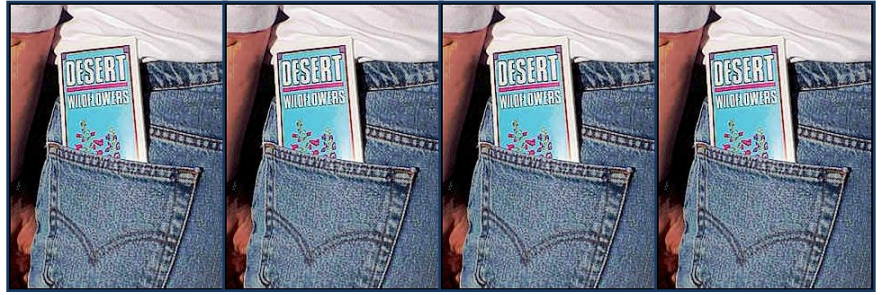


John Poole's **BACK POCKET**



March 9, 2012

A Thought for Today:

“A house without books is like a room without windows.”

- Heinrich Mann

Food for Thought

Monday our 6th graders begin the Maryland School Assessments (MSA) with day one of their reading test. Reading is the single most important skill a student can have. It's the gateway to every other subject and to a lifetime of learning for pleasure and profit.

While the MSA is going on, we're also celebrating Read Across Maryland. For 30 days in March, we want everyone – students, staff and parents – to read at least 30 minutes every day. Calendars for recording reading time have been passed out in class and can be submitted for prizes at the end of the month. Please encourage your child to read daily and show him or her that you read, too. The more we read, the better we read. It doesn't matter if the material is easy or hard – or even what language it's written in! All reading helps young brains to grow the connections they need to be their smartest, and older folks to keep their thinking clearer by exercising their brains on new ideas.

Promoting reading is a great support for both the reading and the math MSA, but there are other things you could emphasize over the next two weeks that will help our kids do their best on these important tests. Getting to bed early – especially this Sunday when we are still getting acclimated to the change to Daylight Savings Time Saturday night – and allowing plenty of time to get to school are easy ways to help. So is avoiding the stress of running late, and making sure your child can be in his or her seat at 7:35 relaxed and ready to go. It's like getting a head start on success.

Of course, we always tell kids to eat a good breakfast before they test. Brains need nutrition to work effectively! Sometimes, arriving on time can cut the time you might have had for breakfast. To help out a little, we'll be giving every test-taker a clementine on each day of testing. Even if they rushed out the door, none of our kids will have to sit down to work on a totally empty stomach, and the vitamins and energy in the fruit will be a little boost even to those who had time for a complete breakfast at home.

When I ordered 1,600 clementines, I knew we were investing in food for thought, but it still took a bite out of our budget. If you would like to help us pay the brain food bill, you could send a dollar or two or whatever you like to the main office during the testing period. Just put your cash or check into an envelope marked *Food for Thought*, and we'll gratefully use your donation toward this expense.

Finally, one of the greatest helps of all is the gift of your time. The testing schedule is posted on the next page. Taking a few minutes each day to ask your child about the MSA and talk about how the testing is going can give him or her a real boost. It helps anxious students relax and relaxed students focus.

So, here it is again – MSA season. We've worked hard and we're ready to rock the test! Thanks for your help and support.

MSA 2012 Testing Schedule

When 6th grade tests, 7th & 8th grades meet periods 1 & 2. When 7th and 8th grades test, 6th grade meets periods 1 & 2.

Date	Monday 3/12	Tuesday 3/13	Wednesday 3/14	Thursday 3/15	Friday 3/16	Monday 3/19	Tuesday 3/20	Wednesday 3/21	Thurs. & Fri. 3/22 & 3
Test	Reading 6	Reading 6	Reading 7 & 8	Reading 7 & 8	Math 6	Math 6	Math 7 & 8	Math 7 & 8	Make-ups

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!

