

February 21, 2014

John Poole's **BACK POCKET**

A Thought for Today:

“I refuse to accept the view that mankind is so tragically bound to the starless midnight of racism and war that the bright daybreak of peace and brotherhood can never become a reality... I believe that unarmed truth and unconditional love will have the final word.”

- Martin Luther King, Jr.

A Belated Valentine to JPMS

The *Back Pocket* that was prepared for February 14 was focused on snow – with information about rescheduled events and the impact all this winter weather has had on our opportunities to teach and learn. If you missed that issue, please go back to the JPMS website and get a look at the front page. You'll find a discussion of this year's assessments that might clarify some of the changes coming as we transition from MSAs to the PARCC tests.

Because we're just a few days away from the start of Testing Season, I've reprinted the schedule in this issue. As always, we ask that you make note of when your child is testing. Often, these days are stressful; at the very least, they bring unusual schedules that can be confusing. Please make an extra effort to be sure your child arrives on time for testing having had a good night's sleep and a good breakfast to support his or her success.

If the weather had been better, the Valentine's Day *Back Pocket* would have been the perfect time to share some good news we have received about our students and staff. Better late than never, so today's front page is basically a little love note for our school.

You have probably heard our Superintendent speak about the importance of Social Emotional Education. I interpret that term as underscoring the need to develop the hearts as well as the minds of kids so that they grow up resilient, compassionate, and ready to face the difficult times that are a part of every life.

We have a tradition of this kind of learning at John Poole. The core values of Timberwolf PRIDE – Purpose, Respect, Integrity, Dedication and Effort – are more than just words to us.

2014 MSA Schedule

Grade 6 Reading Test	March 3 & 4
Grades 7 & 8 Reading Test	March 5 & 6
Grade 6 Math Test	March 7 & 10
Grades 7 & 8 Math Test	March 11 & 12
Grade 7 PARCC Math	March 24 & 25 May 6 & 7
Grade 8 Science MSA	March 31 & April 1

They are the character traits we hope to model and instill in the children to ensure their success in school and careers and to prepare them to be the kind of good citizens and neighborhood leaders who make a community a great place to live and to raise the next generation of families.

The Blue Ribbon activities that began years ago at JPMS have now become part of all our cluster schools, emphasizing the importance of civility and reminding us all that each of us can be a HERO – Helping Everyone Respect Others. On top of that, Red Ribbon Week is all about making good choices for a healthy life style; Career Day and the college field trip empower kids to take charge of building a bright future for themselves; SSL activities build empathy and teach the satisfaction of teamwork and caring; monthly lessons rotate through all classes to show that every part of the school is invested in our focus – we have built a comprehensive program around our belief in academic *and personal* excellence.

So how do we measure our progress toward supporting academic success with strong social-emotional learning? Until now, we have looked primarily at our behavioral data and test scores. It has been gratifying to see that as our MSA results have improved, our disciplinary incidents have declined – not because we are overlooking poor behavior, but because our kids are bringing an increased appreciation of civility and thoughtful decision-making to school every day. Don't get me wrong – they are still kids, and they still have some trouble controlling their strong adolescent emotions at times – but they make us proud when they reflect on their actions and learn from their mistakes. We have wonderful kids at JPMS, supported by great families.

Starting last year, MCPS began giving us another tool to monitor social-emotional learning in the form of staff and student surveys developed by the Gallup polling experts. The staff takes the surveys annually and 6th and 8th graders do, too, so a student will take the Gallup survey twice in middle school. Across the US, thousands of schools participate annually, giving a huge sample size against which to compare our school's results.

The questions on the Gallup surveys are about how you feel in school and how you see the future. The adult survey contains items such as, "I get a chance to do what I do best every day," and students respond to statements such as, "There is at least one adult at school who cares about me," and "I know lots of ways to be successful at school." Through analysis of the responses collected anonymously on the computer-based surveys, Gallup provides us feedback on the engagement of our staff – that's commitment to the work of educating our kids – and on the engagement, hope, and well-being of our students.

In this second year of the project, the results for JPMS were very gratifying. Not only did we compare favorably with every other middle school in MCPS, but we were among the strongest-scoring middle schools in the country, both for staff and student outcomes.

