed outside the classroom that shows the times that are still available to meet with each teacher. You can sign up for any open ten-minute window at this time as well. According to our data from last year; our heaviest crowds were from 5:00-7:00 p.m.

We are encouraging all students to accompany their families to Parent-Teacher Conferences, and even lead the conference themselves with the teacher still available as a facilitator. This places the student in a position of responsibility for explaining their learning and progress to their parent or guardian. We strongly believe that when students take ownership over their learning they are more likely to achieve and find success in school.

Attached to this letter is a parent tip sheet for Parent-Teacher Conferences. Please read through the tip sheet prior to the conference so that you are prepared to make the conference as productive as possible. You may want to ask your child some of these questions before the conference so that he or she is prepared to answer them. Light refreshments will be available in the cafeteria.

---

## Magnet Schools Applications for the 2015-2016 School Year

The open magnet application process began September 15th, so at this time students and families can begin to apply to magnet programs for the 2015-2016 school year. Our annual district Magnet Fair will take place Saturday, October 11th from 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM at Pittsburgh Obama 6-12. We will be hosting our own SciTech Open House for prospective students and families on November 13th from 6:00 to 8:00 PM. **Current SciTech students do not need to reapply.**

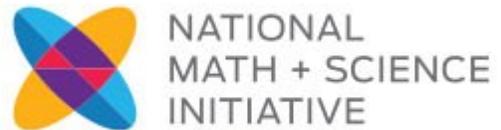
For additional information please call the Magnet Office at 412.529.3991 or email [magnetoffice@pghboe.net](mailto:magnetoffice@pghboe.net). Additionally, please check the Magnet webpage ([www.pps.k12.pa.us/magnet](http://www.pps.k12.pa.us/magnet)) periodically for the latest information.

## Advanced Placement (AP) Celebration and Kick-off Assembly

In September, we were pleased to recognize and celebrate the hard work of last year's AP students and at the same time encourage those students that will participate in AP classes this school year. During this high school assembly we were joined by Dr. Linda Lane, Superintendent, Dr. Donna Micheaux, Deputy Superintendent and Dr. Wayne Walters, Assistant Superintendent. Mrs. Cynthia Falls, Pittsburgh School District board representative also attended the event, which included remarks from current SciTech students and graduates, representatives from the National Math and Science Initiative and Dr. Stan Thompson of the Heinz Endowments.

During this assembly, we emphasized the importance of students being exposed to AP coursework during their high school experience. Data suggests that for a student in the Pittsburgh School district, participation in two AP courses makes that student twice as likely to persist in college compared to a student with no experience in AP coursework. Additionally, students that take even one AP course are still more likely to continue through college.

We are certainly glad to note the growth of our AP program at SciTech. During the 2013-2014 school year, we more than tripled the number of passing AP exam scores and are number one in the entire state for the percent of increase in passing scores.



If you are interested in learning more about AP courses and the opportunities that are available to your child for participation in future AP courses at SciTech, please feel free to contact Mrs. Elaine Ashcom our school guidance counselor.

---

## Walk for One Promise

Walk for One Promise is a 13 mile, city-wide pilgrimage to support The Pittsburgh Promise and Pittsburgh's children. The walk will emphasize the need to raise funds and awareness of the educational inequality that our students face throughout the city. This walk is sponsored by the Pittsburgh Promise and the hope is that this event will encourage members of the Pittsburgh community to stand together for all of our students in order to change some of the inequalities that are evident today.

The Walk for One Promise will take place October 18th and will begin and end at Pittsburgh Science and Technology Academy. Please come out and enjoy a free cookout, bounce-houses for kids and adults, and opportunities to support The Promise!

The activities at the finish line will begin at 2:00 PM at Pittsburgh Science and Technology Academy. For more information please go to [www.pittsburghpromise.org/walk](http://www.pittsburghpromise.org/walk).

The logo for "the pittsburgh promise" features the words "the pittsburgh" in a blue, lowercase, sans-serif font, followed by "promise" in an orange, lowercase, sans-serif font. A stylized sun icon is positioned between the "p" and "r" of "promise".

the pittsburgh promise

## PSAT (grades 10-11)

SciTech will be administering the PSAT/NMSQT to all Manager level (10th & 11th grade) students on Wednesday, October 15th during the school day. The PSAT/NMSQT is a test given by the College Board to all Pittsburgh Public School District sophomore and junior students. This is great practice for the College Board SAT, provides feedback about critical academic skills such as reading and math, and will also enter students into the National Merit Scholarship Award. Please encourage your son or daughter to be well rested, have a good breakfast and start thinking more about college on test day.

---

## How to Do a Great Science Fair Project

SciTech is hosting a special event on October 14th focusing on how to do a great science fair project. Listen to advice from past Pittsburgh Regional Science and Engineering Fair (PRSEF) winners, as well as Carnegie Science Center and the University of Pittsburgh staff. This event is open to grades 6-12. Reservations can be made at the PRSEF website ([http://www.scitechfestival.com/mainsf\\_workshop.asp](http://www.scitechfestival.com/mainsf_workshop.asp)). Registration for this event starts at 6:00 p.m. and the presentation will begin at 6:30 p.m. For additional information please call 412.237.1534 or email [KosickL@CarnegieScienceCenter.org](mailto:KosickL@CarnegieScienceCenter.org).

---

## Parent Addresses & Phone Numbers

Families are reminded that if their address, phone number or email address changes during the school year, it is very important to call and notify the main office. The addresses we have on file are used for mailings and the phone numbers are used for our automatic calling system as well as for emergency purposes. At the start of the school year, all families are asked to complete and return Student Emergency Forms.



## Parent Involvement Policy

The SciTech Parent Involvement Policy has been updated for the 2014-2015 with input from our parents and guardians at the last PSCC Meeting. Please find this on the website at [www.pghscitech.net](http://www.pghscitech.net) under "Resources." If you would like a hard copy please contact Mrs. Theuret at 412-529-7652 or [stheuret1@pghboe.net](mailto:stheuret1@pghboe.net).

---

## Parent Online Access– Access Your Student's Grades

We have now received login information for all SciTech parents to access student grades online. If you would like your login information please contact any of your student's teachers directly or Mrs. Theuret at [stheuret1@pghboe.net](mailto:stheuret1@pghboe.net) or 412-529-7652, email is best so that instructions can also be provided.



# **Fall Science and Technology Festival & Potluck Dinner**

**When:** Wednesday, October 22nd

**Where:** SciTech

**Time:** 6-8pm

This will be a fun night of exploring science and technology, participate in hands on activities facilitated by local organizations and universities. Last year, this was the largest event the SciTech PTO hosted and there was fun for all ages. Please plan to attend!

*This event is sponsored by the SciTech PTO*

