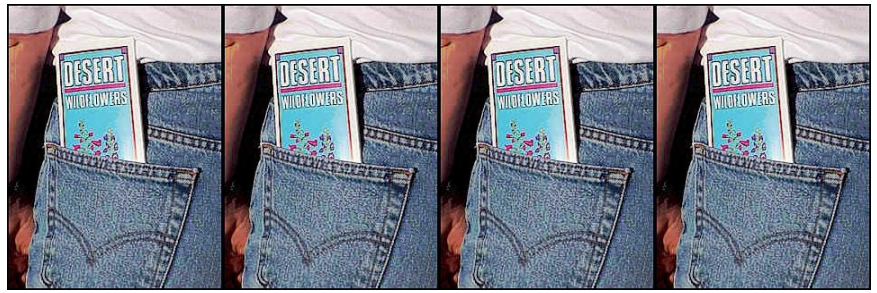


# JOHN POOLE'S BACK POCKET



June 10, 2011

## A Thought for Today:

Look at a day when you are supremely satisfied at the end. It's not a day when you lounge around doing nothing; it's when you've had everything to do, and you've done it.

~ Margaret Thatcher

## Another School Year Is Concluding

Somehow, we've finished another school year. Even though I look forward to summer vacation as much as the students do, it always seems to come faster than expected. Wasn't it just last week we were wishing for warmer weather finally to arrive?

The end of this school year is especially bittersweet because we are saying goodbye to two wonderful gentlemen who, together, have given 63 years to their careers in education and a quarter of a century to John Poole Middle School. They deserve to enjoy their retirement years, but it will be hard to say goodbye.

Mike Willett is retiring after 25 years with MCPS and 11 years at JPMS. He is a devoted teacher who brings great scholarship and enthusiasm for learning to his social studies classes. I have depended on Mr. Willett to provide photographs for the *Back Pocket*, because he enjoys taking pictures of our kids at work and play, and he is generous with his time. Soon, he will be able to spend more time with his family, indulge his love for reading, and keep working on his karate skills. (He already has a black belt!)

Bob Whalen is also concluding a distinguished teaching career this year. Mr. Whalen has taught in Montgomery County since 1973 – that's 38 years! He has been at John Poole Middle School since we opened 14 years ago and has served as the head of the social studies department all that time. In fact, Mr. Whalen has led the social studies department here and at his previous schools for 21 years. Retirement will give him additional time to enjoy his family – especially his growing bevy of beautiful grandchildren – and to continue traveling to foreign climes. Now, however, he will be able to jet off without making all the arrangements for scores of young people and their families to come, too.

Best wishes for long, happy, healthy years ahead to both these cherished partners in education. John Poole Middle School will never be quite the same without them.

## Spring Exam Schedule

**June 13: Exams in periods 3 & 7**

(Periods 4 & 5 meet also, but not periods 1, 2 and 6)

**June 14: Exam in period 4**

(All periods meet also. Final locker clean-out!)

**June 15: Make-up Exams**

# The President's Education Award Winners

The President's Award for Educational Excellence recognizes academic success in the classroom. To be eligible, students must earn a grade point average of 3.5 on a 4.0 scale each quarter from the start of Grade 6 through the fall semester of Grade 8.

Students who earn this prestigious award receive a certificate signed by President Obama and a copy of the congratulatory letter at right.

The President's Education Award will be presented to the following scholars at the 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Awards Assembly on June 14.

**Morgan Brashear**  
**Jake Clements**  
**Allyson Convers**  
**Suzanne Creedon**  
**Maxwell Dahlen**  
**Kathleen Eader**  
**Diana Firstova**  
**Delaney Gregg**  
**Denise Larson**  
**Eric Lee**  
**Danielle Macairan**  
**Rachel McIntyre**  
**Nancy Morgan**  
**Anna Murgia**  
**Meghan Nalesnik**  
**Matthew Psaltakis**  
**Margaret Reed**  
**Ryan Shorts**  
**Chaney Taggart**  
**Adele Spinder**  
**Evan Whitehouse**



THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

January 20, 2011

Please accept my congratulations on receiving the President's Education Award. I am delighted to join your family, friends, and teachers in recognizing this important achievement.

