Good evening John Poole Middle School families,

This is Mr. Green with your weekly updates for March 18 - March 22, 2024.

Spring break is almost here!  The end of the 3rd marking period is April 9.  Since there was no TAP last week due to testing, this week is a terrific opportunity to check your grades and make sure you are taking every opportunity for re-assessment.  You should be speaking with your teachers if you have any questions or concerns about an assignment.

Parents, guardians and caregivers - We need your help!

Earlier this school year, Ms. Duke (staff development teacher) and I went into English classes and gave two student lessons on the power of words/respectful language and being an upstander.  Our hope was to make students aware that the words they use can brighten someone’s day and the words they use can also hurt, including when some students may think they are joking with another student.  We also wanted to provide students with strategies to help themselves or their classmates when they encounter situations where students are being mean, creating conflict or bullying.  Over the past few weeks, these behaviors are escalating.  Students are using words that are mean, hurtful, as well as racially insensitive.  Please speak with your children about this as well as what they may be viewing online through social media.  I am sharing the lessons we presented to the students with our entire school community so we can all work together to make our school a safe place for everyone.  THANK YOU for speaking with your children.  Here are the links to the lessons for you to reference.

[Respectful Language](https://nam04.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fdocs.google.com%2Fpresentation%2Fd%2F1nWRwHcbVpk20FK1wdy1cRYqbjMDMPt5Yf4WF_Nx1Clk%2Fedit%23slide%3Did.g4dfce81f19_0_45&data=05%7C02%7Calison_m_d%27aiutolo%40mcpsmd.org%7Cce044576f9bf40b9563308dc46d1f05b%7Cddf755e9bcd64a5ea4727c378a78c6c7%7C0%7C0%7C638463114691616062%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=dWeNkHhYOh8iLk4q9RT8BrLGqloN965%2F49O4EXESQXg%3D&reserved=0)

[Becoming an Upstander](https://nam04.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fdocs.google.com%2Fpresentation%2Fd%2F1X94sL5UkQ3izIgFMtkyOPcPZ-psUMIV2tJvP7G1H4as%2Fedit%23slide%3Did.g2a04d61012d_0_315&data=05%7C02%7Calison_m_d%27aiutolo%40mcpsmd.org%7Cce044576f9bf40b9563308dc46d1f05b%7Cddf755e9bcd64a5ea4727c378a78c6c7%7C0%7C0%7C638463114691625519%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=Xvtm8cb1e1IKewsj%2FOj%2Fk9l%2Bt2jSRo77wUkZ4ADxiMg%3D&reserved=0)

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Spring student pictures will be taken on Wednesday, March 20th during PE classes.  All students will have their picture taken.  For any questions, please contact [support@freedphoto.com](mailto:support@freedphoto.com).

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**JPMS PTSA News**Are you an 8th grade parent and are interested in helping plan the upcoming 8th grade celebration dance?  If so, please join the committee on Wednesday, March 20th at 7pm via this zoom link –<https://kestrafinancial.zoom.us/j/98872199743?pwd=UUdqT0Nxamt5V3hkYVpYTENJMWVTQT09>  Watch this newsletter and the JPMS Class of 2028 Facebook page for more details about the dance and to sign up to volunteer at the dance.  Tickets will go on sale soon.

Parent vs. Staff Kickball is BACK.  Mark your calendars for May 8th @ 6:00pm.  Stay tuned for more information in the coming weeks.  However, if you would like to help plan the event, please reach out to Michelle Bender at [bender\_michelle@hotmail.com](mailto:bender_michelle@hotmail.com).

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**March MATHness**

Attention Timberwolves! JPMS is participating in March MATHness against other MCPS middle schools. The goal is for students to reach proficiency in 1-2 IXL skills each week with a SmartScore of 80. Please join us in encouraging your student(s) to get on IXL and help their class win the competition! The contest will continue through spring break and end on Friday, March 29.

