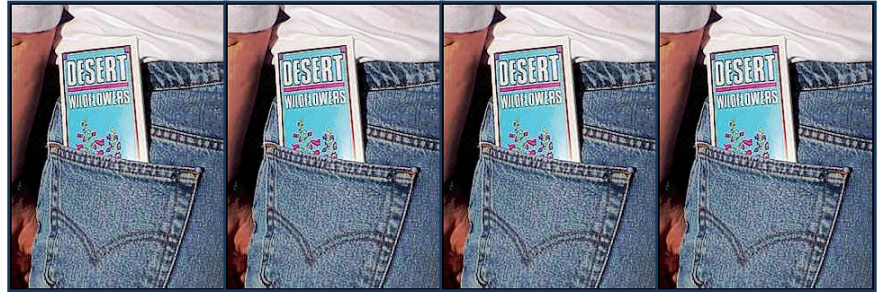


John Poole's **BACK POCKET**



October 20, 2011

A Thought for Today:

“I know of no more encouraging fact than the unquestionable ability of man to elevate his life by a conscious endeavour...To affect the quality of the day, that is the highest of arts.”

- Henry David Thoreau

The Season for Chills and Thrills

It's coming up on the end of the first marking term, which always seems to coincide with Halloween. In middle school, we leave the costume parades and parties behind to concentrate on finishing the quarter strong. Please don't send your child to school in a Halloween costume, mask, or face paint next week. Of course, anything that would be appropriate to wear on a typical school day, such as an orange shirt or pumpkin earrings, is still fine to wear as Halloween approaches, but anything that would not meet dress expectations on a typical day – such as hats, antennae, or clown wigs – are distractions we don't need as we focus on winding up the marking term.

It's especially important to be watching Edline now, because Friday, October 28 is the end of the quarter. That leaves just one week to get everything turned in, arrange for re-teaching and reassessment on anything your child missed or could improve, and study for the Unit assessments that cluster near the end of the marking term.

This is a three-day weekend coming up because of state teachers' meetings tomorrow (Friday, October 21), so please check your child's assignment book and help him or her to use the time wisely. Most kids are excited about Halloween, and they need us to help them keep their school work Priority One. In just one more week, the quarter will be finished, another three-day weekend will give them a day off (Monday, October 31 is a Professional Day for report card preparation), and kids can relax with the candy and spooky fun of Halloween.

In keeping with the season, I found a well-done little video on line that gives excellent advice about the kinds of scary movies that are appropriate for children and teens. If you're interested, take a minute to check it out at <http://www.commonsemmedia.org/video/modal/1248374>.

I've also reprinted some of the advice from this website, commonsemmedia.org, on the next page, because I think it's both realistic and helpful. Our kids are at the age when they press for more independence and more exposure to adult themes, but they are still children who can get themselves in over their heads if we don't continue to guide them.

Coming Attraction!

Mark your calendar now so you don't miss

Math Night

Tuesday November 15

Fun for the Whole Family!

Pizza dinner starts at 6:00 PM and great math-related activities follow!

Look for more information in next week's *Back Pocket*.

Common Sense on Scary Movies

The following material is reprinted from www.common sense media.org. Happy Haunting!

Are they ready for brain-eating zombies?

Your 9-year-old is clambering for a scary movie at the video store. Not just any scary movie, but one where people are cut up with a hacksaw. Is it OK for her to be scared silly by something so gory? Or will she have nightmares for a month? (Will you?) It's good to know what works for kids by age, so you can keep the frights within the fun zone.

Some facts

The younger kids are when they see a scary movie or TV show, the longer-lasting the effects will be.

Kids who watch scary material often have nightmares or anxiety.

Kids ages 2 to 7 often can't distinguish between fantasy and reality.