Education will not only determine your success, but also America's success in the 21st century. My Administration is working hard to ensure every student receives a first-class education, but ultimately, your future will be shaped by your own willingness to put your best effort into your studies. This award reflects your dedication to academic excellence, and I commend students like you for setting a powerful example for all of our Nation's young people.

I wish you all the best for continued success in the years to come.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Barack Obama', written in a cursive style.

## Congratulations to these Outstanding Students!

# The Superintendent's Service Learning Award

The Superintendent's Service Learning Award is given to all students who have earned 75 or more SSL hours before they leave middle school. These students are well on their way to achieving the honor of the Certificate of Meritorious Service, presented to all graduating seniors who have earned 260 or more hours.

We are proud of our students who have earned over 75 Student Service Learning hours by May 1<sup>st</sup> this year. Some students were very close on May 1<sup>st</sup> and have since passed the 75 hour mark. They will be recognized next year at this time, but their June report cards will show their full number of hours.

## 6<sup>th</sup> Grade

**Stephanie Bateky  
Mackenzie Gross  
Elizabeth Roberts**

## 7<sup>th</sup> Grade

**Gavin Hockenbery  
Grace Howard  
Allison Nalesnik  
Abigail Nalesnik  
Nathan Onderko  
Brianna Roche  
Alesya Roche  
Alesya Sarakhman  
Kirk Williams  
Courtney Williams  
Trey Willis**

## 8<sup>th</sup> Grade

**Brandon Bush  
Maxwell Dahlen  
Rebecca Deitz  
Mason Dominici  
Kathleen Eader  
Eric Lee  
Rachel McIntyre  
Sally Miller  
Bradley Miller  
Margaret Reed  
Logan Rocco  
Emma Ross  
Megan Souder  
Adele Spinder  
Mateo Zapata**



## African American Festival of Academic Excellence – 2010-11

Founded in 1989, the African American Festival of Academic Excellence was created to promote and acknowledge the importance of education and learning in the African American youth community. Congratulations to the following JPMS students who earned recognition this year.

**Antonnia Atkins  
Keyon Budd  
Simonne Cesar  
Kenydi Cross  
Cameron Eichorn  
Kara Huff  
Taneka Jackson**

**Tyler Portocarrero  
Cori Riggs  
Siann Riggs  
Keith Wilkins, Jr.  
Kyle Wilkins  
Courtney Williams**

# It's Awards Season

The end of the year brings us to the distribution of awards, and grade-level teams have been busy preparing to honor a large number of students.

Perfect attendance certificates will be distributed to students who have missed no school days during the school year. 8<sup>th</sup> graders who have had perfect attendance all three years will be recognized with a plaque.

Other academic recognition is accorded students who have been on the Honor Roll or earned All As for three consecutive marking periods this year. That's quite an achievement!

Each subject also chooses an outstanding student to receive a certificate in Grades 6 and 7 and a plaque in Grade 8. These students must maintain a grade average in the top 5% of the class, exemplify the JPMS Vision, and personify our PRIDE values of Purpose, Respect, Integrity, Dedication and Effort.

8<sup>th</sup> graders are eligible for several special awards, including the following honors:

- **The American Legion Award**, which recognizes an 8<sup>th</sup> grader for demonstrating the qualities of Honor, Leadership, Patriotism, Scholarship, and Service. This award is determined by vote of the staff.
- **Presidential Achievement Awards**, which are presented to 8<sup>th</sup> graders who have earned a GPA of 3.5 or better for every marking period in Grades 6 and 7 and through Quarter 3 of 8<sup>th</sup> grade.
- **The Academic Improvement Award**, which recognizes significant overall improvement in GPA from Quarter 1 through Quarter 3 in 8<sup>th</sup> grade and behavior exemplifying the JPMS Vision.
- **The Odd Fellows Award**, which goes to the two students who have earned the most Student Service Learning hours through April 30<sup>th</sup>.
- **The Service Learning Award**, which recognizes students who have earned more than one hundred hour of service learning through April 30<sup>th</sup>.