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RecXtra News

**Attention Timberwolves, it's never too late to sign up for RecXtra Clubs.  All RecXtra Clubs are free to join!**

These activities are open to all students. In addition, activity buses are provided at 4:15 p.m. to take members home.  To find more information about RecXtra Clubs, as well as, all after school offerings at John Poole, please visit our after school activities page on the school website. [Click Here](https://nam04.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.montgomeryschoolsmd.org%2Fschools%2Fpoolems%2Fclubs%2Factivities%2F&data=05%7C02%7CAlison_M_D%27Aiutolo%40mcpsmd.org%7C401dff0d16a446aaffde08dc2e220775%7Cddf755e9bcd64a5ea4727c378a78c6c7%7C0%7C0%7C638435970896639459%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=UNqp08jqfB%2FlbRWcr2gYGgEEPwWf971uCUsqQQAKazM%3D&reserved=0)

**RecXtra Gaming Club**

Students have the opportunity to explore and play games with their friends.  Make this your club with various creative opportunities including strategy games, retro games, and more.

**RecXtra Leos Club**

Join Mrs. Crutchfield for LEOS Club to plan and implement service projects to support the Poolesville community.

**RecXtra Chill Zone**

Join the Chill Zone to relieve stress and find your center.  Play games, hang out with friends and learn strategies to take stress out of your life.

**NEW** **RecXtra Chess Club**

Join Ms. Rice for our new RecXtra Chess Club.  The Chess club will meet every Wednesday.  Learn different strategies, compete against your friends, and take part in tournaments.

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**Intramurals:**

Intramural activities are open to ALL Timberwolves and are held right after school until 4:15 pm. Permission slips are located in the girls and boys locker rooms.

**Intramural Archery**

The deadline to turn in the intramural archery permission slips has been extended to Tuesday, March 19.  If you are interested in joining this activity, pick up a permission slip from your Health Teacher or from the locker rooms.

**Table Tennis is with Ms. Gibbs**

Feb. 27, Mar. 5, 12, 19, Apr. 2, 9, 16, 23, 30 & May 7

All skill levels are welcome.

All equipment is provided by JPMS

**Basketball is with Mr. Hartley**

Feb. 28, Mar. 6, 13, 20, Apr. 24, May 1 & 15

All skills levels are welcome

Questions: Reach out to our Intramural Coordinator @ [Kimberly\_S\_Gerrie@mcpsmd.org](mailto:Kimberly_S_Gerrie@mcpsmd.org)

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Please continue to check the [myMCPS Classroom](https://nam04.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fclassroom.mcpsmd.org%2F&data=05%7C02%7Calison_m_d%27aiutolo%40mcpsmd.org%7Cce044576f9bf40b9563308dc46d1f05b%7Cddf755e9bcd64a5ea4727c378a78c6c7%7C0%7C0%7C638463114691630874%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=j7FM1J5vfoj4A3tl9LTzaEJKNfxkH6o0NxjXwnt4ui4%3D&reserved=0) calendar or our [JPMS school webpage](https://nam04.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww2.montgomeryschoolsmd.org%2Fschools%2Fpoolems%2F&data=05%7C02%7Calison_m_d%27aiutolo%40mcpsmd.org%7Cce044576f9bf40b9563308dc46d1f05b%7Cddf755e9bcd64a5ea4727c378a78c6c7%7C0%7C0%7C638463114691635523%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=GcL1p1Puwj33q5tZkfs2k39bnVTpJqlwc24ByfEj5TU%3D&reserved=0) for the most updated information, including upcoming events, bus routes, and other happenings occurring at school.

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Please mark your calendars for these important upcoming events:

Wednesday, March 20 - Spring Student Picture Day

Thursday, March 21 - Book Wars

Monday, March 25 - Monday, April 1 - SPRING BREAK.  Schools and offices are closed.

Wednesday, April 10 - NO SCHOOL.

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Have a great night and a wonderful week!

Mr. Green