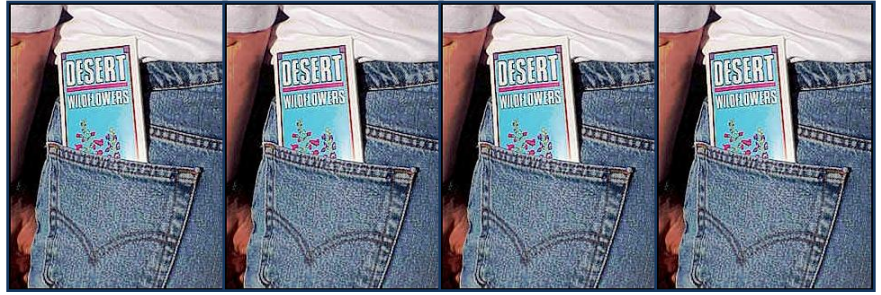


# John Poole's **BACK POCKET**



November 23, 2011

## A Thought for Today:

**Thanksgiving Day comes, by statute, once a year; to the honest man it comes as frequently as the heart of gratitude will allow.**

~ Edward Sanford Martin

# Happy Thanksgiving!

Here we are at the Thanksgiving break already, and I am very thankful that I work in such a wonderful community among families that truly value their children's future and send us the greatest kids going. Here are just a few of the moments from the past week that present a snapshot of why we love our students, our school and our community so much:

- It's a rainy morning and many students pause to wipe their feet on the floor mats as they enter the building.
- Two 8<sup>th</sup> graders quietly practice reading the morning announcements with concentration so they will do a good job when they are on the PA for real.
- A teacher comes down the hall with a box that looks heavy, and a student hurries ahead to open the door for her.
- A teacher brings a student to my office to brag about him. Although the young man had had a hard time behaving the day before, he had promised to get his act together, and today he had a great day – even earned an A on an assessment. Both teacher and student are proud and happy – and so am I.
- The bell rings after change of classes and every hallway is deserted. All students are in class on time.
- Two teachers ask for donations for their reading corner and a family offers a cozy chair as a welcoming place for kids to read.
- A student on the way to lunch starts to run down the hall but slows right down when he sees me in the corridor. "Sorry," he says, as he passes me at a safe speed. "I'm just hungry!"
- A discussion in a 7<sup>th</sup> grade class is conducted with all students focused on the topic, speaking in complete sentences, and making their remarks loudly enough that everyone can hear. It's a great exchange of ideas.
- Two friends come smiling down the hall arm in arm, celebrating that they happened to wear the same outfit to school today.

These may be small things, but they add up to a school where it is a pleasure to teach and to learn – and that's a lot to be thankful for.

Have a wonderful Thanksgiving!



# 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!



**Michael Chilla**

**Claire Jenson**

**Cody LeMarr**

**Erin Lyons**

**Glenn Mandere**

**Colin Metz**

**Amanda Warfield**

**Courtney Williams**

**Megan Windall**

## The PRIDE Store Needs Your Help

Every Friday the PRIDE Store opens up during lunch time. Students are able to exchange the PRIDE Props they have received in acknowledgment of their consistent positive behavior for goods and services. Sometimes they “purchase” snacks or trinkets such as fancy pencils; sometimes a student will save up Props to purchase a bigger item like a football or another piece of sports equipment. Certificates are also on sale occasionally for treats such as a ride in Mrs. Arnold’s convertible – in nice weather, of course.

This year we have added some new options for kids to enjoy. There’s a big wheel like the ones at carnivals. The prize you get is determined by the luck of the spin. We hold drawings for special items, too. We want our students to feel excited to earn PRIDE Props and pleased with the benefits of being good school citizens. The PRIDE Store plays a big part in the PBIS program.

Now that the winter holidays are coming up, the PRIDE Store takes on a new dimension – it’s a family gift center during the month of December. Many kids will continue to make their usual choices, but they also look to spend their Props on gifts for their moms and dads, siblings and grandparents. The presents are easy to keep secret because they are acquired at school, and it’s very satisfying to “pay” for your presents with your own initiative.