The highest honor an 8<sup>th</sup> grader can earn is named for Linda Fiore, the first principal of John Poole Middle School. The staff nominate students who exemplify the qualities that were most appreciated in Mrs. Fiore, and vote to select the winner. Candidates must be eighth grade students who have attended John Poole Middle School for all three years and have consistently demonstrated the following qualities:

- Academic growth and attainment of academic goals consistent with his/her potential
- Effective interpersonal skills as shown by the ability to communicate easily with peers and adults and a willingness to help others
- Skillful use of technology in the school environment and on assignments and projects
- Perseverance in overcoming obstacle(s) and/or problem solving, demonstrated in the student's ability to overcome academic, personal, emotional, or physical obstacles or problems.

**The Linda Fiore Memorial Award** includes a plaque presented to the honoree to keep and the winner's name inscribed on a permanent plaque on display at JPMS.



# Back to PES for the Butterfly Release

Last week, sixth grade alums of Monocacy Elementary returned to assist at the Grade 2 butterfly release. This week, Mrs. McManus took five Poolesville Elementary grads back to participate in this favorite spring activity. Here are their reflections in words and pictures.

The butterfly release was really fun! It was cool to help and watch all the butterflies released. It was also cool to see how excited the kids were to see them go.

Afterward we played with the kids who loved it!

- Sophia Mense



I enjoyed taking pictures of the second graders for the *Back Pocket*. We could tell they were having fun, and we did, too. We even got some leftover snacks. It felt like second grade again.

It was awesome. - Cole Williams

I had a great time going back to my elementary school and seeing my old teachers and my friends. I thought it was cool how the butterflies came out and landed on us. I enjoyed having the experience to go back to my school.

- Tim McIntyre





While I was at Poolesville Elementary School me and my peers helped organize a butterfly release ceremony. We served the kids snacks that they had to arrange into a life cycle. We also took pictures. The kids sang a poem before releasing the butterflies. The ones with injured wings or birth defects were passed around. I enjoyed the experience and so did the Poolesville Elementary second graders.

- Rebeckah Trainor



I loved being able to go to Poolesville Elementary School to observe the butterfly release. It really brought back memories from when I was in second grade and raised and released a butterfly. My sister is in second grade, so I am happy that I could watch her do this amazing thing.

- Alison Huber



## A Reminder About Summer SSL...

As you serve Student Serving Learning hours this summer, be sure to complete your hours verification forms and turn them into Mrs. Arnold when school begins in August.

If you need pre-approval for an organization, call JPMS first to see if Mrs. Arnold is available to review the activity and sign your form. If she is not available, please contact Mrs. Meador by phone at 301-279-3454 or by fax at 301-517-8166. This contact is only available from June 17 - August 25. Have a wonderful summer!

# An Update on the 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Science Curriculum

Honors Earth Space Systems is a high school course that was piloted in 18 middle schools during the 2010–2011 school year. Stakeholders provided feedback on the pilot; concerns have been expressed by staff and community members regarding the implications of another high school credit course at the middle school level.

After careful consideration of the stakeholder feedback, a decision was reached to keep the content of Honors Earth Space Systems as the Grade 8 science course for all Grade 8 students, without the high school credit component, effective beginning with the 2011–2012 school year. The course is being renamed *Investigations in Earth Space Systems* (IESS). This will allow students to continue benefitting from the rigor in the course and exposure to rich content that will prepare students for high school science courses.

All Grade 8 students at JPMS will be enrolled in IESS for the 2011–2012 school year. There will not be high school credit attached to this class.

If you have questions, please contact Mrs. Arnold in the Counseling Office at 301-972-7980. Thanks!