Ryan Bannon

Kathryn Creedon

Michael Pappas

Michael Basehore

Hailey Kahil

Molly Sherman

Grace Beal

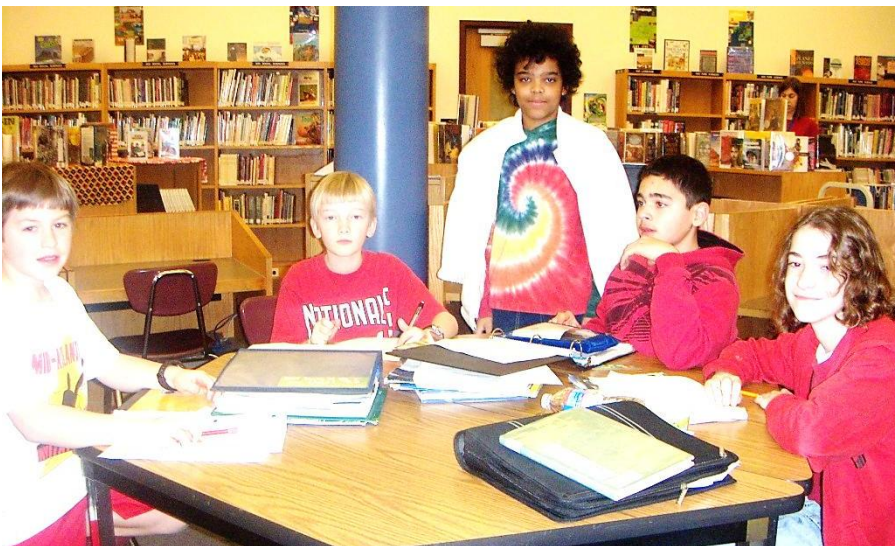
Rachael Macairan

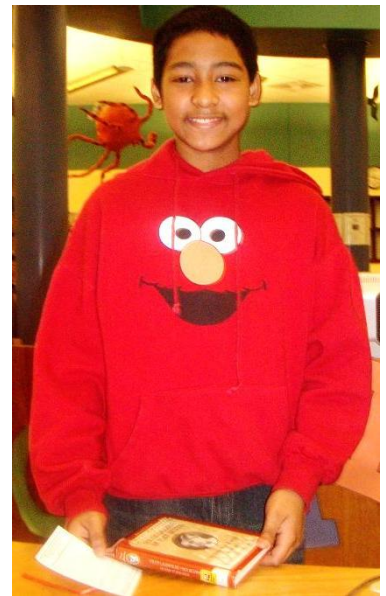
Bailee Smith



Wearing Red to Launch Read Across Maryland

Dr. Seuss' birthday is the official kick-off of this annual celebration of reading, and red is the color we think of when we recall The Cat in the Hat, so it's a natural match! Here are some of our kids dressed for the occasion. Thanks to Mrs. McIntyre for taking the pictures!





JPMS Is Joining Schools All Over the State in Celebrating Read Across Maryland!

The Read Across Maryland program began on March 2, 2012. People of all ages are challenged to read for 30 minutes for 30 days. Students at John Poole M.S. will have two opportunities to win prizes. Students who turn in their calendars, signed by their parent with a list of the books they have read will have their names entered into a drawing for various gift cards. Students can also choose to compete in a drawing for a Kindle Fire or Amazon gift card by completing the registration form on the back of their calendar and sending the form and a list of the books they have read to:

Radical Readers
MSEA c/o Angela Booker
140 Main Street
Annapolis, MD 21201

Entries must be postmarked by April 2, 2012.
Details are available on the Read Across Maryland website:
<http://www.readacrossmaryland.org/>

We started off the fun by wearing red and white clothing. Students received related materials this week in English classes. Remember that March 2nd is the birthday of Dr. Seuss!

Make a Note!



**Daylight Savings Time
begins this weekend!**
*Set clocks forward one
hour when you go to bed
Saturday Night!*

Contribute to *A Wider Circle*

Kali Wolin is a PHS student (and JPMS alum) who is making service a part of her way of life.

Kali maintains a bin on her front porch so that her neighbors and friends can make donations for families in need.

Each month, Kali sets a different focus for the donations. In March, she is collecting **non-toxic cleaning supplies (new condition - unopened please)** such as dish soap, sponges, toilet cleaner and brushes, laundry detergent, cleaning sprays, mops and brooms.