If you would like to help us get the PRIDE Store ready for holiday shopping, there are many items we’d be happy to receive as donations. I always have a shelf full of odds and ends we have never used and are happy to clear out – maybe you do, too. Nearly new things are fine, as long as they don’t show wear. Here are a few items that are sure to be popular:

- Scented candles and soaps
- Jewelry and key chains
- Picture books for young children
- Picture frames and desk organizers
- Coffee mugs and water bottles
- Hand lotion and bath salts
- Puzzles and games for all ages
- Ties, caps and other accessories for men
- Tire gauges and other small items for the car
- Decorative boxes

Of course, we’re happy to accept new items specially purchased for the PRIDE Store and cash, too. If you would like to contribute, send your donation to the main office in care of Mrs. Petak. Thanks!



**We're publishing the information below for three week in a row because we don't want anyone to be surprised when they come into the school in January and find they need to have their driver's license scanned in the main office. If you've been reading the *Back Pocket* regularly you can skip this article - there's nothing new - but if you've missed hearing about the VMS, please read on! Thanks -**

## **The New Visitor Management System**

The letter reproduced below from Larry Bowers, MCPS' Chief Operating Officer, announces that our school will soon be getting a computerized mechanism to use when visitors come to JPMS. About half the schools in the county already have this system in place, and the roll-out will continue until every school is hooked in.



**MONTGOMERY COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS**  
MARYLAND  
www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org

November 2011

Dear Parent or Guardian:

A network-based electronic visitor management system soon will be installed in your child's school to assist principals and school staff in identifying and verifying business of visitors to the school. This new visitor management system is part of a systemwide Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) initiative that eventually will be implemented in all schools.

The new visitor management system is an automated system that replaces the current paper/pencil sign-in/out logs for visitors. The new system will provide a computer, scanner, and printer to the school. Visitors' driver's licenses will be scanned, and those without identification will manually enter their information. All visitors will receive a badge to wear while in the school building and are expected to return the badge before leaving the building.

This visitor management system provides administrators convenient access to several reports; e.g., in the event of an emergency/crisis, visitor accountability is easily accessible. Administrators also can track the number and purpose of visits to their school, including the number of volunteers and volunteer hours. While schools were able to do this in the past, it was a time-consuming task.

The safety and security of our students and staff are an MCPS priority, and this new system is intended to enhance MCPS security measures to ensure a safe and secure learning and working environment. If you have questions regarding this system, please contact the staff of the Department of School Safety and Security at 301-279-3066.

Sincerely,

Larry A. Bowers  
Chief Operating Officer

The Visitor Management System (VMS) is intended to enhance security for our students and staff – and that is a good thing – but it will take a little getting used to.

Every school in the county has a big sign on all the doors that tells visitors they must report directly to the main office. The intention is to make it possible to identify strangers before they come into contact with children and to be sure that only people with legitimate reasons to be there are at large in the building. The sign-in sheet and visitor's badge also help by allowing us to monitor how long someone has been at school and by making clear to everyone that a stranger has permission to be in our halls. I have to admit that we have often been lax about these procedures, allowing frequent volunteers to come and go without visitor's badges because so many of us know these wonderful folks – but when you think about it, substitute teachers, maintenance staff and other parent volunteers may not know them or feel comfortable that they can be trusted. It's just a good idea to follow the same procedures for everyone.

The VMS will help. The way it works is that visitors have their driver's licenses scanned (or provide their name and address if they don't drive) when they enter the building. A simple swipe of the license will do the trick. A visitor's badge with the person's name and the date is printed, and we're in business.

The computer is hooked up to a data base that will tell us some things we wouldn't ordinarily know. For example, it will identify registered sex offenders and those with restraining orders preventing contact with children. In this way, it keeps our students safe and has foiled more than one kidnapping attempt by an estranged parent. **The VMS will not show arrest records or immigration status – it is only designed to protect the security of our children, not to track down people in trouble with the law.**

Eventually, we will ask everyone who comes through the main doors from our lobby into our hallways to be checked in through the VMS and to wear a visitor's badge – even our “regulars”. It won't be necessary to do all that if you are coming into the main office only – you can still drop off a forgotten lunch without scanning your driver's license – but going to your child's locker or visiting the Counseling Office will require you to use the VMS.

