

# *Louis Pasteur Middle School 67Q*

51-60 Marathon Parkway  
Little Neck, New York 11362

Tel: 718 423-8138  
Fax: 718 423-8281

---

---

**Principal**

*Brian Anello*

**Assistant Principals**

*Barbara Choit  
Taso Lampoutis  
Anthony Rizzo*

January 13, 2017

Dear 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Parent(s)/Guardian(s):

As many of you know, your child has been participating in a STEM-themed wetlands habitat restoration project. Beginning with a field trip to Alley Pond Environmental Center in November, our primary focus has been to expose our learners to the variety of data collection techniques a real ecologist might employ during a scientific investigation. We believe this experience has also served to increase their sense of connection to the environment and community at large. While this project began in the science classroom, it has also extended into all of their core subjects including art. Our goal is to continue our program each year, to follow our sixth graders as they move through seventh and eighth grades, and to make it an authentic learning experience.

Through the course of our program, we have developed relationships with many external partners including educators, community leaders and private industry professionals. By collaborating with elementary schools, other middle schools, high schools and universities, our vision is to support our students' STEM educations before and after their middle school years, and provide students access to STEM college and career opportunities. In this spirit, we have arranged for a presentation on Tuesday, January 24, 2017 by Dr. J Bret Bennington, Chairperson of the Department of Geology, Environment, and Sustainability at Hofstra University. Dr. Bennington will present a one period lecture to our 6<sup>th</sup> graders on the geologic history of Long Island and the environmental issues facing the coastline of Queens. Students in sixth grade will be split into two groups and see the presentation either period 2 or 3 on Tuesday, January 24th. Each presentation will last approximately 30 minutes followed by questions from students. In preparation for that day, in order to make our time most productive with Dr. Bennington, please discuss with your child some possible questions he/she would like to ask the professor about our local geology and environment.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me by email at [Tlampoutis@schools.nyc.gov](mailto:Tlampoutis@schools.nyc.gov) or by phone at 718.423.8138 for additional discussion.

Sincerely,

Taso Lampoutis  
Assistant Principal