John Poole  
Middle School

PTSA NEWS

## Announcing Our PTSA Officers for 2011-2012!

Sharon Armstrong - President  
Marilyn Soltis – Vice President  
Dawn Albert – Vice President  
Dreama Hemmingway - Secretary  
Sue Van Meter - Treasurer  
Lori Kocur – Membership & Volunteers

Every Child  
One Voice

- Sharon Armstrong – President, [awakejake1@aol.com](mailto:awakejake1@aol.com)
- Marilyn Soltis - Vice President, [marilynsoltis@hotmail.com](mailto:marilynsoltis@hotmail.com)
- Suzanna Zapata – Secretary, [Susana.m.zapata@lmco.com](mailto:Susana.m.zapata@lmco.com)
- Sue Van Meter – Treasurer, [Van17119@verizon.net](mailto:Van17119@verizon.net)

The PTA officers would like to thank the following parents for their outstanding volunteer service this year at John Poole Middle School. **Lori Kocur** - membership; **Eileen Foy** - directory; **Dreama Hemmingway** and **Judy McKinney** - 6th grade team parents; **Jill Brown** and **Michelle Roche** - 7th grade team parents; **Kyle Clements** and **Peggy Reid** - 8th grade team parents; **Melanie Dahlen** - magnet prep program; **Dawn Albert** - cluster rep; **Anne Donovan** - staff appreciation; **Melanie Psaltakis** and **Lynda D'Amelio** - science fair. **A special thanks to everyone else who volunteered on these committees and helped the students and staff at JPMS this year.**

Thanks to the wonderful Staff Appreciation Committee, led by Ann Donovan, who treated us again this week with yummy breakfast goodies. Dawn Albert, Michelle Belski, Anne Marie Caruso DiPaolo, Dreama Hemmingway, Paige Kovach, Judy McKenney, Nora Terrell, Helen Trainor, Maria Wasilik, & Claudia Yin – you're the best!



# Announcing —

## **8<sup>th</sup> Grade Trip to Hershey Park**

John Poole Middle School's 8<sup>th</sup> grade will have an end of the year trip on **Wednesday, June 15, 2011, to Hershey Park**. Eighth graders and JPMS staff will travel to Hershey Park via video coach buses using Rill's Charter Buses for a great day of fun and adventure in the park. Buses will leave John Poole Middle School at **7:30 AM** and return at **8:30 PM**.

## **7<sup>th</sup> Grade Trip to Smokey Glen**

The seventh grade will be celebrating our year by going to Smokey Glen Farm on Wednesday, June 15<sup>th</sup> for a day of good food, games and activities. We will be departing at 8:00 am and returning at 2:00 pm. Smokey Glen Farm is located at 16407 Riffleford Road in Gaithersburg, Maryland. Thank you for a great year 7<sup>th</sup> graders!!

## **6<sup>th</sup> Grade Pizza Party**

The PTA has generously offered to host an End of Year Pizza Party for the 6<sup>th</sup> grade on Wednesday, June 15<sup>th</sup> during lunch. The PTA will be providing pizza and cupcakes. The cafeteria will not have any hot lunches available and students do not need to bring lunch unless they do not want pizza. Any 6<sup>th</sup> grade parents who would like to volunteer to help set up, serve or clean up are welcome to join us, please meet at the school at 10:30 am.

On behalf of the 6<sup>th</sup> Grade we would like to thank the PTA for their generosity in sponsoring the 6<sup>th</sup> Grade end of year party.

- 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Room Parents Dreama Hemingway and Judy McKenney

## **Fall MSI Rec Soccer Team For 6<sup>th</sup>/7<sup>th</sup> Grade Boys**

The Poolesville MSI recreational soccer team for boys entering 6<sup>th</sup> or 7<sup>th</sup> grade in the fall is looking for a few new players. The head coach will be David Fry. Practices will be held in Poolesville. If you have a player interested in joining this team, contact Lori Kocur at kocurs@verizon.net for details.

# *Save the Date!*

*Important events you won't want to miss!*



<i>June 10</i>	<i>8<sup>th</sup> Grade Dance at the Baptist Church (7:00-10:00 p.m.)</i>
<i>June 14</i>	<i>Final Locker Cleanout</i>
<i>June 14</i>	<i>8<sup>th</sup> Grade Awards Assembly (12:45 p.m.)</i>
<i>June 15</i>	<i>End of Year Activities</i>
	<i>➤ 6<sup>th</sup> Grade – PTSA Pizza Lunch; Movie, Periods 6 and 7</i>
	<i>➤ 7<sup>th</sup> Grade – Smokey Glen Farm</i>
	<i>➤ 8<sup>th</sup> Grade – Hershey Park</i>
<i>June 16</i>	<i>8<sup>th</sup> Graders to PHS Orientation</i>

