

**January 17, 2014** 

A Thought for Today: All I have to do is to work on transition and technique. - Usain Bolt

**John Poole's** 

BACK

# **Semester 1 Is Already Over**

Once again I'm overwhelmed with the sensation that time is not just flying; it's jetting by! Here we are heading into the second half of the school year, and it seems like last week we raised the flag and welcomed students back to school.

The first semester has been very successful for our students and staff. Nothing is ever perfect, but we've enjoyed working with the great kids you sent us, and they've responded positively. We've even been able to enjoy a snow day again after a long dry spell of unseasonably mild winters! So far, 2013 – 2014 has been a winner. Let's keep it that way.

This weekend is one of the few times during the school year when your family can assume there are very few demands from school for your children to meet. Exams are over and most classes won't start the new units until we get back on Wednesday, so homework is minimal and make-up work doesn't exist. Backing the professional day up to the MLK holiday also means kids have four days to relax. You might have time for some guilt-free family fun!

This is also a great time to reflect on goals and lay the groundwork for finishing the school year strong. I remember watching the apparently effortless victories Usain Bolt racked up at the last Olympics and being impressed that he took nothing for granted. Having achieved excellence, he still wanted to improve the details. In a lot of ways, that's a model for JPMS, too. We're doing great, but we still want to perfect transitions and technique.

This weekend is a wonderful time to begin the process. A good place to start is your child's binder and agenda book. You might have time over the next four days to go through the binder, get it cleaned and ready for a new semester, and take a look at the work collected from this fall. Your child should be able to see patterns to continue or habits to break; talking it over with you will help him or her put these realizations into words. I do the same thing this time of year, and I post the insights I've gained from my reflection in places I can't help but see them. (There's a note on my calendar each Thursday that says, "If you finish the *Back Pocket* tonight, you might go home on time tomorrow.")

Likewise, the agenda book sometimes starts out full and tidy but ends up in January looking more sparse and neglected. It's a new semester, so a fresh start is appropriate. Lots of kids like to tear out the pages related to assignments they've finished. Not only is that encouraging (Look at how much we've done!) but it is another chance to be reminded of the other resources in the agenda: maps, schedules, formulae and the like. These tools come in handy if you know they're there.

Have a great weekend and a fantastic second half of the school year! - Charlotte Boucher

# **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!

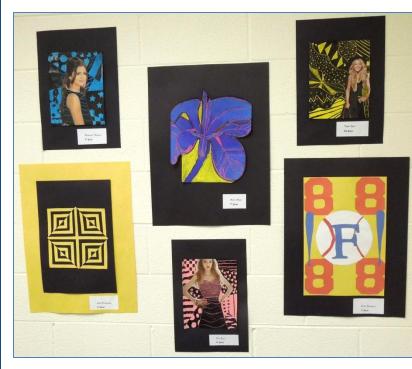
Sydney Allentuck Justin Green

**Garrett Karns** 

Cassandra Campbell Julianna Hitchcock Guy Norton Grace Clark Franklina Hovor Jacob Roe

# **January's Featured Artists**

I'm proud to show another collection of fabulous student art in the office this month. Mr. Gemmell's classes continue to produce exceptional pieces that demonstrate both their talent and their awareness of important artists, techniques and media.





Visitors to the main office are greeted by pastels in the style of Georgia O'Keeffe that **Kalie Terragno** and **Alexis Abrigo** 

created.

Displayed in my office are **Timmy Wade's** modular sculpture,

**Foster Holmquist**'s graphic art, **Alexis Abrigo**'s O'Keeffe pastel, **Chase Hillegas**' expanding square, and pop scratchboard projects by **Taylor Byrd, Erin Green** and **Madeleine Thompson.** Come by and take a look the next time you visit us!



# "Jamba" from Afríca

"Jamba" is the Swahili word for "Hello." During the African Trade Simulation, all 7<sup>th</sup> grade Social Studies students learned how language, religion, and African traditions and customs spread across the great continent.

Students worked in groups to buy and sell products, such as gold, salt, jewelry, and horses. Navigating trade routes and crossing the dangerous Sahara desert or Congo rain forest, brought the cities not only new goods but also new culture.

