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## The Unity Scoop at 432! Week of March 19th

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### Good morning, families of Unity Junior High!

With this week's edition of *The 432 Scoop*, I bring to you 12 important announcements plus a bonus coming from our high school!

#### This Week's Top 12:

**1. Reminder! Preparing to Shine on this Year's State English Language Arts (ELA) Exam!** We are now fully in test-prep mode for next month's ELA exam, to be administered on April 3rd and 4th. Students will continue to have nightly homework in ELA, including test prep assignments to complete three nights weekly along with assigned independent reading or creative writing assignments on the other two nights. In addition, students will complete weekly "scrimmages" or quizzes during class to check their stamina and accuracy. Reflections on these quizzes and goals for the following week will be sent home on Fridays: 3/15, 3/22, and 3/28. Select ELA teachers will also tutor students during lunch or after school on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Please contact your child's ELA teacher with any questions.

As a parent, you can support your child in preparing to do his or her best on the ELA exam by:

1. Ensuring that your child has a quiet place to complete homework
2. Discussing your child's reading with him/her. The following questions will be helpful in supporting your child in the thinking she/he will need to do on the ELA exam:
  - a. For fiction texts:
    1. *What is the theme of this story?*
    2. *How are the characters affected by the setting?*
    3. *What narrative techniques did the author use?*
    4. *What is the author's goal in using these techniques?*
    5. *What inference can you make about the characters?*
  - b. For non-fiction texts:

1. *What is the central idea of the text?*
2. *What techniques did the author use?*
3. *What is the author's goal in using these techniques?*
4. *How does the author's word choice impact the meaning and tone of the text?*
5. *What text structures does the author use?*

3. Discuss the results of your child's weekly quizzes and reflections.

**2. Trimester 3 Begins this Week!** - Congrats to all in officially completing Trimester 2 last week. We look forward to discussing highlights of the trimester with all families during family conferences next week. We are now in the final stretch of the year with Trimester 3!

**3. Middle School Spring Athletic Team Tryouts This Week!** - All students are encouraged to tryout for our spring athletic teams in boys baseball, girls and boys volleyball, and co-ed track this week. Tryouts take place after school on Tuesday, March 19th, and Thursday, March 21st. Contact our Athletic Director, Mr. Coleman, with questions at [acoleman@unityprep.org](mailto:acoleman@unityprep.org).

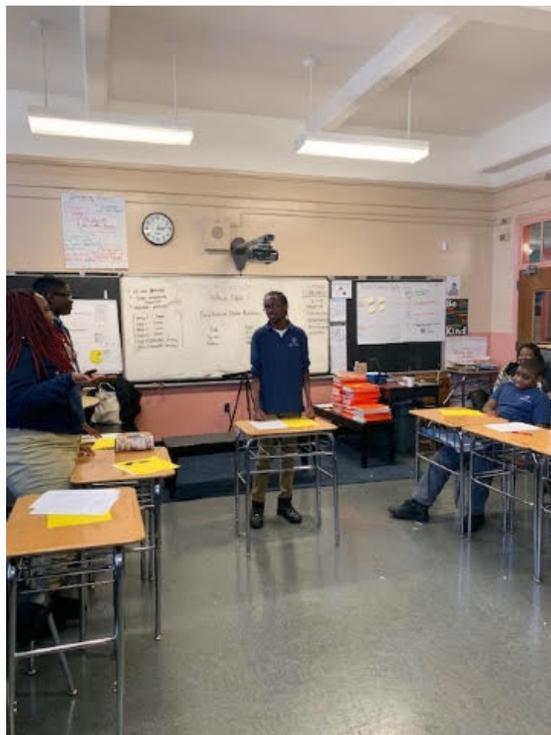
**4. Annual Middle School Student vs. Faculty Hoops Game at the Barclays Center on Sunday, March 24th at 10am!** - We are thrilled to announce that this year's game will take place on the main court of the Barclays Center, home of the Brooklyn Nets! We are also thrilled to invite the Unity community to attend the game, including family members, teachers, and students. This event will serve as a fundraiser for Unity's Athletic Department. For every ticket sold, \$5 will be donated back towards the school. Tickets can be purchased through the following link: [www.nycbasketballleague.com/wufoo/unityprep2019](http://www.nycbasketballleague.com/wufoo/unityprep2019). All tickets must be purchased through the link, as tickets will not be sold at the door. See you at the game!