I shared the student data with our kids at town hall meetings last week. We are not used to these data yet, so the individual numbers can be confusing – some are based on a scale of 1 to 5; some on a scale of 1 to 10 – but the overall picture was clear: students at John Poole have the positive attitudes, values and dedication it takes to create a happy and successful life during their school years and beyond. They are taught by outstanding teachers who are committed to helping them be excellent scholars with positive life skills. I'm proud of that.

Of course we aren't perfect, and we make mistakes just like everybody else, but John Poole is a great place to work and to learn. The lady from Gallup who called us to talk about our results called us "rock stars." Well, I think our parents are rock stars, too. Without the strong support of our families, we couldn't give our kids what they deserve – the very best.

Thanks! And a happy belated Valentine's Day!

- 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!

Brad Blair

Michelle Lu

Giavanna Santorocco

Madison Folk

Glenn Mandere

Paige Solans

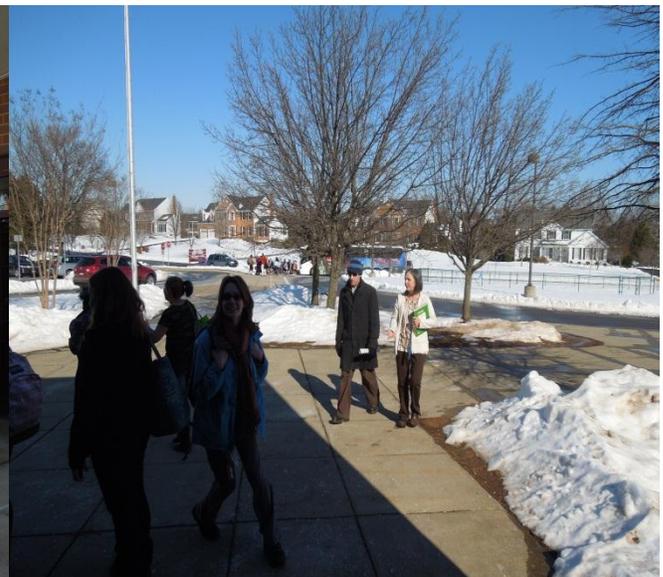
Ethan Gaddis

Julia Pavlick

Roger Yerger



Back to School after a 5-Day Weekend!



Thanks
for the
great
pictures
Mr.
Boettner

Hershey Park Expectations for 8th Graders

One of the highlights of the 8th Grade at John Poole Middle School is the spring trip to Hershey Park. This year's trip will take place on **June 11, 2014**, and the cost is **\$73** per student.

It takes a lot of planning to organize this kind of trip with so many students, and it involves a lot of money as well. We've already started talking with our students about Hershey Park so that they have time to save up for the event, and so that everyone can participate.

A day at the amusement park is a privilege we enjoy extending to our students because we know they work hard and our three years with them have been rewarding for us all. It is a *privilege*, however, for which students qualify by demonstrating their Timberwolf PRIDE right up to the end of the year.

Here are the expectations students must meet to be able to go with us to Hershey Park:

- Be academically eligible during the fourth quarter. That means maintaining a 2.0 (C) grade point average with no more than one failing grade.
- Receive no administrative behavioral consequences (detentions or suspensions) after the **February 19, 2014** student expectations meeting held with the 8th grade class.
- Receive no behavioral consequences beyond an MIR (Minor Incident Report) from a classroom teacher during the 4th quarter.

Additionally, consequences will be put into place for students who receive MIRs (Minor Incident Reports) for inappropriate classroom and hallway behaviors. *The consequence for the accrual of each MIR will be a loss of park time in increments of 10 minutes.* This measure is meant to ensure that students maintain the good behavior we expect from them and to also reinforce that the trip is a privilege that students earn for their hard work, both academically and behaviorally.

However, sometimes we recognize that a student will become involved in an isolated behavioral incident that is highly unusual for him or her and does not represent the record that student has accrued over the years at JPMS. There is an appeal process available to students who make an unanticipated mistake that could keep them from participating in the Hershey Park trip. A student who fails to meet one of the expectations above may write an appeal letter explaining why he or she deserves another chance. The Grade 8 teachers hold onto the appeal letter until the Friday before the trip is scheduled. If the student has made a sincere effort to take responsibility for his or her behavior and has avoided any further academic or behavioral difficulty since the original incident, the appeal can be granted and the student allowed on the trip. If the original incident was followed up by additional problems, the appeal will be denied and the student removed from participation.