Here are some photos taken of students participating in the simulation.







# **Congratulations!**

JPMS students do great things outside of school as well as in!

On Saturday, January 11, Morgan B. earned her black belt in Karate after three years of training. She is the first female to earn her black belt from Kicks Karate in Poolesville.

Next week, John Foster will travel to Pittsburgh to compete in the Youth America Grand Prix, an international dance competition. John is dancing with Hope Garden Ballet students and many former JPMS students from Poolesville. We wish them the best!





### Economics for Success

#### Dear Parents:

As a result of the economic challenges facing our nation in the last few years, the need for students to begin building a foundation of financial understanding is greater than ever. Maryland has mandated that all schools systems include instruction of the Maryland Standards for Financial Literacy at the Elementary, Middle, and High School levels. In the middle schools of Montgomery County Public Schools these standards will be addressed through social studies classes in Grades Six and Seven.

Junior

Achievement

of Greater Washington

This February, students in Grade Six will take part in five lessons from the Junior Achievement program, Economics for Success. Junior Achievement has been a long-standing partner with MCPS in delivering volunteer-led lessons to students throughout the county. Volunteers are drawn from local businesses and community organizations as well as the parent community. Economics for Success explores personal finance and students' education and career options based on their skills, interests, and values.

Junior Achievement <u>still needs volunteers</u> to help the 6th graders. You do not have to have any prior knowledge, as Junior Achievement will train you. You will teach a series of 5 lessons on things like budgeting, credit cards, and insurance to the 6th grade students at John Poole. It's a great way to be involved and give back to the community at the same time! We <u>still need 3</u> parents for this program, which will take place on the following dates: 1/30, 2/6, 2/13, 2/20, 2/27 (Snow Date - 2/25). There is something to fit everyone's schedule—JA staff will help you find the class time that meets your schedule, or you can volunteer in your child's social studies class! The time commitment is 45 minutes per week for five weeks during the school day. If you are interested, please contact Jeni Pastier as soon as possible at 301-838-0471 or e-mail her at jeni.pastier@ja.org.

Junior Achievement's <u>partnership with Montgomery County Public Schools</u> supports the State of Maryland mandate for financial literacy education. This is a prime opportunity to give back to our community by sharing your economic 'life lessons'!

To learn more, contact Jeni Pastier at jeni.pastier@ja.org or 301-838-0471.

Junior Achievement of Greater Washington 804 West Diamond Avenue, Suite 300, Gaithersburg, MD 20878 301-838-0471 jeni.pastier@ja.org. www.myJA.org

#### District of Columbia Main Office

1050 17\* Street, NW Suite 750 Washington, DC 20036 202-296-1200

#### Virginia

4099 Pickett Road Fairfax, VA 22032 703-426-1560

#### Maryland

804 West Diamond Avenue Suite 300 Gaithersburg, MD 20878 301-838-0470

www.myJA.org





### Montgomery County

Junior Achievement relies on volunteers to impact local students by teaching the JA Economics for Success program to a class of sixthgrade students.

Economics for Success is a 5lesson interactive curriculum that through games and activities, provides practical information about personal finance, including lessons on: Goal-setting

Education and career options Budgeting

Using credit and credit scores Financial risk

Junior Achievement provides volunteers with thorough training and comprehensive lesson plans and materials. Learn more about JA Economics for Success by visiting myja.org or ja.org.

Junior Achievement's volunteers are role models who provide both education and inspiration to over 11,000 students in Montgomery County each year.

### Volunteer Today!

#### Your role:

- Attend a 1.5 hour training session at one of our local offices in Washington DC, Fairfax, VA or Gaithersburg, MD prior to stepping into the classroom.
- Work individually or identify a partner for co-teaching, prepare to teach approximately 5 hours of pre-written, turnkey material.
- Partner with a class of sixth-grade students once a week, for approximately 50
  minutes over five weeks and guide the students through the JA program
  while making connections to your life and personal experience. All volunteer
  opportunities are during school hours from approximately 7:55am to 2:40pm.

#### Frequently asked questions:

• Will I be alone in the classroom?