At the end of the month, Kali will deliver the items she has collected to A Wider Circle in Silver Spring, where they will be made available to families that need our help.

If you would like to be a part of this on-going effort, simply drop off your donations at Kali's home. The bin is on the front porch of **19505 Gray Farm Court (Hunter's Run)**.

In addition to this month's focus on non-toxic cleaning supplies, Kali is also continuing to collect items from her past drives. Below is the list of other things to donate if you have them as they are always in great need:

- **Healthy non-perishable food:** whole grain pasta, pasta sauce, brown rice, low-sodium canned beans, dried beans and lentils, low-sodium vegetable soup, low-sugar oatmeal, low-sodium canned vegetables, etc.
- **Personal care items:** soap, toothpaste and toothbrushes, wet wipes, toilet paper, deodorant, lotion, shampoo and conditioner, etc. (new-unopened)
- **Blankets, sheets, and curtains:** bed sheets/sheet sets, blankets, pillow cases, mattress pads, comforters, quilts, curtains, throw blankets, etc. (new or gently used)
- **Kitchenware:** plates, bowls, utensils (not plastic), cups, mugs, pots and pans, kitchen appliances, dish sets, etc. (new or gently used)

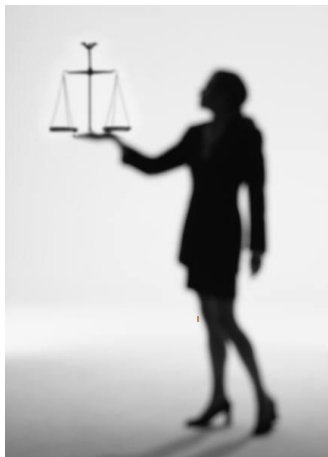
Thanks for helping Kali with her commitment to service!

At A Wider Circle, we believe that if one child is in poverty, every child is in poverty. If one mother is in poverty, every mother is in poverty. That is why we provide beds, dressers, and other basic need items to families that are moving out of shelters or living in neglected neighborhoods. It is why we lead workshops in low-income schools and why we teach health and wellness classes at shelters and public housing facilities. We serve seven days a week - 365 days a year - in response to the more than 400 calls we receive each day. The causes and effects of poverty do not exist Monday through Friday, from 9:00-5:00, and neither can our effort to end it.

Career Day Is Coming

CALLING ALL PARENTS, FRIENDS, NEIGHBORS AND RELATIVES!!!!





*JOHN POOLE MIDDLE
SCHOOL
EIGHTH GRADE
CAREER DAY*

*THURSDAY
APRIL 26, 2012
7:30 a.m. - 2:20 p.m.*



Parents and community members are needed to share their occupations with us! We are looking for a variety of careers to represent all walks of life. Our eighth graders enjoy having you come and share your careers with them. We will be having both morning and afternoon sessions for our Career Day with a variety of career panels offering learning opportunities for the students.

If you are interested, or have a friend or neighbor who would like to participate, please complete the form below and attached. Your child may return the form by **March 9, 2012**. You may contact Mrs. Arnold or Mrs. Hardy, counselors at JPMS (301-972-7980) with any questions.

We also depend on parent helpers to organize this day and help with registration, hospitality, student snacks, lunch for presenters and material preparation.

Please return the attached forms to your American History teacher at JPMS by MARCH 9, 2012.

STUDENT NAME _____ **Teacher:** _____

*Career Day – THURSDAY
APRIL 26, 2012
7:30 a.m. – 2:20 p.m.*

Parent Volunteer Information

___ Yes, I would like to volunteer with Career Day Registration, April 19, 2012, 1:15 to 2:20 p.m.

___ Yes, I would like to volunteer, April 20, 2012, 7:45 to 8:30 a.m.

___ Yes, I would like to volunteer to help on Career Day, April 26, 2012,

___ Morning Presenter Breakfast or ___ Noon Presenter Lunch

___ Donate Food for Presenter Breakfast/Lunch ___ Distribute Student Snacks

___ Willing to coordinate one of the above

___ No, I am not available at this time.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone number: (H) _____ (Cell): _____ (Work): _____

