

April 5, 2017

Dear Sixth Grade Parents and Guardians,

Welcome to the final unit for 6th grade Exploration, Water Stewardship. This unit takes us offsite quite a lot as we learn about our NYC waterways, about activism, and as we participate in stewardship. We are excited about our upcoming trip on board the Sloop Clearwater and/or Sloop Mystic Whaler, ships specializing in Hudson River ecology, history and conservation. Our sails will be led by crew and educators from Clearwater, a Hudson River conservancy organization founded by the late folk singer and activist Pete Seeger.

The boats will depart from the 79th Street Boat Basin on the Upper West Side of Manhattan. During their three-hour excursions, students will participate in raising the sails, navigating the boat, and casting a net to collect river wildlife specimens. Clearwater instructors will show them how to measure the impacts of climate change along the river. Students will learn about life aboard the boat and will have the opportunity to collect and identify a variety of freshwater fish species.

**\*\*\*IMPORTANT INFO\*\*\***

**Travel Information:**

• The date, time, and details of your child’s scheduled trip are attached.

• If your child has a full fare student metrocard they will need to use it for one ride, either going if they are in the early group or returning if they are in the late group because our free school passes only work between the hours of 9 am and 3 pm.

• If your child does not have a student metrocard but can come prepared with a metrocard that contains one ride that would be very helpful for our transportation. (if you are unable to provide your child with a metrocard please let their teacher know).

• **Important! Morning sails (A and C)** **will leave the school by 8 am**, **so students in these groups will need to arrive and meet outside the Pacific Street entrance at 7:45 am** on the day of their sail. Please make sure your child has transportation arrangements if he/she is in one of these groups. They will have lunch 7th period and return to their normal period 8 class at the end of the school day.

• **Important! Afternoon sails (B and D)** **will return to school at around 5 pm,** so students in these groups will not be able to take the yellow bus home. Please make sure your child has transportation arrangements if he/she is in one of these groups. Students scheduled for Afternoon Sails (B and D) will have normal classes and lunch periods 1-5. **They will return to**

**school around 5 p.m. and will be dismissed from in front of the school when they return.**

**What to wear and bring:**

• What to wear on the day of the sail: Sneakers, a jacket, and layered clothes that you can take off if it gets warm (the weather is often cooler and windier on the water than on dry land). If rain is in the forecast, bring a rain jacket! (Clearwater sails are only cancelled in the event of thunder and lightning or high winds.)

• Be sure to use sunscreen and bring a water bottle and a light snack for travel.

**Chaperones:**

• Chaperones: We have room for a small number of additional adults to join us on each trip.

Chaperones will be taken on a first-come, first-served basis. Please use Sign-Up Genius (<http://www.signupgenius.com/go/4090d4baba629a0fe3-unit6>), but please be sure you will be available for this trip if you sign up since this is a popular trip. Pay close attention to the group your child is assigned to and sign up accordingly. You will also need to come prepared with one subway ride.

If you have any questions please let me know.

Thank you for your support!

Joy Canning

Please Note: The Clearwater and Mystic Whaler have strict limitations to the number of passengers on board at one time, so unfortunately, we are unable to take requests for sail changes. If there is an unavoidable conflict please let me know.

**Sail A: Friday 5/5 7:45 am - 1 pm**

RED GROUP -- entire class

BLUE GROUP -- Last names beginning with A-K

**Sail B: Friday 5/5 11:30 am - 5 pm**

YELLOW GROUP -- entire class

BLUE GROUP -- Last names beginning with L-Z

**Sail C: Monday 5/8 7:45 am - 1 pm**

ORANGE GROUP -- entire class

GREEN GROUP -- Last names beginning with A- Masio

**Sail D: Monday 5/8 11:30 am - 5 pm**

PURPLE GROUP -- entire class

GREEN GROUP -- Last names beginning with McGovern-Z