Parent tips for elementary kids

- » **Choose media with care.** Kids under 7 will believe what they see. When picking media, nothing should be more startling than "Boo!" Kids over 5 may like haunted houses, mysteries, and things popping out everywhere, but stick to animation, which helps them realize that it's fantasy. Be careful with monsters, skeletons, aliens, and zombies. Avoid any dangerous material involving characters near their age.
- » **Be prepared for when things do go bump in the night.** If your child is frightened, give him physical comfort, a glass of water, or a distraction. Kids 2 to 7 respond well to magical remedies and nightly rituals, such as cleaning the monsters out of the closet.
- » **Don't be surprised if your kids suddenly like a little scary stuff.** Kids who are 8-to-10 years old can handle being scared for longer periods of time — in fact, they love it. Bring on the phantoms and ghoulish faces, but continue to choose films without gore or physical harm. Some intense moments are fun as long as the resolution involves a happy ending.

What are scary movies?

Kids love scary films. The trick is finding movies with age-appropriate thrills. Something that terrifies kids at 5 (ghosts, evil characters, major peril) will be a non-issue at 15. Scariness comes from fear of the unknown, from surprise, and from fears about the loss of a loved one. Depending on where your kids are in their emotional development, different things will affect them differently. Young kids are frightened more by creatures that older children know don't exist. Abrupt noises, eerie sounds, and music create tension in both younger and older children. Psychological suspense, with its threats of impending doom, can terrify your middle-school kids.

Why they matter

Movies with scary images, intense danger, loud noises, and — above all — blood and gore, can create all sorts of disturbances. Among them are anxiety, sleep disruption, and fears about possible situations. Children younger than 7 can't easily distinguish between fantasy and reality — even if you tell them "it's not real." You will know if your kids have become too frightened when they start having sleep problems, irrational fears, and obsessions with things like zombies. Scary and disturbing images and sounds can affect vulnerable kids for years.

Parent tips for middle school kids

- » **Pushing boundaries may be OK.** Some kids of this age are ready to be scared silly. You still should be mindful of blood and gore, but in general skeletons, monsters, and aliens are okay. Even so, stick to movies that have humor mixed in, or those with safe-and-sound endings.
- » **Give reassurance when necessary.** Other kids still scare easily. Middle school is when scary movies start being a big part of sleepovers and movie outings with friends. Even if your child isn't ready for the scarier stuff, it can be hard for her to tell that to friends who want to see the latest zombie flick. Let your children know that it's ok to be scared and to tell their friends they'd rather watch something else.

Parent tips for all kids

- » Know what they're watching — and whether it's appropriate. Check out Common Sense Media review which offer age recommendations and provide age-appropriate selections.
- » Practice your poker face. Some research suggests that kids will become more scared if they see that you are scared by something in a movie or on TV.

Here's an idea —

Invite another family to join yours for Fright Night Videos. Choose an age-appropriate film for the children in both families, make popcorn, and watch the movie together. It's fun for everyone!

Parent tips for high school teens

- » They may be ready for more than you think. Developmentally, teens can handle dramatic and psychological suspense, but kids under 16 still shouldn't see slasher horrors, especially those that feature kids in dire danger or that have lots of gore.
- » Mind the messages. Many scary movies now pair horrific graphic violence with sexual situations — not a great combination for kids exploring newfound sexuality. Be sure to talk with them about the content of the movie they're seeing and the messages it may convey. Check Common Sense Media's reviews for conversation starters.
- » Dig into the vault. If you like scary movies too, try introducing your teens to some of the horror and suspense classics. Just make sure that any younger siblings are already tucked in bed.

Hallway Heroes

Hallway Heroes are students we honor for demonstrating exemplary **PRIDE** behaviors as they move from class to class, helping to keep our hallways safe and comfortable for everyone.

The students recognized below consistently demonstrate **Purpose, Respect, Integrity, Dedication** and **Effort** everywhere they go at JPMS. They are **Hallway Heroes** and we are proud to celebrate their high expectations and their Timberwolf PRIDE!