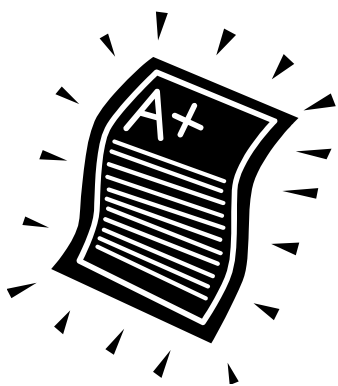
# HAPPY FATHER'S DAY TO ALL OUR AMAZING DADS AND GRANDFATHERS!

## PHS NEWS

*Go Falcons!*



### High School Plans for Excellence in English Instruction



To increase performance and achievement through equitable learning opportunities, the English Department of Poolesville High School will initiate honors level classes for all students in 2011-2012.

This model emphasizes differentiated instruction in critical reading, writing, speaking and listening in compliance with the Maryland State Standards. Since John Poole Middle students are already in Advanced English classes, enrollment in ninth grade honors classes is a natural progression to continue that level of excellence in high school.

The PHS Counseling Services Department will automatically be scheduling incoming freshmen into these sections. Currently English teachers are collaborating on lessons that will engage and challenge the Class of 2015 and are developing a support system to ensure student success throughout the year. See you in September.

#### **5<sup>th</sup> Annual Jake Perkins**

#### **Memorial Falcon Golf Classic**

**June 13, 2011 – Bretton Woods Golf Course**

**Proceeds benefit Poolesville High School Athletics**

<http://phsboosterclub.wordpress.com/fundraisers/golfclassic/>



**Keep scrolling! The JPMS Summer Reading Packet is attached at the end of this newsletter. *Have a great summer!***

# Call John Poole!

Main Office 301-972-7979  
Counseling 301-972-7980  
Cafeteria 301-407-1037  
Health Room 301-407-1029



## And Ask for...

Principal - Mrs. Boucher	Assistant Principal - Ms. Lemon
Technology & Arts IRT & Grade 6 Team Leader	- Mr. Grotenhuis
English IRT	- Mrs. Lindsay
Social Studies IRT & Co-coordinator of Testing	- Mr. Whalen
Math IRT & Grade 7 Team Leader	- Mr. McKay
Science IRT & Grade 8 Team Leader	- Mrs. Callaghan
Counseling - (Ms. Kitts, Secretary)	Mrs. Arnold - Mrs. Hardy

## Our Vision:

**The Timberwolf community experiences joy in learning, celebrates excellence, and values positive relationships.**

## Our Mission:

**At John Poole Middle School, our mission is to:**

- **promote joy in learning through motivation and engagement**
- **celebrate excellence by acknowledging achievement**
- **foster a shared responsibility for academic and social success**
- **value positive relationships, thereby promoting a respectful and supportive learning environment**



**JPMS**  
**Timberwolves**  
**live with**  
**P**urpose  
**R**espect  
**I**ntegrity  
**D**edication  
**E**ffort

# John Poole Middle School Summer Reading 2011



## Why do we have summer reading requirements?

Summer reading has been an expected practice in Montgomery County Public Schools since 1998. Research suggests that reading, like most skills, improves with practice. Additionally, reading is a life-long skill essential to success in academic, civic, and personal circles. Therefore, consistent with our systemic goals of preparing students for success both during school and after graduation, we at John Poole continue to expect students to read during the summer.

## Overview of summer reading at John Poole

Summer reading at JPMS is meant to be both fun and educational. To that end, you will **read two books of your choosing. One book will be fiction; the other book should be non-fiction.** Both books need to be age-appropriate and approved by parents/guardians. **Thoroughly complete one organizer for each book, and obtain your parents/guardians signature to confirm that you have read the book. The due date for the summer reading organizers is Friday, September 9, 2011.** Students who transfer into JPMS during the summer are also expected to have met the expectations for summer reading by 9/9/11.