Email address: _____

Student Name: _____ **Teacher:** _____

Career Day Presenter Information

To help us schedule the day and use your presentation effectively, please check the appropriate boxes below:

☐ ***Yes, I would like to be a presenter: 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon***

☐ ***I am interested in the afternoon session and understand it is reserved for large group special demonstrations***

My presentation will be:

☐ 5 – 10 minutes ☐ 10-15 minutes ☐ 15-20 minutes

☐ Informative ☐ Interactive with Informative ☐ Interactive

Name: _____

Address: _____

Work Phone: _____ Home Phone: _____

Email: _____

Company: _____

Position/ Occupation: _____

Visual aids: _____

I would like to contact the presenters in my group before career day, please share my email address with them: ☐ yes ☐ no

Please provide us with a brief description of your presentation you will make to students.

Please give a brief description of your job responsibilities: _____

Are you tired of paying 5¢ for every bag that you need?

John Poole MS's PE department has the answer...

Join the PE department in simplifying your 'bag' problems.

We will be selling Designer, one-of-a-kind Timberwolf Bags!!

Not only will you have a cool looking, awesome bag for carrying school supplies, PE clothes, and other special items, but you will be helping to raise money to benefit the PE Classes, so they may purchase an iPod to hook up to the new sound system our PTA helped us buy.

Show your school spirit and PRIDE by wearing and carrying a
New, Blue Timberwolf bag.

Order deadline is Monday, April 16, 2012.

Cost for these high quality bags is ONLY \$10.00

Delivery will be early May.



Timberwolf Bags

Student: _____ Grade: _____ PE/Health Period: _____

Parent/Guardian Name: _____ Phone: _____

Please indicate below the quantity of bags you would like to purchase and the type of payment being used.
If you are paying by check, please make it payable to JPMS.

Item	Individual Price	Quantity	Total Price	Cash Total	Check #/Total
Timberwolf Bag	\$10.00				

The deadline to place your order is Monday, April 16.

Expected delivery date is early May.

For Staff:

Received order on: _____ Order filled on: _____ Delivered on: _____

Technology...

A Welcome Friend?

An Unwelcome

Intruder?

Discuss this important concern

at the PTSA Meeting

Tuesday, March 13

Business meeting at 6:30 PM

Presentation begins at 7:00 PM

Advantages?

Dangers?

Ways to monitor?



VOLUNTEER YOUR TIME and JOIN THE PTSA

- 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

**Our next PTSA meeting is
Tuesday, March 13 at 6:30 PM
in the Media Center.**

Mark your calendar now!

Anyone who wants to get involved or be an officer should attend.

Mrs. Arnold will talk about the issues families must address as electronic media becomes a part of our children's daily lives.

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

The following information has been provided by Montgomery County Council of Parent-Teacher Associations and can be found at www.mccpta.com:

Proposed Shift of Pension Funding on to Counties

We are now in the midst of budget season and are in need of your voices. The primary concern that is facing all counties in Maryland right now is the Governor's proposal to shift the cost of teacher pensions to the counties. There is some support within the Maryland General Assembly for this shift...at least until they hear from you!

How to Advocate?

We need many voices on this. Please take one (or more) of several routes to share your opposition to the pension shift:

- Go to <http://www.change.org/petitions/no-pension-shift> and sign the MCCPTA sponsored online petition.
- Print and sign the letter at the following MCCPTA link:

http://www.mccpta.com/legislative_dir/2011-2012/MCCPTA_Pension_shift_letter.pdf

Individuals can mail it themselves or take it to your school's PTA meeting in March & ask that it be forwarded by PTA leadership to the MCCPTA office who will ensure it gets to the right officials.

Why advocate?