Jordan Allentuck

Heather Cross

Michael Fetchko

Dottie Ballman

Shane Enrique

David Green

Amber Bratcher

Gabe Fernandez

Frank Quaranta



Magnet Classes Are Ready to Go

The Magnet classes will begin on Wednesday, October 26th after school. All the classes are full and we appreciate your quick response. Mrs. Arnold has contacted the parents of the students who are on the wait list. All other students who signed up will be expected to attend the after school classes.

Classes will meet in Room 204 and 207 promptly at 2:30. The list of students to report to each room will be posted outside the counseling office on Monday and outside room 204 and 209 on Wednesday.

Students are expected to be on time, bring paper for notes, pencils or pens, a copy of the magnet application(not your final copy), and the magnet preparation book.

Students will be expected to follow all school expectations during these classes.

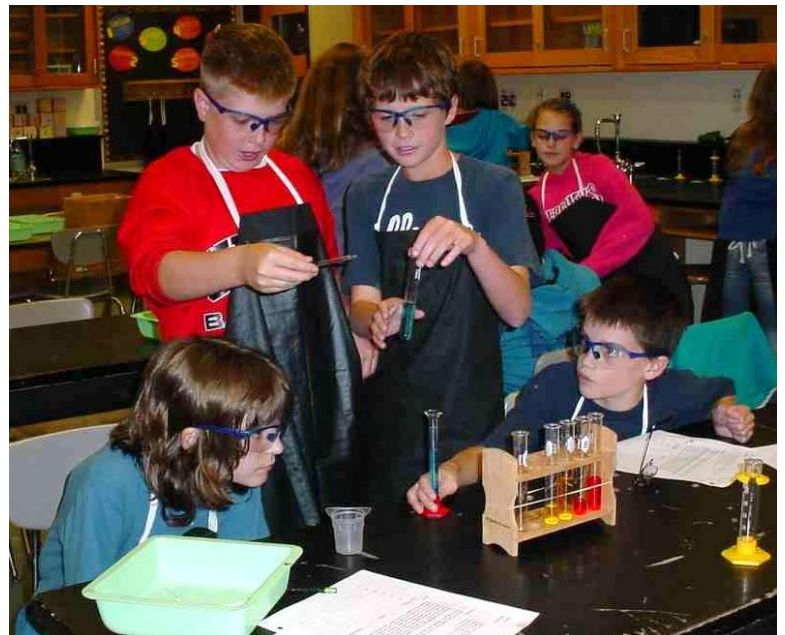
Snacks are provided by the PTA and will be distributed at the class sessions.

If you have any questions, please call Mrs. Arnold.

A Look at Grade 6 Science Labs

This week, our sixth graders are off at the Smith Center for Outdoor Education, but last week they were also learning by doing right here at school. Mrs. McManus' science classes are shown in these pictures measuring liquid volume using graduated cylinders. The objective of the lab was for students to be able to measure liquids accurately by being able to see the meniscus and to read the measurement markers accurately on the graduated cylinders. All measurements were done using the metric system.

Thanks to Mrs. McManus for taking the pictures! Look for more photos of our sixth graders in action at Outdoor Ed in next week's *Back Pocket*.





Costa Rica: A Touch of the Tropics

Once again, intrepid travelers from our school community are planning an adventure for spring break 2013, and this time it's Costa Rica that's on the itinerary. Parents and students are invited to a meeting on Thursday, November 3, 2011 at 6:00 P. M. in the John Poole Middle School Media Center.

At the meeting, participants will get a detailed itinerary of the trip, as well as information on trip supervision, liability, insurance, and the cost of the tour. If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Young. Thanks!

8th Grade Solar Decathlon Field Trip

On September 27th, our 8th grade students went on a field trip to the Solar Decathlon in Washington, D.C. The Solar Decathlon is a competition that challenges university students to design and construct energy efficient solar powered homes.

While touring the homes in the Solar Decathlon, our students kept in mind the location assigned to them for their RFP project: Designing a component or system for a house while considering the climate and environment for a particular location.