**5. Unity's 6th Grade Theatre Performance Share!** Enjoy the photos below of Unity's sixth grade students at work last week in preparing scenes from the play, *Peter and the Starcatcher*, for their upcoming performance. Thank you to those who came out to support!





**6. Congrats to Unity's Speech and Debate Team!** See the photos below of Unity's eighth grade students engaging in debate during last week's four-day debate extravaganza, where students discussed topics including the use of animal dissection in schools and funding of space exploration!





**7. Reminder!** **Family Conferences to be held on the Evening of March 28th and During the Day on March 29th** - We are excited to meet with all of our families to discuss student academic progress and opportunities to collaborate to further refine our collective support. Conferences will be held on Thursday (3/28) from 5pm-8pm and on Friday (3/29) from 10am-3pm. One of your child's co-advisors will be contacting you by Friday, March 22nd to schedule a meeting. Contact Ms. Rivera of our main office with questions (718-455-5046 or [jrivera@unityprep.org](mailto:jrivera@unityprep.org)).

**8. A Shout-out to Families who Attended Last Week's Coffee with our Co-Principals** - Mr. Burns and Ms. Roy Gaines thank all families who participated in last week's coffee talk. We look forward to continuing in our discussions during next month's coffee talk.

**9. Reminder!** **Support our Student Recruitment Efforts!** - We kindly ask that all of our families take no more than five minutes to visit [GreatSchools.org](http://GreatSchools.org) or our Google page to share with others what you appreciate about Unity and why you are proud to send your child to Unity. Simply click [HERE](#) to access our Google page or [HERE](#) to go directly to the site to provide a review. Thanks in advance - it means a lot to us and goes a long way in ensuring our long-term success in connecting with amazing families like you!

**10. Reminder!** **Our Next Open Houses for Prospective New Middle School Students are on Wednesday, March 20th at 6pm and on Saturday, March 23rd at 10am** - We encourage our current families to invite other families whose child is entering middle school next year, as these are the last open houses before the lottery. Contact Ms. Hefney with questions at [fhefney@unityprep.org](mailto:fhefney@unityprep.org) or (347) 460-7173.

**11. Reminder!** **Career Day at Unity High on April 12th - We'd be Honored to Have you in Attendance!** - Unity High will host its Third Annual Career Fair on the morning of Friday, April 12th. During this networking event, students will visit several different adults and inquire about the adults' work, their professional backgrounds, and ask for tips/advice regarding entering the adults' career field. We are now actively recruiting adults from the range of career fields. We hope to have at least fifty adults from a range of career fields including, but not limited to: design (graphic design, animation, architecture), science (biology/marine biology, chemists), visual arts, self-employed entrepreneurs, law

enforcement, medicine/healthcare, law, private business, performing arts, and humanities-related careers. Should you or anyone in your network be interested in participating in the Career Fair, please complete the [Unity Prep Career Fair Interest Survey](#). Contact Mr. Gonzalez, Unity High's Director of College & Career Readiness at [egonzalez@unityprep.org](mailto:egonzalez@unityprep.org) or (347) 439-2634 with questions.

**12. Reminder! Support Your Child's Study Skills at Home** - It is never too late to help your child in developing their study skills! Here is a helpful [article](#) that details how you can support your child in studying at home. Simply browse over the article and take part in those recommendations that you feel are most important to you and your child. Please do not hesitate to contact your child's co-advisors and/or teachers directly for course-specific study tips.

**Bonus: Last Week's College Fair at Unity High** - Shout-out to the 8th grade families who attended our college fair last week! Kudos to you for getting a jumpstart on exposure to college! Enjoy the photo from our standing-room-only fair below.



### Resources for Families:

- [MS March calendar, including our athletics schedule](#)
- [2018-19 MS Academic Calendar](#) (official calendar as established at the beginning of the year)
- [2018-19 MS Student & Family Handbook](#)
- [Unity Pledge](#)
- [Jupiter](#) (for your child's grades) - you can also log in by visiting our website and clicking on the Jupiter Ed icon on the top right corner of our homepage.

Best regards,

Mr. Beauregard

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