NO! You will be joined by a professional educator who will be responsible for managing the students and supporting you.

• Do I have to write anything?

NO! You will receive a comprehensive set of materials that includes visual displays, games and lesson plans.

#### How much time do I need to prepare?

Plan for approximately 20-30 minutes preparation, split between partners if two volunteers are co-teaching, prior to each lesson taught in your classroom.

#### • How will the training help me prepare?

At the training, you will learn how to engage students in learning, how to take ownership of your materials and plan lessons and how to make connections for students between school and life.

#### • Do I need any prior teaching experience?

NO! The JA program is designed to be taught by anyone because it employs each volunteer's own life experience along with easy-to-follow directions.

For more information, contact your student's social studies teacher or JA staff member Jeni Pastier via email at <u>jeni.pastier@ja.org</u> or by phone 301-838-0471.

> Junior Achievement of Greater Washington 804 W. Diamond Avenue Suite 300 Gaithersburg, MD 20878 www.mvJA.org 301-838-0471





The staff has been working hard to wind up the semester testing, grading and report card preparation - your treating us to lunch

was a very welcome

moment to relax - and yummy, tool





Do you want to be a published writer? Do you like to write?

Do you want to impress your friends and family?

Do you want to win a prestigious award?

If you answered yes to any of these questions this contest is for you.



# Creative Writing Contest Celebrating Diversity

# Write a poem a dialogue a story or an essay celebrating diversity and enter this contest!

- You could write about your family's ethnic background or traditions your religion important holidays you celebrate working with students with disabilities or having a disability.
- You could write about learning about other cultures or celebrating what your culture has in common with others!
- You could make up a fictional poem or story about people from different cultures learning about each other!

# Your writing piece needs to show diversity among people in a **positive** light!

To enter you must submit a registration form and your writing to your English teacher by January 17. See your English teacher for details.

### Celebrating Diversity Through Creative Writing STUDENT PARTICIPATION FORM

By COMPLETING THE INFORMATION BELOW YOU AGREE TO PARTICIPATE IN THE FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY MIDDLE SCHOOL WRITING CONTEST "CELEBRATING DIVERSITY THROUGH CREATIVE WRITING." AS A PARTICIPANT YOU AGREE TO WRITE AN ESSAY A SHORT STORY OR A POEM (INCLUDING A WRITTEN VERSION OF A RAP OR SPOKEN WORD) BASED ON THE THEME "MY CULTURE." YOU AGREE TO WORK WITH YOUR SCHOOL'S CONTEST CONTACT TO SUBMIT YOUR WORK ON TIME BASED ON THE REQUIREMENTS OF THE CONTEST. FINAL SUBMISSIONS ARE DUE ON THURSDAY JANUARY 31 2013 BUT YOU MUST SUBMIT REQUIRED DRAFTS TO THE CONTEST CONTACT AS REQUESTED. PLEASE SEE YOUR SCHOOL'S CONTEST CONTACT MS. RICE IF YOU HAVE QUESTIONS.

Student Name				
Parent/Guardian Name				
Home Address				
City	State/Zip			
Contact Phone	Email			
Grade (check one)	6 7 8			
School Name				
MONTGOMERY COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS	MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MD			
Where the County READS • Where the County MEETS • Where the County LEARNS				



#### **SSL Opportunity**

Poolesville Memorial United Methodist Church will be hosting a free taco dinner on February 5. The event is open to the entire community. Opportunities are available for middle and high school students to help set up (4:00 - 5:30 PM), serve (5:30-7:30 PM), and clean up (7:30-8:30 PM). Students are welcome to help for any or all times listed. To sign up to help, or for more information, please contact Kirsten Lewis at 301-349-2750.