- Shifting the cost of teacher pensions to the counties will cost Montgomery County \$47 million next year, \$61 million the following year, and \$71 million the year after that. \$47 million translates into approximately 500 positions or, for the school setting, an additional 2-3 students per classroom.
- The school budget, as well as many other county services, has seen large cuts in recent years and the county cannot absorb this additional expense. MCCPTA included opposition to a pension shift in its Legislative Platform http://www.mccpta.com/legislative_dir/2011-2012/Adopted_Legislative_Platform_2011-2012.pdf
- The state pension fund is underfunded due to actions by the state to include "corridor funding" that set aside less money for pensions than was recommended. Further, the state improved benefits in 2006 without providing additional funds to pay for them.
- Our school system saw major reductions last year. While we will not see restoration of those cuts in the next school year, the hope was that by August of 2013, the system might be able to start restoring those valuable positions. That likely will not occur if counties have to include pension funding in their budgets.

More info:

- Montgomery County Council Press Release
http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/Apps/Council/PressRelease/PR_details.asp?PrID=8272
- Board of Education Press Release
<http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/press/index.aspx?page=showrelease&id=3101>
- Other organizations are also offering online petitions opposing the pension shift, to include http://salsa.wiredforchange.com/o/6096/p/dia/action/public/?action_KEY=5561
- <http://capwiz.com/nea/md/issues/alert/?alertid=60813666>
- And for those up for a more intensive effort, contact your state legislators
<http://www.montgomerycountydelegation.com/contact.html> directly and tell them to stop the shift.

Remember, if the shift in teacher pensions from the state to the county takes place, it is yet another thing to slow the modernization of the high school for your children in addition to endangering your school's funding needs and causing the other impacts to be felt by all students across the county.

Any adult resident can advocate by writing to Governor Martin O'Malley, President of the State Senate "Mike" Miller, or Speaker of the Maryland House of Representatives Michael Busch.

Use the letter on the next page, download the letter at http://www.mccpta.com/legislative_dir/2011-2012/MCCPTA_Pension_shift_letter.pdf, or write your own letter.

Bring your signed letters to the March 13 PTSA meeting or take them to the school office to send them to the MCCPTA office via "pony" (MCPS interoffice mail). The MCCPTA office will take care of the rest.



everychild.onevoice.™

Montgomery County Council of PTAs

February 15, 2012

The Honorable Martin J. O'Malley
Governor of Maryland
Annapolis, Maryland 21401-1925

The Honorable Thomas V. Mike Miller, Jr.
President of the Senate
Annapolis, Maryland 21401-1991

The Honorable Michael E. Busch
Speaker of the House
Annapolis, Maryland 21401-1991

Dear Governor O'Malley, President Miller, and Speaker Busch:

As a resident of Montgomery County and the parent of a child attending Montgomery County Public Schools, I oppose any effort to shift state pension costs to local governments. I appreciate your overall support for education funding in the face of difficult economic times. However, I am deeply concerned that the proposed "pension pushback" will leave our county and others across our state far less able to fund public education, as well as other essential County services.

Montgomery County fiscal constraints have forced our public schools to slash more than \$400 million from the budget since 2009. These cuts have necessitated increases in class sizes across all grades and required the elimination of 1,300 positions. All of these reductions have occurred as our county has seen dramatic growth in student enrollment -- now at an all-time high of 146,500 students -- and intensified student needs. At present, there are 47,365 students who qualify for Free and Reduced-price Meals (FARMS) -- the highest number of students living at or near poverty in our county's history -- and 22.5% of all elementary school students require English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) services. Even without the "pension pushback," our County is struggling with these mounting education costs. Accordingly, I implore you to look for a solution to the pension problem that does not involve shifting even greater financial burdens onto our counties.

Given that 1) the General Assembly determines how much employees contribute and how much retirees will receive and 2) the State Retirement Agency invests pension funds and administers the program with local officials having very little input into how the fund is managed or operated, it hardly seems fair to "pass the buck" for the underfunded pension to cash-strapped counties. This is particularly true given that state-level decisions—including the 2006 enhancement of benefits and the so-called "corridor funding" (which allows underfunding by up to 10 percent)—were substantial drivers that led to the underfunding.

In closing, I urge that you work with leaders from our County and others to find a solution to improve the long-term health of the pension fund, without placing the burden on the backs of county citizens and – most importantly – students, who depend on all of us.