For the moment, however, I know we aren't ready to use our new equipment. It was hooked up this week, and we are in the process of training all the office staff to use it. That is happening over the next few days, but we are going to take our time and phase in activation of the system. We need a chance to get used to the new procedures. Once we are up and running, everyone will need to plan for the time it takes to sign in and get a badge when they come to school.

Imagine the wait if we tried to get everyone coming to the Honor Roll Celebration on November 23 into the system as they arrived! It just isn't reasonable until everyone knows how to use the system. We'll be asking everyone who drops in during November and December to take a moment to try out our new procedure. Then, we'll activate the VMS and only newcomers may feel a bit inconvenienced.

I know this new system will add an extra step to your visit to JPMS, but it will help us be sure our kids and their teachers are safe. Please watch the *Back Pocket* and ConnectEd for updates on when and how we are implementing the system, and thanks for working with us to put this new technology in place.



## Updates and Important Details from the First Article About VMS

- The equipment has been installed and it's working more smoothly than we thought it would.
- You don't HAVE to use the VMS until January, but we hope you will try it out the next time you're in the building.
- Please get in the habit of arriving a few minutes early for events like the Honor Roll celebrations so you can sign into the Visitor Management System and get your name tag.



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](mailto:Winessa_R_Crutchfield@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!!**

## **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**

**The final Yankee Candles orders are being delivered.**

**Thank you for supporting the fundraiser!**

### **Heads Up on an Important Issue**

Maryland state law says that our local districts must maintain per pupil funding from year to year. Last year, this "Maintenance of Effort (MOE)" requirement was not met by our county, which meant that our students received less per pupil than the year before. Our state legislators passed a bill to postpone the \$20+ million penalty for failing to meet the requirement. However the bill only postponed the penalty for a year and MCPS could face a double penalty if MOE is not met again this year...

Many questions and concerns are emerging about "Maintenance of Effort." There has been discussion that bills may be introduced to amend the law and we are uncertain about how this will affect our kids' education.

MCCPTA will be hosting a discussion on this very significant issue on Wednesday, January 6 which will include Board of Education members, County Council members and state legislators. Please look for the flyer farther along in this issue of the *Back Pocket*.

**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](mailto: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\[1\]%20optsa%20volunteer%20form.pdf](http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/uploadedFiles/schools/poolems/parents/13[1]%20optsa%20volunteer%20form.pdf)**

# Student Service Learning (SSL) Notes

## Give a Little Time...Make a Big Difference

- Good habits: Check the report card to see that SSL hours reported are reflected. Contact Mrs. Arnold, the JPMS SSL coordinator, with any discrepancies. Keep copies of all SSL documentation.
- Holidays and early release days are great times for SSL involvement. Plan ahead!
- Remember: a maximum of 8 SSL hours can be earned in a 24-hour period.
- All service for which SSL hours are desired must be supervised by an adult representing an official nonprofit organization...not a parent or relative.
- Plan now to be involved in SSL activities over Winter Break. Look for opportunities on the SSL Web site [www.mcpsssl.org](http://www.mcpsssl.org), or listen for opportunities promoted at school.

## Missing SSL Hours?

Don't worry – there was a change in the recording process for SSL hours this quarter. Some hours did not get recorded in time to show on the first report card. These hours will appear on the next report card. Any questions? Call Mrs. Arnold in the Counseling Office.

## SSL Opportunity: Volunteer with the Frosty Shop at Poolesville Elementary School on the weekend of December 3 and 4.

The hours are 9:00 AM - 4:00 PM on Saturday, December 3, 2011 and 9:00 AM - 2:00 PM on Sunday, December 4, 2011. Students could do shifts of 3 hours. Your responsibilities would be gift wrapping, helping students shop, stocking inventory and handing out poinsettias. Please see Mrs. Arnold for the contact information for all volunteers.

Please email your hours of availability to: Royal, Liz and Mike ([royals2@verizon.net](mailto:royals2@verizon.net))

## The Great American NO BULL Challenge

Here's a video contest just for teens who are ready to stand up and come together to eliminate cyberbullying in America!