#### **Math News**

If you've been watching the roll-out of Curriculum 2.0, you may have some questions about math programming for your child now that the middle and high school courses are being included in the roll-out. This is why we have featured evening meetings about the changing math curriculum several times both last year and this. Now you can get up-to-date information online at the MCPS website. This link will take you to resources in writing, videos, and powerpoints you can check out at your convenience. <u>http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/curriculum/math/</u>

#### **A Tip from a PHS Parent**

At this week's PTSA meeting, a parent of a student in the Science, Math and Computer Science Magnet at PHS (known as Smacks) commented that it was very helpful, especially in that house, to have experience writing computer programs. Middle schools don't typically offer computer programming as an elective, but there are apps and websites that can get kids started at home. If your child is especially interested in science, math and computers, you might want to check out the ideas at this website: <a href="http://www.commonsensemedia.org/blog/raising-a-hacker-cool-tools-to-help-kids-learn-to-code?utm\_source=011614\_Parent&utm\_medium=email&utm\_campaign=weekly">http://www.commonsensemedia.org/blog/raising-a-hacker-cool-tools-to-help-kids-learn-to-code?utm\_source=011614\_Parent&utm\_medium=email&utm\_campaign=weekly</a>

#### **Parent Academy**

The MCPS Parent Academy is back in session this winter with an exciting lineup of free workshops for parents! The 2014 winter session began on Monday, January 13. The Parent Academy helps equip parents with the tips and tools they need to help their children succeed. A wide array of topics will be covered during the winter session including college and career planning, active parenting, and cybersafety and social media. All of the workshops are free and are held at schools and locations throughout Montgomery County. Childcare and interpretation services are provided at all classes. The schedule of workshops is available at <a href="http://montgomeryschoolsmd.org/departments/parentacademy/">http://montgomeryschoolsmd.org/departments/parentacademy/</a>.

#### Winter Programs at the National Wildlife Visitor Center

The Visitor Center is located on Powder Mill Road between the Baltimore-Washington Parkway and Rt. 197. There are some wonderful opportunities for kids and the whole family to enjoy the outdoors in winter!

Winter Walk is scheduled for Saturday January 18th 1:00-2:00 pm Ages 5+ Join a naturalist on this forest walk to learn about common trees while looking and listening for signs of wildlife along the trail. Registration is required.

**Bird Walk** is a program at the North Tract located on Rt. 198 between the Baltimore-Washington Parkway and Rt. 32. It will take place on Sunday January 19th 8:15-10:15 am and is for all ages Search for birds in several refuge habitats on this guided hike. Field guides and binoculars are recommended. Registration is required.

**Owl Prowl.** Also at the North Tract will be held on Sunday January 19th 4:45-6:15 pm Ages 10+. Explore the refuge at night while looking and listening for owls. Registration is required.

#### **Choose Respect Conference**

The Choose Respect Conference will be held on Sunday, February 23, 2014. This FREE annual event is intended for middle and high school students, their parents and youth service providers. It includes free food, live entertainment, raffles, prizes and interactive, educational workshops that get attendees talking about important topics such as domestic violence, dating abuse and how to identify and promote healthy relationships and friendships. The workshops are divided by age, as we all know the issues facing 6th and 7th graders are vastly different from those affecting 11th and 12th graders.

The second piece of the Choose Respect initiative is an annual Public Service Announcement (PSA) contest, where students are asked to create a 60-second video that brings attention to domestic abuse and dating violence. Winners are announced at the conference and receive cash awards, with a top prize of \$1,000. I am also attaching a contest flyer and the official rules/entry form.

Contact the counseling office for more details.

#### **After School Activities**

RecXtra has returned to John Poole this year with a full schedule of after school activities. Students need to listen to the morning announcements or follow them <u>online</u> at our website to be ready to participate in the programs that interest them.