Scholarship funds are available to students for whom the cost presents a hardship to the family, but the academic and behavioral expectations for all of our students stand firm. We need to know we can count on the responsible, mature behavior of our students when we trust them to represent us so far away from home. Thanks for your support as we look forward to a safe and enjoyable end of the year event!





PLANTING THE SEEDS, ADVANCING TOWARDS COLLEGE SUCCESS

College Preparation and Scholarship Fair

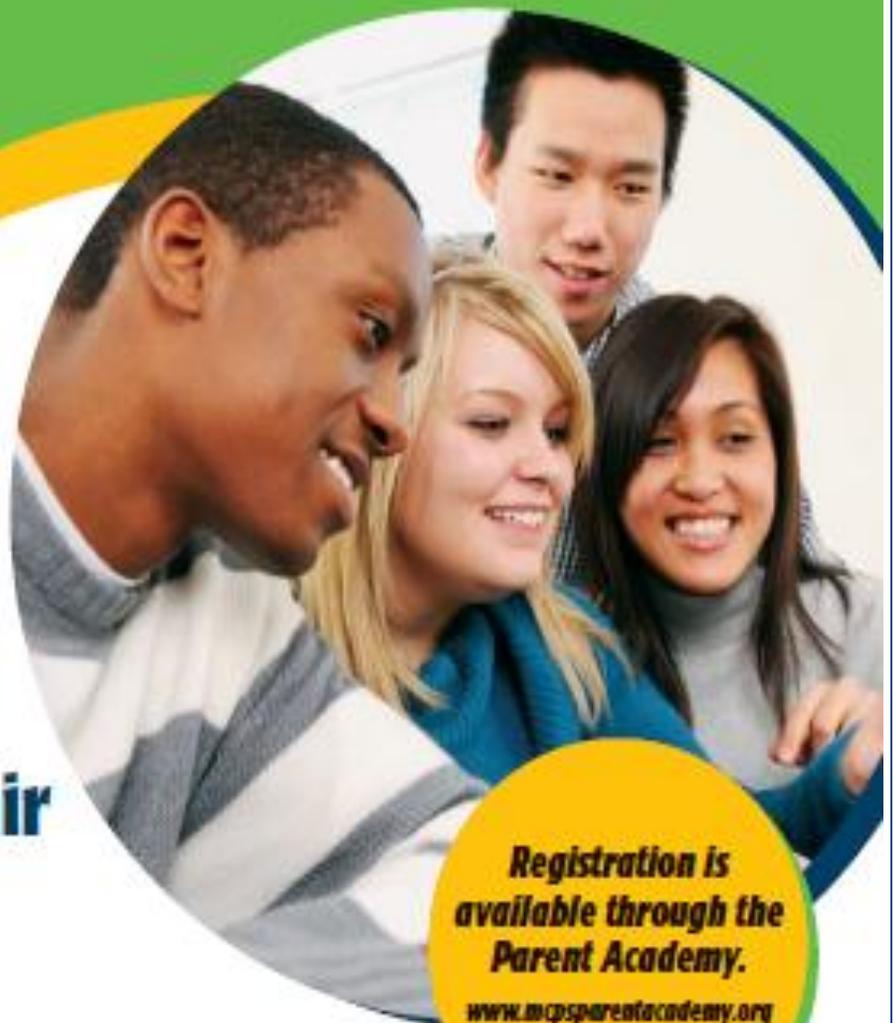
Saturday, May 10, 2014
1-4 p.m.

The Universities at Shady Grove
9630 Gudelsky Drive
Rockville, MD 20850

Save the date for a special collaborative event for middle and high school students and their parents!

- Learn what you can do to open your path to successful college experiences
- Meet representatives from various careers, colleges, universities, and scholarship organizations
- Learn about financial aid and scholarship opportunities

This event is sponsored by the following educational institutions.



*Registration is
available through the
Parent Academy.*

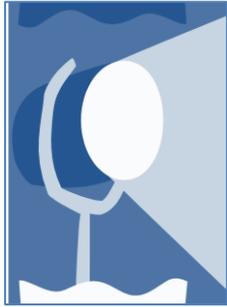
www.mcsparentacademy.org

Check-in from 12-1 p.m.



Scan for Video!