Sincerely,

Printed Name: _____

Address: _____

cc: Senator Jamie Raskin, Chair, Montgomery County Senate Delegation
Delegate Brian Feldman, Chair, Montgomery County House Delegation

HELP WANTED!

PTSA PRESIDENT & TREASURER

Exciting positions for parents who care about our school community, want the best for our kids, and like to take an active role in school life!

Ideally, this is a two-year term. The current President and Treasurer have served for two years and are now transitioning with their kids to the high school.

The vice president and secretary are staying on in their jobs, so new officers will have experienced, hard-working support.

Doesn't this sound like a job you'd enjoy? Contact Sharon Armstrong or another of the current officers for more information.

Thanks!

PTA Fundraiser

on March 17th-18th shop at

Finders Keepers

Home • Garden • Gifts

19831 Fisher Avenue Poolesville MD

Vintage and cottage chic home décor and gifts for every occasion



Mention “JPMSPPTA” and 10% of
your total purchase will be
donated to your PTA!

Saturday March 17th 10am – 6pm

Sunday March 18th 12 – 5pm

For more info go to www.finderskeepershgg.com or find us on

Facebook

Thanks to Our Wonderful Parent Volunteers!

Below is the chart showing volunteer hours during the first semester. Our fantastic school community gave us 871 hours of great support – more than 2 hours and 15 minutes for every child in our building – and that can't begin to count the hours spent baking, shopping and networking at home on our behalf.

School Name	Year	Month	Total Number of Volunteers	Total Number of Volunteer Hours
John Poole Middle School	2011	September	17	299
John Poole Middle School	2011	October	29	341
John Poole Middle School	2011	December	18	213
John Poole Middle School	2012	January	10	148

Thanks for the wonderful work you do for our school, and please keep coming in to be part of our children's education. We can always use a hand, and we love to welcome you in to the building.



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.

Upcoming RecXtra Clubs: Boxing Fitness: Thursday -- 3/15.

RecXtra needs your donations for upcoming classes. Don't throw your clutter away!!! Recycle with us! You may drop items in the RecXtra Box in the Main Office. Thanks!

- Magnets
- Yarn
- Fabric cuts or scraps
- Scrapbook supplies
- Spray paint--any color
- Beads and Jewelry making supplies
- Old and unwanted jewelry

Montgomery County Department of Recreation is committed to compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). Please call a Therapeutic Recreation Specialist @240-777-4925V /240-777-6974 TTY to request accommodations no later than two weeks prior to the activity.

Protecting Our Kids

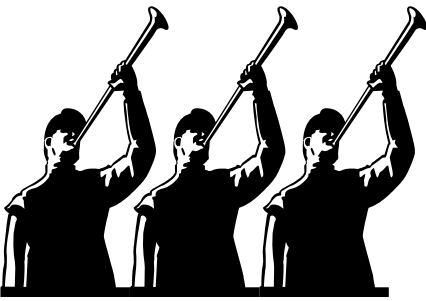
Facebook 101 and beyond

There is much more to Facebook than status updates, friend requests and likes. In fact, many parents are unfamiliar with important features that can help keep you and your children safe from online predators, hackers and identity thieves.

Join Maryland Attorney General Douglas Gansler and representatives from Facebook for a community forum on March 20 at Winston Churchill High School to discuss what all parents should know about safely navigating Facebook and protecting your kids' online well-being.

The event is free and open to the public.

Winston Churchill High School
11300 Gainsborough Road,
Potomac, MD
Tuesday, March 20, 7 - 8:30 PM



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.

8th Grade Trip to Hershey Park

John Poole Middle School's 8th Grade will have an end of the year trip on **Monday, June 11, 2012**, to **Hershey Park**. Eighth graders and their teachers will travel to Hershey Park via video coach buses using Rill's Bus Service for a great day of fun and adventure. Information about the trip will be given out March 1, 2012 in Social Studies classes.