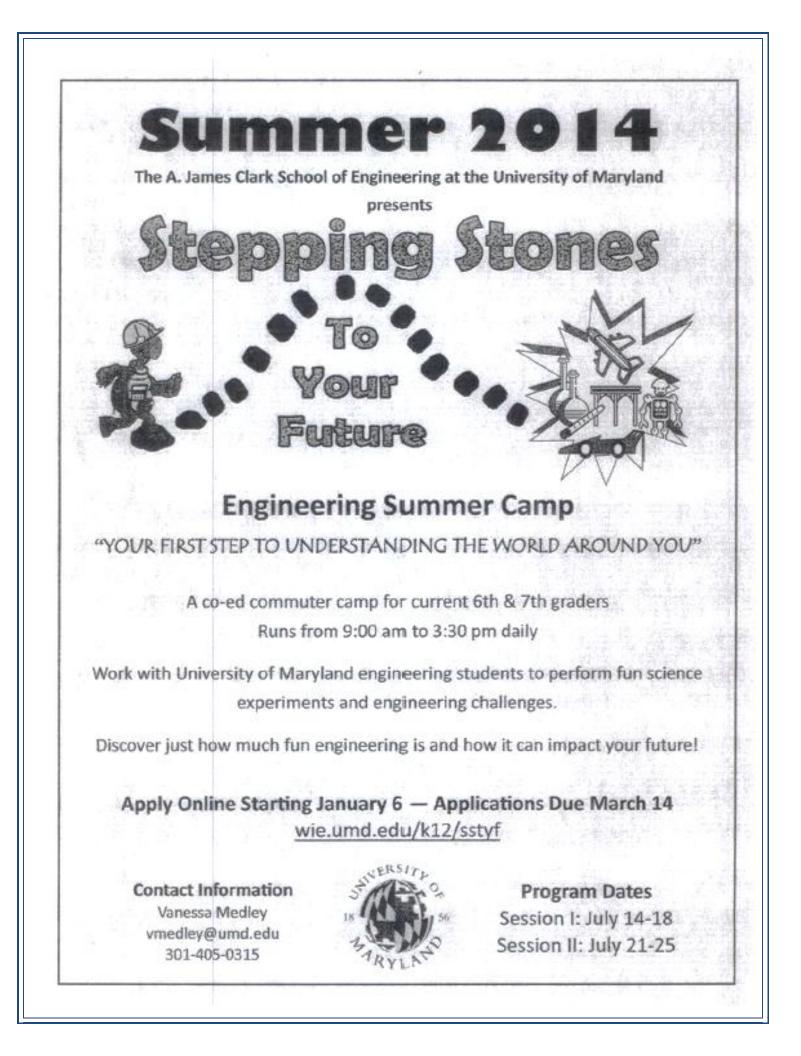
MONTGOMERY COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF RECREATION

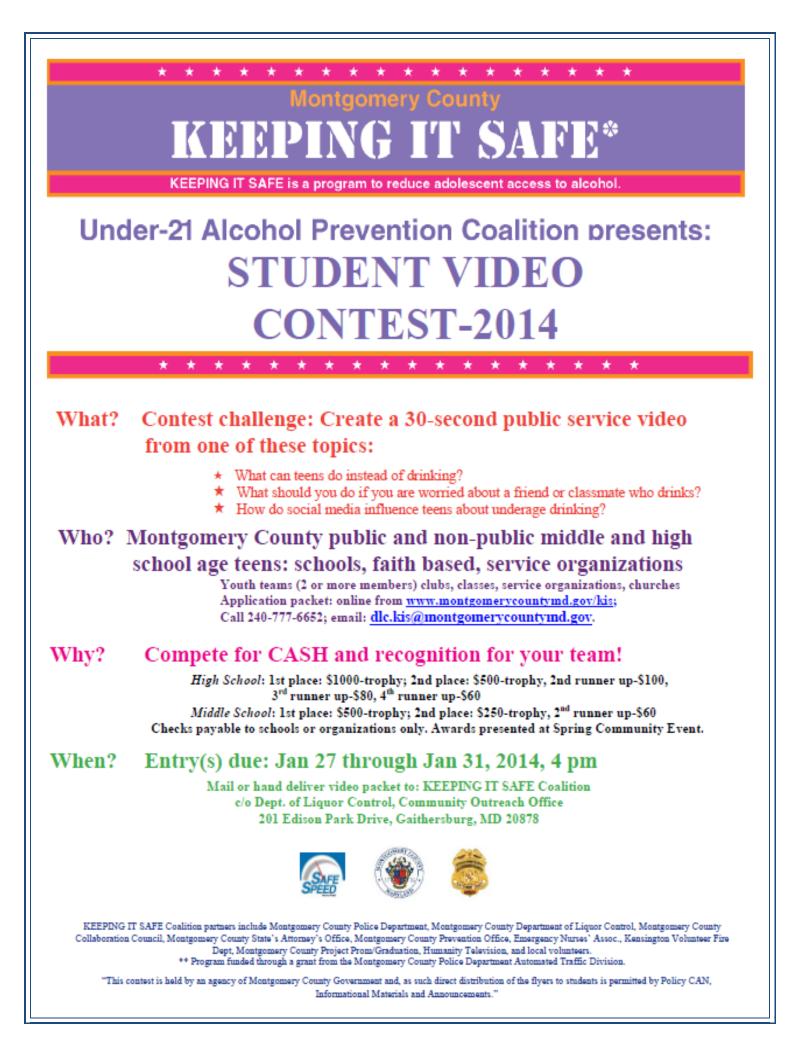
If you have any suggestions for programs you would like to lead or to see offered at JPMS please contact Mrs. Crutchfield at <u>Winessa R Crutchfield@mcpsmd.org</u>.