John Poole Middle School



**Spotlight on...
Fundraising**
Please help us raise the funds we need without asking our kids to sell another item.

- Jennifer Kasten - President
- Neile Whitney - Vice President
- Hisaho Blair - Secretary
- Michelle Hobbs – Treasurer
- Wendy Gotlewski – Membership & Volunteers

Questions? Ideas? Opinions?
Getting in touch with your PTSA is as easy as sending an email message!
JPMSPTSA@gmail.com

Membership and volunteer forms are available at the JPMS website:

<http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/uploadedFiles/schools/poolems/parents/4.%20PTSA%20Membership%20Form.pdf>

It is not too late to join the JPMS PTSA. Membership provides a great way to get involved and to keep in touch.

Directories will be distributed soon. You haven't missed your chance to claim one.

It is very easy to join. All the information is found on the JPMS homepage under the parents tab. If you have any questions please email Wendy Gotlewski, membership coordinator at gotlewski@msn.com.

Dear Parents/ Guardians,

The JPMS PTSA has devoted last year and this to raising money for the Weatherbug system - thanks to everyone who has donated! The WeatherBug system (www.weatherbug.com) has already arrived at JPMS, but we need to raise about \$3,000 for the final payment and installation as well as leaving some start-up money for next year's PTSA.

We are not going to do another sale to raise money this year. Instead, we are asking for direct donations. If we receive \$10 per student, we'll make our goal. Of course, not every family can afford to give, but if you can donate \$20 or more, you can stand in for a neighbor who isn't able to contribute at this time. With the support we received from the Town of Poolesville, your donations will bring this wonderful weather station to our classrooms and our town. So please consider making a contribution!

- ☐ Make your donation between February 14 and March 15, 2014
- Donations can be made in \$10 increments online by visiting <http://osp.osmsinc.com/MontgomeryMD/BVModules/CategoryTemplates/Detailed%20List%20with%20Properties/Category.aspx?categoryid=BY338>
- ☐ Or mail checks to the school at: JPMS, 17014 Tom Fox Ave., Poolesville, MD 20837; Attn: PTSA
- Or send checks with your child to the main office at school, Attn: PTSA.
- ☐ Make checks payable to JPMS PTSA.

Don't forget, your donations are tax deductible and greatly appreciated! Let's get our very own WeatherBug system hooked up and running so students, teachers, and the community can start using its wonderful learning tools!

Jennifer J. Kasten, JPMS PTSA President

Student Service Learning (SSL) Tips

Give a Little Time...Make a Big Difference

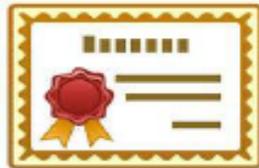
February 2014

Students address a recognized need in the community.

- Select the Advanced Search option at <http://www.montgomeryserves.org/volunteers/student-service-learning-ssl> to explore SSL opportunities that focus on Children, People with Disabilities, Homelessness, Poverty, Senior Citizens, Health, Arts/Culture, Environment, and more!
- In the state of Maryland, SSL is a graduation requirement for all students. As with other graduation requirements, SSL comes with its own guidelines, standards, expectations, and timelines. The best way to stay informed on the SSL program specifics is to visit the MCPS SSL website at www.mcpsssl.org, read the MCPS SSL publications and communications and refer questions to the school-based SSL coordinator.
- SSL is reflected on quarterly report cards. Review the *Hours Required, Hours Earned, and Hours Remaining* on each report card. Report discrepancies to Mrs. Arnold.

Student Service Learning (SSL)

Superintendent's Service Learning Awards



Awarded to students who have met the 75 hour service-learning graduation requirement by the First Friday in April of a middle school year.

All documentation for the 2014 Superintendent's Student Service Learning Award must be submitted to the school-based SSL coordinator by Friday, April 4, 2014.

HAINS POINT

ENVIROMENTAL CLEAN – UP

WHEN:

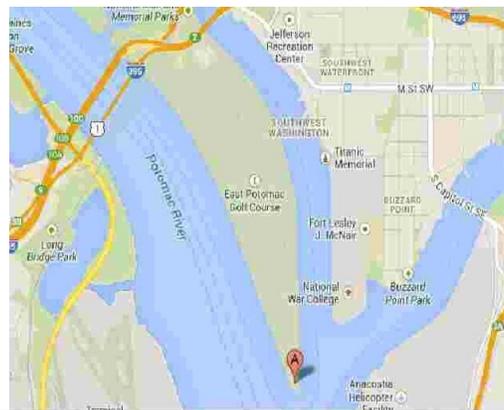
March 29, 2014 at 9:00AM – 3:00PM

WHERE:

Hains Point

972 Ohio Drive, SW, Washington, DC 20024

MEET AT EAST POTOMAC GOLF COURSE



BE A PART OF OUR 2ND OF A SERIES OF 4 CLEAN – UPS STARTING AT HAINS POINT & CLEANING UP THE RIVER!