The Great American NO BULL Challenge is the largest, youth-led national campaign against cyberbullying in American's history. We're using the power of social media to inspire 25 million middle and high school students to start building each other up, instead of tearing each other down.

Everyone will win big just by participating, and finalists will be invited to attend the star-studded NO BULL Red Carpet Awards Event in San Francisco. Inspiring America's teens to stand up and bring an end to cyberbullying, one click at a time, is what The Great American NO BULL Challenge is all about.

15,000,000 Teens are a Victim of Cyberbullying ([http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mgo2rwl\\_Psy](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mgo2rwl_Psy))

If you are a student, you already know how difficult it can be to deal with online bullying. Bullying can ruin lives, and it's time to eliminate cyberbullying from our schools once and for all! Take a stand and show your creativity at the same time by getting involved in the Great American NO BULL Challenge! Video Uploads January 15<sup>th</sup>, 2012 through March 15, 2012!



The Montgomery County Council of PTAs  
2096 Gaither Rd, Ste 204, Rockville, MD 20850  
301-208-0111 • 301-208-2003 (fax)  
office@mccpta.com



NAACP Parents' Council  
Montgomery County, Maryland Chapter  
PO Box 2165, Rockville, Maryland 20847-2165

# PLEASE JOIN US FOR AN IMPORTANT CONVERSATION ABOUT FUNDING FOR OUR SCHOOLS ... THE MAINTENANCE OF EFFORT LAW

\*\*\*\*\*

DOES IT GUARANTEE A FLOOR FOR PER PUPIL FUNDING?

WHAT IS "RE-BASING" AND WILL OUR SCHOOLS RECEIVE  
\$70 MILLION LESS IN FUNDING NEXT YEAR AS A RESULT?

SHOULD THE LAW BE CHANGED?

WHY ARE SCHOOLS SUBJECT TO STATE PENALTY IF COUNTIES DO NOT MEET  
MOE, AND WILL OUR SCHOOLS BE PENALIZED \$26 MILLION?

Join us for an informative panel discussion with Maryland Senate Delegation Chair Jamie Raskin, House Delegation Chair Brian Feldman, and Elected leadership from the Montgomery County Council and the Montgomery County Board of Education.  
It's a conversation you can't afford to miss.

Wednesday, January 4<sup>th</sup>, 2012, 7:30 – 9:00 pm  
Carver Educational Services Center  
850 Hungerford Drive  
Rockville, MD 20850

Presented by the Montgomery County Council of PTAs and the  
NAACP Parents' Council



# 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](http://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 Production**

The JPMS Phantom Players are proud to present "Cinderstein," a full-length comedy with a little bit of family drama, fun and even a happy but strange ending. The show will be held on December 9th and 10th at 7:00 p.m. in the APR. Tickets are \$6.00 for adults and \$4.00 for students. Tickets will be available at the door. There will be a concession stand filled with lots of great snacks for you to purchase. All proceeds from ticket sales and concessions are for future shows. If you have any questions, please email Dee Turner at [dturner322@aol.com](mailto:dturner322@aol.com).

## **Help the Drama Club**

If you have any leotards the drama club may have or borrow, please bring them to the main office marked for Ms. Dee Turner. Thanks!

## **School Pictures**

School pictures make great holiday gifts! You can order all sorts of items with your child's school photo on them. View the possibilities online at [www.hjclix.com](http://www.hjclix.com). Details are on the card that was distributed with your pictures. Call 800-244-4373 for Customer Service if you need help.

## **Poolesville Elementary School Fundraiser**

Monday, November 21 is PTA Restaurant Night at Potomac Pizza in the Kentlands. From 4:00 PM to 8:00 PM. Potomac Pizza is donating 20% of the proceeds to Poolesville Elementary School. Bring the whole family, team or neighborhood----it's only a 15 minute drive up to Kentlands! Potomac Pizza is located at the Kentlands Market Square, 625 Center Point Way, Gaithersburg, MD 20878. Order by Phone: 1-301-977-9777 or Order Online - just be sure to tell them you are supporting PES.