Activities begin after school at 2:30 p.m.

## Activity buses are provided on Tuesdays Wednesdays and Thursdays except on early dismissal days or the day before a holiday. They leave JPMS at 4:00 p.m.

Algebra (Tuesday) Homework Club (Tuesday) Drama Club (Tuesday Wednesday and Thursday) Basketball Practice (Tuesday Wednesday and Thursday) Extended Day Reading Classes (Tuesday) Zumba Club (Tuesday) – Low enrollment students needed to keep program alive! Leo Club (Wednesday) Yoga (Thursday) Jazz Band (Wednesday) Newspaper Club (Wednesday) Math Extended Day (Thursday) Running Club (January 22 & 29; February 5, 12, 19 & 26; March 5)





# Give the gift that lasts a Lifetime!



### Order Your 2014 Yearbook NOW.

Dear Parents & Students,

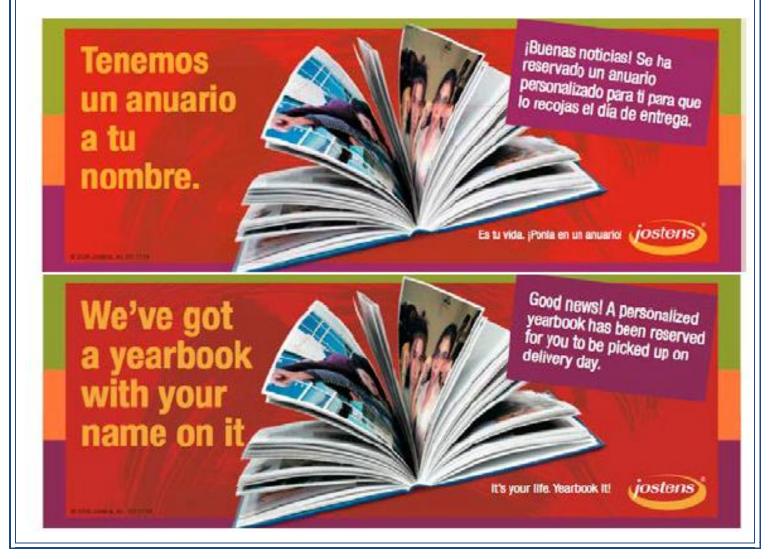
We look forward to an amazing year at John Poole Middle School! Our yearbook staff will be there to capture all the big events of the school year. Pre-order your child's yearbook **NOW**.

The cost of the yearbook is \$35, but you can purchase through January 31st for \$32.

Please order online at jostensyearbooks.com as John Poole Middle School does not accept any inschool purchases.

Online payment options include credit card, debit, personal check, Bill Me Later, Paypal or monthly installment option. Yearbooks may sell out, so order **NOW** and reserve your copy today!

NEED A HOLIDAY GIFT IDEA? Order your child's yearbook today and then share one of the certificates below with them to let them know that they will be receiving a yearbook.