## Where can I get help in choosing my books?

Our goal is to encourage you to read! By giving you the choice of books, we hope you will be more invested in reading and in the accompanying activities. Although we are asking you to read and respond to two books, you might also enjoy reading magazines, newspapers, parent-approved websites, joke books, graphic novels, short stories, poems, etc. You may look for appropriate books in several places, including searching websites and authors listed on a separate page in this packet. You are not *required* to read a book by any of these authors; the list is simply a starting point.

Sincerely,

Charlotte Boucher  
Principal

Jane Lindsay  
English Resource Teacher

Joy McIntyre  
Media Specialist

## John Poole Middle School Summer Reading - Suggested Author list

Avi	Robin McKinley
Louisa May Alcott	Patricia McKissack
Lloyd Alexander	Carolyn Meyer
T.A. Barron	Ben Mikaelson
Joan Bauer	Walter Dean Myers
Meg Cabot	Beverly Naidoo
Matt Christopher	Phyllis Reynolds Naylor
Sook Nyul Choi	Jenny Nimmo
Sandra Cisneros	Garth Nix
Eoin Colfer	Scott O'Dell
Caroline Cooney	Linda Sue Park
Susan Cooper	Katherine Paterson
Sharon Creech	Richard Peck
Christopher Paul Curtis	Gary Paulsen
Roald Dahl	Rodman Philbrick
Peter Dickinson	Tamora Pierce
Thomas Dygard	Philip Pullman
Nancy Farmer	Ann Rinaldi
Jack Gantos	J.K. Rowling
Jean Craighead George	Ann Schraff
Patricia Giff	Darren Shan
Michael Crichton	William Sleator
Margaret Haddix	Gary Soto
Mary Downing Hahn	Elizabeth Speare
Virginia Hamilton	Lemony Snicket
Karen Hesse	Zilpha Keatley Snyder
Will Hobbs	Jerry Spinelli
Anthony Horowitz	R.L. Stine
Brian Jacques	Mildred Taylor
Robert Jordan	J.R.R. Tolkien
Kathryn Lasky	Megan Turner
Tanith Lee	Mark Twain
Ursula Leguin	Cynthia Voigt
Madeleine L'Engle	Bill Wallace
C.S. Lewis	Robert Westall
Janet Lisle	Ruth White
Paul Landon	Jacqueline Woodson
Jack London	Laurence Yep
Ann Martin	Jane Yolen
Carol Matas	

If you'd like more information on Montgomery County Public Schools Summer Reading program, you may access the following website: <http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/curriculum/readinglists/>

The following websites also offer ideas for books:

**Coretta Scott King Book Awards**

<http://www.ala.org/ala/mgrps/rts/emiert/cskbookawards/recipients.cfm>

**The Reading Corner**

<http://www.carr.org/read/>

**Teachervision.com: Summer Reading Lists**

<http://www.teachervision.fen.com/>

**Education World**

[http://www.education-world.com/summer\\_reading/](http://www.education-world.com/summer_reading/)

**International Reading Association: Booklists**

[http://www.education-world.com/summer\\_reading/](http://www.education-world.com/summer_reading/)

**Carol Hurst's Children's Literature**

<http://www.carolhurst.com/index.html>

**Young Adult Library Services Association Booklet**

<http://www.ala.org/ala/yalsa/booklistsawards/booklistsbook.htm>

**American Library Association/Great Web Sites for Kids**

<http://www.ala.org/gwstemplate.cfm?section=greatwebsites&template=/cfapps/gws/default.cfm>

**Scholastic:** <http://www.scholastic.com/summerreading>

**Books for girls:** <http://www.readergirlz.com/>

**James Patterson's Read Kiddo Read:** <http://www.readkiddoread.com/home>





**FICTION** Title \_\_\_\_\_

Student name: \_\_\_\_\_

Author \_\_\_\_\_

Parent signature: \_\_\_\_\_

# of pages \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**What I liked...**

**What I would  
change...**

**Favorite Quote:** “ \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_.”

**Reason why I chose this quote:** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**I (would/would not) recommend this book  
because**

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_



**NON-FICTION** Title \_\_\_\_\_

Student name: \_\_\_\_\_

Author \_\_\_\_\_

Parent signature: \_\_\_\_\_

# of pages \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**What I learned about the topic:**

- 
- 
- 
- 
- 
- 
-