## **A Resource as You Plan for College**

*Prep Talk* is a newsletter that provides helpful information for parents and students regarding college preparation and readiness. It's published jointly by MCPS and Montgomery College, and it addresses such topics as taking tests, planning academic schedules, earning college credit while in high schools, applying for on-the-spot college admissions, key deadlines and much more!

Visit <http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/curriculum/careercenter/resources/preptalk.aspx> for current and past issues of *Prep Talk*.

Hope Garden  
Children's Ballet Theatre  
presents

# A. Christmas Carol

An original ballet  
by Artistic Director and  
Choreographer Fran Ichijo

December 9 and 10  
6:30pm

Poolesville High School Auditorium

Adult admission \$10, Students \$7

For more information and to reserve tickets visit us at

[www.HGCBT.org](http://www.HGCBT.org)



These materials are neither sponsored nor endorsed by the Board of Education of Montgomery County, the superintendent, or this school.

Fran Ichijo Ball



YOU ARE INVITED  
TO ATTEND THE

*Fiscal Year 2013  
Operating Budget  
Presentation*

BY  
SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS  
DR. JOSHUA P. STARR

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 7, 2011  
7:30 P.M.



RICHARD MONTGOMERY HIGH SCHOOL  
250 RICHARD MONTGOMERY DRIVE  
ROCKVILLE, MARYLAND 20852

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO USE  
FOREIGN LANGUAGE INTERPRETING SERVICES,  
PLEASE ARRIVE BY 7:00 P.M.



Free Parking

Child Care Available  
for Children Ages 4-12

Sign Language Interpreters Available

USTED ESTÁ INVITADO/A  
A ASISTIR A LA

*Presentación del  
Presupuesto Operativo  
Para el Año Fiscal 2013*

DEL  
SUPERINTENDENTE DE ESCUELAS  
DR. JOSHUA P. STARR

MIÉRCOLES, 7 DE DICIEMBRE  
7:30 P.M.



RICHARD MONTGOMERY HIGH SCHOOL  
250 RICHARD MONTGOMERY DRIVE  
ROCKVILLE, MARYLAND 20852

SI USTED DESEA HACER USO DEL SERVICIO DE  
INTERPRETACIÓN DE IDIOMAS, POR FAVOR  
LLEGUE A MÁS TARDAR A LAS 7:00 P.M.



Estacionamiento Gratis

Servicio de Guardería Infantil Disponible Para  
Niños Entre las Edades de 4 y 12 Años

Habrà Servicio de Interpretación Por Señas

教育總監  
DR. JOSHUA P. STARR  
邀請您參加

2013會計年度  
運作預算  
說明會

2011年12月7日(週三)  
晚上7:30



RICHARD MONTGOMERY HIGH SCHOOL  
250 RICHARD MONTGOMERY DRIVE  
ROCKVILLE, MARYLAND 20852

如果您需要其它語言的口譯服務，  
請於晚上7點之前到達會場。



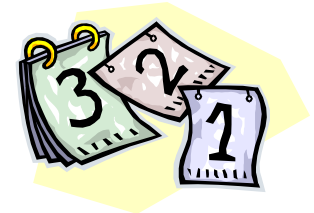
免費停車

我們將為4-12歲的兒童提供看護服務

我們也將提供手語翻譯

[www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org](http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org)

# Save the Date!



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

- November 30** Magnet Prep Classes (2:30-4:00 p.m. in Rooms 204 and 207)
- December 2** Poolesville Town Holiday Lighting Ceremony (7:30 p.m.)
- December 9** 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Field Trip – Air and Space Museum
- December 9** Drama Production (7:00 p.m.)
- December 10** Drama Production (1:30 and 7:00 p.m.)
- December 14** Winter Concert (7:00 p.m.)
- December 24** **Winter Break**
- January 2**