# Save the Date!



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

- January 20 Holiday Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day (No School)
- January 21 Professional Day (No School for Students)
- January 22 8th Grade Departing Class Picture
- January 27 Blue Ribbon Monday (Wear Blue)
- January 30 Report Cards Distributed

# Meetings to Prepare for Next Year

All Meetings Begin at 7:00 PM

Parents of Incoming 6<sup>th</sup> Graders meet in the JPMS APR: February 13 Parents of Incoming 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> Graders meet in the JPMS Media Center: February 12 Parents of Incoming 9<sup>th</sup> Graders meet in the PHS Auditorium: February 19 Parents and Students accepted to a magnet at PHS meet in the PHS Auditorium: February 11

### JPMS Basketball Schedule

<b>January 28</b> January 28	Boys play Baker at JPMS (2:40 p.m.) Girls play Baker at Baker (3:00 p.m.)	2
January 30 January 30	Girls play Neelsville at JPMS (2:40 p.m.) Boys play Neelsville at Neelsville (3:00 p.m.)	Ê
February 5 February 5	<b>Girls play Rocky Hill at JPMS (2:40 p.m.)</b> Boys play Rocky Hill at Rocky Hill (3:00 p.m.)	
February 11 February 11	Boys play King at JPMS (2:40 p.m.) Girls play King at King (3:00 p.m.)	



# **Another PHS Student Wins National Honors**

Poolesville student **Vinay K. Sriram** has been named a semifinalist in the 2014 Intel Science Talent Search, a very prestigious nationwide high school science competition. This year, 20 semifinalists were selected from the state of Maryland, and 15 of those 20 attend MCPS high schools.

Read more at the Gazette: 15 Montgomery County science students among nation's tops

**PHS NEWS** 

**Go Falcons!** 

# **Post-prom at PHS**

Earlier in this issue, you may have noted a flyer for The Keeping it SAFE: Under-21 Alcohol Prevention Coalition's student video contest. The Coalition's Main Objective is to Deter underage alcohol use, reduce adolescent access to alcohol and to reduce the effects of alcohol use in youth under the age of 21. That's what Post-prom events are all about, too.

If your child is interested in video, go back and get a look at that flyer - it's a chance to be creative for a good cause, and the prize money could made an important contribution to the program at our high school! For more information, visit:

http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/DLCLRE/Community/keepingitsafecoalition.html

### **Poolesville High School Athletics (Winter)**

Boys Var	sity Basketba	
1/17/14	7:00 p.m.	
1/21/14	7:00 p.m.	PHS vs. Wheaton HS at PHS
1/24/14	7:00 p.m.	PHS vs. Blair HS at Blair HS
1/28/14	7:00 p.m.	PHS vs. Whitman HS at Whitman HS
1/31/14	7:00 p.m.	PHS vs. Churchill HS at PHS
2/4/14	5:15 p.m.	PHS vs. Damascus HS at Damascus HS
Girls Var	sity Basketba	
1/17/14	7:00 p.m.	PHS vs. Quince Orchard HS at Quince Orchard
1/21/14	7:00 p.m.	PHS vs. Wheaton HS at Wheaton HS
1/24/14	7:00 p.m.	PHS vs. Blair HS at Blair HS
1/28/14	7:00 p.m.	PHS vs. Whitman HS at Whitman HS
1/31/14	7:00 p.m.	PHS vs. Churchill HS at Churchill HS
2/4/14	7:00 p.m.	PHS vs. Damascus HS at Damascus HS
	CoEd Va 1/18/14 1/25/14	<b>arsity Swim and Dive</b> 12:00 p.m. PHS vs. Blair HS at Montgomery College – Takoma 9:15 a.m. PHS vs. Northwest at Olney Swim Center
25/14	Wrestling 6:00 p.m. 2:30 p.m. 6:00 p.m.	PHS vs. Seneca Valley HS at Seneca Valley HS PHS vs. Damascus HS and Rockville HS at PHS PHS vs. Sherwood HS at PHS
	1:00 p.m.	PHS vs. Northwest HS at Northwest HS



Main Office301-972-7979Counseling301-972-7980Cafeteria301-407-1037Health Room301-407-1029

Poole! 301-972-7979 301-972-7980 301-407-1037 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
Special Education IRT	-	Ms. Turnbull
Counseling - (Ms. Kitts, Secreta	ry) Mrs. Arnold -	Mrs. Eisenberg

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



## **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