****GREAT OPPORTUNITY FOR GROUP & FAMILY VOLUNTEERING***

FOR MORE INFORMATION

VISIT SoWhatElse.org

Or call (301) 717 – 3655

TO SIGN UP EMAIL AMYSANTIS@GMAIL.COM





Noteworthy

Patuxent Research Refuge/National Wildlife Visitor Center

March events feature several great opportunities for families interested in Nature and the outdoors. On Saturday, March 15, the Refuge Birthday Bash is a free celebration from 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM. See live animals, do children's crafts, go on a hike, listen to live music and much more. No registration is required.

On Saturday, March 22, the Environmental Film Festival presents environmental films with special guest speaker Steve Huy from Project Snowstorm, a live owl display and more! The films *Return Flight* will be screened at 11:00 AM, and *Magic of the Snowy Owls* at 1:00 PM. No registration is required.

For more information, call Dennis Hartnett, Environmental Education Coordinator. At 301-497-5898.

Attention Parents!

The yearbook club needs your help! Anyone with pictures of John Poole Middle School students participating in school activities or any out of school activities, please send the pictures in for possible yearbook pictures. This includes any sports pictures and snow day pictures! The yearbook club would love to do a sports page and a snow day page but we need pictures from you to make this happen. Please send all pictures in on a CD to Kelly Aulls or e-mail them to Kelly_m_aulls@mcpsmd.org Thanks!

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. <http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/curriculum/math/>

Sign Up for AlertMCPS

Sign up for AlertMCPS to receive text messages or emails from MCPS during weather-related emergencies and other major events that impact school system operations. You can also sign up to receive alerts specific to your child's school. AlertMCPS messages are available in both English and Spanish. Visit <http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/emergency/alertmcps.aspx> to subscribe.

Suscríbese a AlertMCPS

Inscríbese en AlertMCPS para recibir mensajes de texto o correos electrónicos de MCPS durante las emergencias relacionadas con el clima y otros eventos importantes que afectan las operaciones del sistema escolar. También puede inscribirse para recibir alertas específicas de la escuela de su hijo. Los mensajes de AlertMCPS están disponibles en Inglés y Español. Visite <http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/emergency/alertmcps.aspx> para suscribirse.

Opportunities at Calleva

If you have a child in love with horses, you will want to look into the programs Calleva is offering for elementary and middle school students this spring.

Full-day lessons and games will be offered on three weekdays when school is not in session: February 17 (Presidents' Day), March 28 (Professional Day) and April 21 (last day of Spring Break – Easter Monday.) The cost is \$60 per day and transportation by bus is provided to and from Poolesville Elementary School.

Starting March 10 and running through May 16, Saddle Club will meet at Calleva on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays after school. Remember that there are no activity buses from JPMS on Mondays and Fridays, but Calleva will provide buses each day that pick up at Poolesville Elementary at 3:00 PM and deliver students back to PES at 6:00 PM. Each day will include learning about horses, grooming, riding and doing barn chores. The cost is \$280 for eight sessions - \$35 per session.

Finally, Calleva is offering a spring break camp from April 14 – 18. Each day will be filled with both mounted and un-mounted lessons, games, horse care and farm fun. The cost for the week is \$350, and again, transportation will be provided from Poolesville Elementary.

If you are interested in any of these opportunities, contact Tess at Calleva for more information. You can call her at 970-317-1848 or email at tess@calleva.org.

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 [online](#) at our website to be ready to participate in the programs that interest them.



If you have any suggestions for programs you would like to lead or to see offered at JPMS please contact Mrs. Crutchfield at [Winessa R Crutchfield@mcpsmd.org](mailto:Winessa_R_Crutchfield@mcpsmd.org).

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)

Extended Day Reading Classes (Tuesday)

Leo Club (Wednesday – Dates TBD)

Jazz Band (Wednesday)

Newspaper Club (Wednesday)

Math Extended Day (Wednesday and Thursday)

New–Rocketry Club (February 20, March 6 and 20, April 3 and 24, May 1, 15 and 29)

Running Club (February 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**.