# PHS NEWS

*Go Falcons!*



## **Toys for Tots Drive**

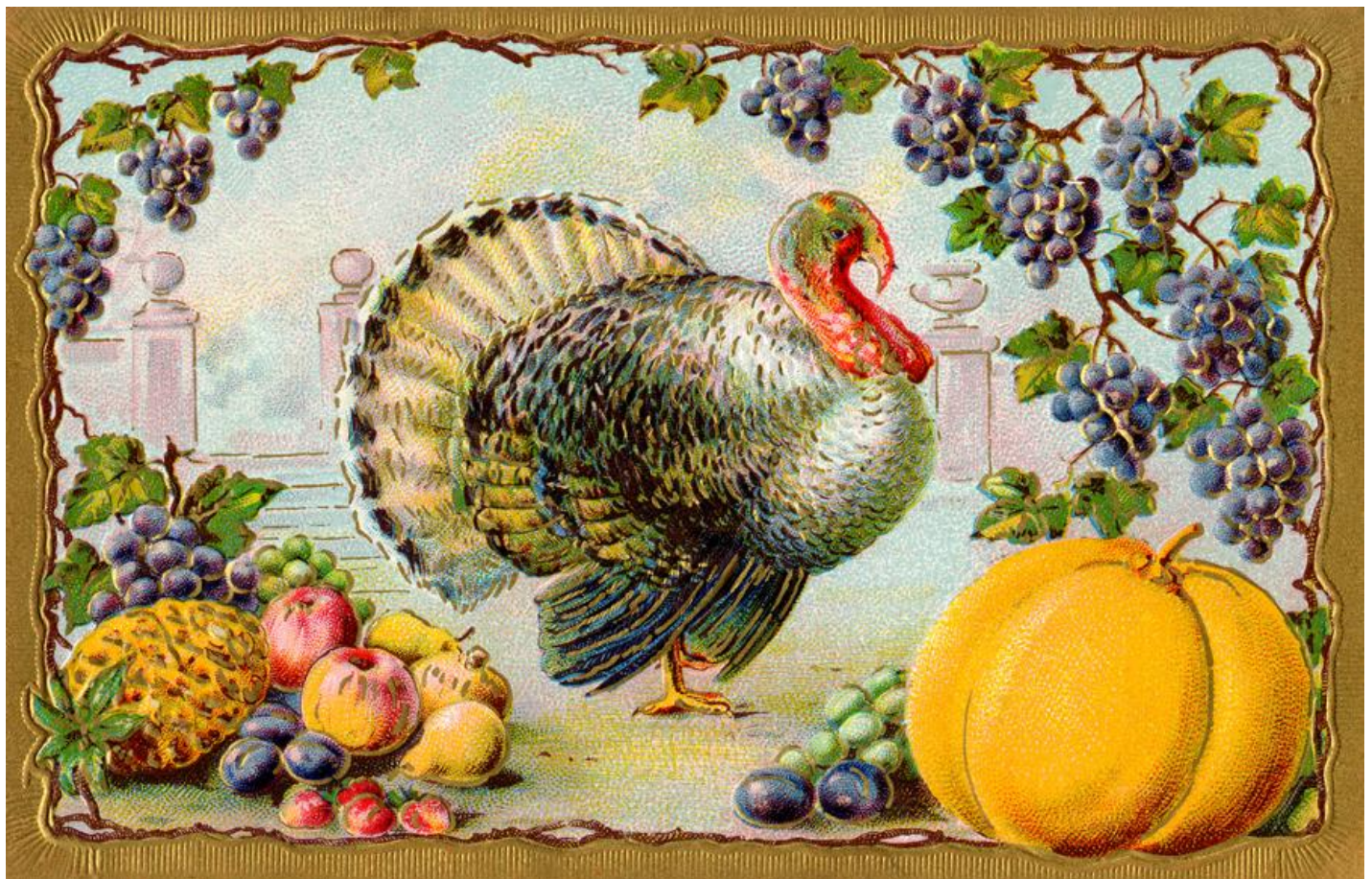
November 28 – December 17. Bring your contributions to the Falcon Foyer and make the holidays brighter for a child in need.

**Coming Next Month:** Financial Aid Night, December 7 @ 7:00 p.m.

Winter Concert, December 15 @ 7:00 p.m.

PHS Talent Show, December 22 @ 7:00 p.m.

# Happy Thanksgiving to All Our Families!



# 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**