The itinerary for the day was planned by NEA sponsors who developed the "Education Days at The Solar Decathlon." Students were able to participate in the "Solar Village Challenge," tour the various homes constructed by teams from the University of Maryland, University of Illinois, Ohio State, Purdue, California Institute of Technology, University of Calgary, China and even New Zealand among others.



After the tours the John Poole students participated in an assembly which was not only an informative presentation, but also a competition. At the start of the assembly **Dylan Landis** won a solar backpack capable of charging a cell phone or an iPod. **Autumn Wright** won a Solar Decathlon t-shirt during the magnetic attraction competition. **Lilli Pederson** and **Mrs. Callaghan** made quite the team during the Solar Decathlon Jeopardy Competition. They made it to the tie breaking round before finishing 3rd out of 5 teams. They too won Solar Decathlon t-shirts. Lastly, several students successfully completed the Solar Decathlon Village Challenge: **Katie Kavanaugh**, **Casey Harkins**, **Abigail Nalesnik**, **Rachel Peterson**, and **Megan Wilson**. The winner was randomly selected through a drawing and presented with a digital camera provided by our hosts at the Solar Decathlon. **Casey Harkins** won the camera.

It was a great day and both fun and informative for all!



Thanks to Dr. McKnight for assisting with the trip and taking the photos!

Media Center Volunteers Needed! Training Provided!

Due to the budget cuts, it is not always possible to have a person available in the Media Center to check out books for students. We would like to train some volunteers to help us solve this problem and help prevent us from having to put up closed signs on our door. We are looking for parents who are interested in helping in the media center on an as needed basis. Volunteers would be trained to checkout and shelve books and in the organization of the media center. This is a great opportunity to support your child's school and to learn some new skills. Please contact Joy_A_McIntyre@mcpsmd.org if you are interested. Thanks!

A Few Words About Traffic Flow

The rainy weather means more families take their children to school in the morning and pick them up in the afternoon. When you're driving, please help us all minimize traffic problems. Here's how:

- In the mornings, pull all the way forward to the student drop off point before letting your child out of the car. The drop off is marked by a line painted in the through lane. It is about $\frac{3}{4}$ of the way back toward Tox Fox so students have to walk back a little to the school entrance, but moving up leaves more room for other cars behind you and traffic moves more smoothly.
- In the afternoons, don't park on Tom Fox to wait for your child. Cars cannot see around you to enter the parking lot or through traffic loop. That jams up traffic and makes it more dangerous for walkers, too.

Thanks! Your cooperation helps us keep traffic moving safely and smoothly, and models for our kids how to work together so everyone benefits.

VOLUNTEER YOUR TIME and JOIN THE PTA

- **Sharon Armstrong - President**
- **Marilyn Soltis - Vice President**
- **Dawn Albert - Vice President**
- **Dreama Hemingway - Secretary**
- **Sue Van Meter – Treasurer**
- **Lori Kocur – Membership & Volunteers**
- **Anne Donovan – Staff Appreciation**

**Yankee Candle
orders will be
distributed before
Thanksgiving break –
stay tuned for more
details!**

It is always worthwhile and never too late to join John Poole Middle School's PTSA.

Your membership entitles you to receive the 2011-2012 JPMS Student Directory at no charge!

Please contact Lori Kocur at kocurs@verizon.net for membership information or to register as a JPMS Parent Volunteer. Once you are a registered volunteer, you will receive emails when opportunities to help out at school arise. It's as easy as that!

Show your kids how much you care and how important their school experience is to you – register to volunteer today!