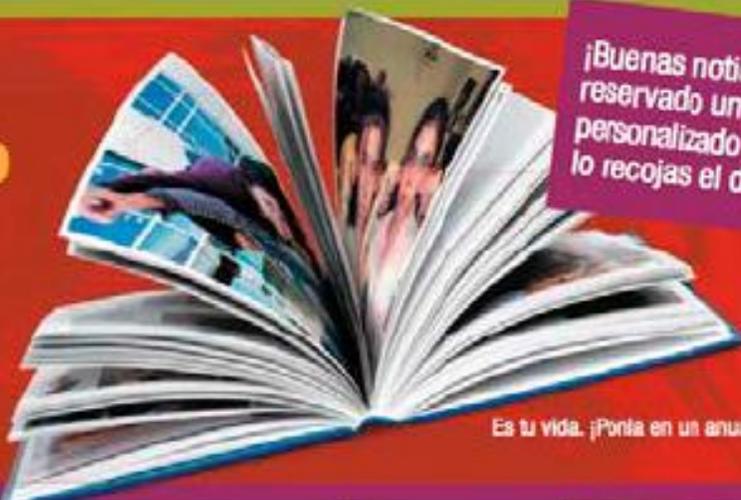
The cost of the yearbook is \$35, but you can purchase through January 31st for \$32.

Please order online at jostensyearbooks.com as John Poole Middle School does not accept any in-school 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.

Tenemos
un anuario
a tu
nombre.

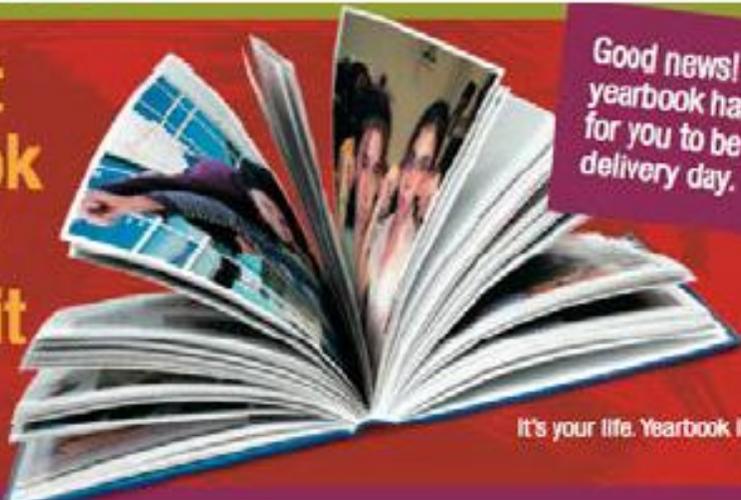


¡Buenas noticias! Se ha reservado un anuario personalizado para ti para que lo recojas el día de entrega.

Es tu vida. ¡Ponla en un anuario!



We've got
a yearbook
with your
name on it



Good news! A personalized yearbook has been reserved for you to be picked up on delivery day.

It's your life. Yearbook it!



Save the Date!



Important events you won't want to miss!

- February 24 **Blue Ribbon Monday (Wear Blue)**
- February 27 Meeting for Parents of Incoming 6th Graders (rescheduled)
- February 28 Interims Due
Early Release Day
(Students dismissed at 11:50 a.m.)
- March 3-12 MSA Testing
- March 7 Interims Mailed
- March 13-14 MSA Make-ups
- March 24 **Blue Ribbon Monday (Wear Blue)**
- March 24 & 25 Grade 7 PARCC Math
- May 6 & 7
- March 27 3rd Marking Period Ends
Humanities Night (6:30 p.m.)
Spring Recital (7:00 p.m.)
- March 31-April 1 Grade 8 Science MSA

Pennies for Patients

The SGA sponsored Pennies for Patients has been extended

Due to the extreme weather, the The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society has asked all schools to extend the program for one additional week. That means students can bring change to their Social Studies classes through Friday, February 28th. Our goal is to raise \$2,000 for this important cause.

Thanks for your support by bringing in money to donate to your Social Studies Pennies for Patients Box.

**PENNIES FOR PATIENTS
CONTINUE THROUGH
FEBRUARY 28**



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
Special Education IRT - Ms. Turnbull
Counseling - (Ms. Kitts, Secretary) Mrs. Arnold - Mrs. Eisenberg

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**