Membership and volunteer forms are available at the JPMS website:

[http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/uploadedFiles/schools/poolems/parents/13\[11\]%20ptsa%20volunteer%20form.pdf](http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/uploadedFiles/schools/poolems/parents/13[11]%20ptsa%20volunteer%20form.pdf)

PLEASE JOIN US FOR A NIGHT OF FUN TO CELEBRATE MONOCACY'S 50TH ANNIVERSARY



Catering by
Geppetto's

Casino games
Blackjack –
Craps –
Roulette

PLUS
Silent Auction

PLUS
Live Auction,
including one-of-
a-kind art pieces

PLUS
\$50,000 in chips
with additional
available for
purchase

For one fun evening, take
a gamble,
enjoy great food, mingle
with friends and enjoy

Whether you're playing for
the first time or a master
at the tables you'll enjoy a
great time while
supporting Monocacy.

PTA CASINO NIGHT & AUCTION

Friday November 18, 2011
7:30 pm – 10:00pm

Potomac Hunt Club
21315 Peach Tree Road

Tickets: \$75 per couple or \$40
per person

Includes glass of wine, beer or
soda with additional drinks
available for \$4 each

For tickets, contact Dawn Albert at
DisneyDawnTours@aol.com or
Dreama Hemingway at
ddmoney001@yahoo.com





Some of the activities scheduled for this year are Books and Boxing, Babysitting Club, Jewelry Making, Zumba Class, Scrapbooking, Photo Club and much more. Keep checking the *Back Pocket* for upcoming classes. It is our goal to provide activities to meet the desires of all students. If you have any suggestions for new programs, please contact Mrs. Crutchfield at Winessa_R_Crutchfield@mcpsmd.org.

Beginning Sewing Classes

We will learn sewing and sewing machine basics in this four week class. The class will be held on Wednesdays, October 26, November 2, November 9 and November 16 in Room 301. Please bring scissors. If you have fabric you would like to use (or donate) please bring it to our first meeting.

Class size is limited, so please sign up soon. Registration forms are in the front office. If you have questions, please contact Mrs. Auel @ Kari_R_Auel@mcpsmd.org

RecExtra needs your donations: Wrapping paper, beads and old jewelry, fabric and textbook supplies. Please drop all donations in the RecExtra box in the front office. Thank you!!

Thursday
October 27

LAST CHANCE TO BE PHOTOGRAPHED

**Portrait Make Up Day Coming Soon!
Don't be left out of the yearbook, or miss ordering great portraits...**

School: John Poole Middle School

Date: Thursday, October 27th

To: Parents and Students

Subject: Portrait Make Up Day & Proof Order Reminder

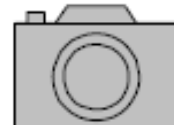
School Fundraiser...
Help your school by purchasing your school portrait as soon as possible.

Recently, most students were photographed at school as part of your school's portrait fundraiser. If you pre-ordered portraits, you should have received your portraits through school. If not, you were sent a proof portrait and order envelope with your Online ordering password. If you have not ordered portraits yet, now is the best time to log on or return your order. **Remember, your school benefits from every purchase!** To Order Log on here: www.blantonstudio.hjclix.com. You will need to register using the Student Passcode, Record Number and Security Key found on the student's proof sheet. If you have lost or misplaced your child's proof sheet you can obtain their access codes by downloading the "Request for Access" form at <https://blantonstudio.hjclix.com/Request-For-Access>

Instructions for Portrait Make up Day

Students may be photographed on make up day if:

1. Student was absent on initial portrait day
2. Student has a defective image
3. Student wants portrait retaken – (student must return the original portrait package order with ALL portraits purchased on make up day. Photographer will not retake Student ID's or retake for Proof photo only.)
4. Student wishes to order portraits on the Pre-Order plan and be re-photographed for the new package. If so, student should stop by the main school office and pick up a new Pre-Order envelope price list.



Questions? Call our photography studio – Blanton Studio 8am-4pm M-F 800-399-8044 or 301-840-8044, x10



Announcing –

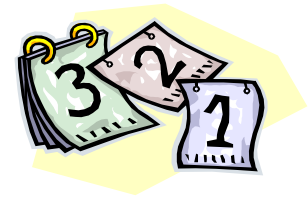
Yearbooks

Yearbooks can be pre-ordered through Jostens only. If you do not pre-order a yearbook, you are not guaranteed a yearbook. You can go to www.jostens.com today to pre-order your yearbook. If you have any questions, please contact Kelly Aulls at [Kelly M Aulls@mcpsmd.org](mailto:Kelly_M_Aulls@mcpsmd.org).

Drama Club

The Drama Production in December is in need of costumes and props. If anyone has a lab coat or jacket, stethoscope, and surgical masks for the character of Dr. Frankenstein please contact Mrs. Turner at dturner322@aol.com Any creative ideas are appreciated. We also need prom/bridesmaids dresses. Thanks in advance.

Save the Date!



Important events you won't want to miss!

October 21	MSTA Convention – No School for Students and Teachers
*October 25	Softball – Boys play Kingsview Middle School at JPMS (2:50 p.m.) Softball – Girls play Kingsview Middle School at Kingsview (3:15 p.m.) Cross Country – Kingsview at JPMS (2:50 p.m.)
October 26	Softball – Boys play Ridgeview Middle School at JPMS (2:50 p.m.) Softball – Girls play Ridgeview Middle School at Ridgeview (3:15 p.m.)
October 27	Yearbook Portrait Make-ups
October 28	First Marking Periods Ends
October 31	Professional Day – No School for Students
November 1	Second Marking Period Begins
November 6	Change your clocks – time to fall back one hour as Daylight Savings Time ends
November 10 & 11	Early Release Days (Students dismissed at 11:50 a.m.)
November 10	Report Card Distribution
November 11	JPMS Math Night (7:00 p.m.)
November 23	Early Release Day (dismissed at 11:50 a.m.) Honor Roll Celebrations: Grade 8 – 8:10 am; Grade 7 – 9:15 am; Grade 6 – 10:20 am
November 24 & 25	Holiday – Thanksgiving (Schools closed)

*Games were rescheduled from October 20th

PHS NEWS

Go Falcons!



Boys Varsity Football

October 21	6:30 p.m.	PHS vs. Wheaton HS at Wheaton HS
October 28	6:30 p.m.	PHS vs. Catoctin HS at PHS
November 4	6:30 p.m.	PHS vs. Rockville HS at PHS

Fall Sports at PHS

Girls Varsity Soccer

October 21	3:30 p.m.	PHS vs. Rockville HS at Rockville HS
October 25	5:00 p.m.	PHS vs. Quince Orchard HS at Quince Orchard HS

Boys Varsity Soccer

October 21	5:30 p.m.	PHS vs. Rockville HS at Rockville HS
October 25	7:00 p.m.	PHS vs. Quince Orchard HS at Quince Orchard HS

Cross Country

MCPS Championship @ Gaithersburg HS 9:00 a.m.

Poolesville High Teams Compete in the Maryland Cyber Challenge Finals

Two Montgomery County high schools – Poolesville and Sherwood – each have two teams that have made it all the way to the finals of the inaugural Maryland Cyber Challenge and Conference on Friday and Saturday at the Baltimore Convention Center. The goal of the challenge is to encourage Maryland students and young professionals to pursue education and careers in cybersecurity.

The schools will compete against teams from four other high schools from throughout the state of Maryland.

The event will give the students the opportunity to learn more about cybersecurity and develop practical skills for defending computers while competing for scholarships in a fun environment. The conference will feature government and industry leaders, breakout sessions and cyber innovation exhibits. More information is available at www.MDC3.org.

Falcons Rule!

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 Level Coordinator - Mr. Grotenhuis
English IRT - Mrs. Lindsay
Social Studies IRT - Ms. Nachlas
Math IRT - Mr. McKay
Science IRT - Mrs. Callaghan
Counseling - (Ms. Kitts, Secretary) Mrs. Arnold - Mrs. Hardy

JPMS
Timberwolves
live with
Purpose
Respect
Integrity
Dedication
Effort

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