Students need to return the permission slip/medical form to their Social Studies teacher with a check for **\$71.00** payable to John Poole Middle School. Payment is due no later than **March 22, 2012**. Funds are available to students unable to pay; please contact your child's counselor if there are any financial concerns or needs. Any outstanding financial obligations also need to be paid before March 22, 2012.

The price includes transportation to Hershey Park and all rides and admissions in the park. Buses will leave John Poole Middle School at **7:30 AM** and return at **7:30 PM**.

Donations Needed for Drama

The drama program is in need of donations for *Annie Jr.* as well as for the drama program. We need plastic boxes with covers and handles (bigger than shoe box size). Any old flannel nightgowns, pajamas, dress socks and clothing that could pass for the 1930's would be great. If you do make any donations, please make sure Mrs. Turner has your name. Thank you!

Boys Soccer Coach Needed

JPMS is looking for a qualified boys' soccer coach who has experience coaching and working with middle school students. The season runs March 14, 2012 to May 17, 2012. Practice is only 3 days a week, Tuesday – Thursday, 2:30 – 4:00 p.m. There are 5 games during the season. If you're interested in applying for the vacancy, please email Mr. Young to set up an interview at Terry_W_Young@mcpsmd.org. Thanks!

MSI Soccer

The Poolesville 6th/7th grade boys MSI recreational soccer team has openings for a few new players. Practices will be held in Poolesville. Please contact Lori Kocur at kocurs@verizon.net or at 301-349-9670 for more information.

Soccer Tryouts

Attention all students in 7th or 8th grade who are interested in playing soccer for John Poole Middle School! Tryouts will begin Wednesday, March 14. Before you try out, you must have all the necessary paperwork completed and an updated physical on file in the nurse's office. You can pick up a packet of information from your PE teacher, the main office, or Mr. Young. Packets need to be returned to the coaches the first day of tryouts.

Celebrate Science!

The Patuxent Research Refuge will be celebrating the 109th anniversary of the National Wildlife Refuge System with a fun-filled family event on Saturday March 10, 2012 from 10:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. at the National Wildlife Visitor Center in Laurel, MD. FREE activities will include live animals, children's nature activities, and musical adventures with Billy B, the Natural Science Song and Dance Man at 11:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. There will also be guided tram tours for a small fee (the first of the season), and food for purchase from the Crane Café sponsored by Friends of Patuxent.

Besides celebrating the anniversary of the National Wildlife Refuge System, Patuxent is also celebrating the 100th anniversary of the birth of famous wildlife artist, Bob Hines. Author John Juriga will be available to sign his just-released biography of Hines, and will give a lecture at 1:00 p.m. in the Visitor Center's Hines Conference Room. Hines was the first and only national wildlife artist for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. His work included the art for Federal Duck Stamps and other conservation stamps, illustrations for a variety of books such as Waterfowl Tomorrow, and a variety of posters and other educational publications.

Friends of Patuxent Wildlife Art Show and Sale

Wild about Wildlife? Join the Friends of Patuxent at the 23rd Patuxent Wildlife Art Show & Sale. Highlights include 35 Wildlife Artists, live birds of prey shows, selections from the DC Environmental Film Festival and more! The FREE show & sale is held at the National Wildlife Visitor Center, Laurel, Maryland, on Saturday, March 24 (9:00 am to 4:30 pm) and Sunday, March 25 (11:00 am to 4:30 pm), 2012. Don't miss the Evening Artists' Reception & Sale, March 23, 2012, from 6:30 pm to 9:30 pm! The reception features a live band, drinks and hors d'oeuvres. Tickets are \$40 in advance/\$45 at the door. For more information, contact Friends of Patuxent at 301-497-5789 or www.friendsopatuxent.org.

Superintendent to Hold Four Forums This Spring

Superintendent of Schools Joshua Starr will be holding four forums this spring, each focusing on a specific topic—English Language Learners (March 12 at Kennedy HS), Gifted Education (March 22 at Magruder HS), Special Education (April 16 at Seneca Valley HS), and Social and Emotional Learning (May 10 at Whitman HS). Each forum will be held from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m. and will provide an opportunity for parents, staff, and the community to hear about the latest trends and research, find out what's happening in our schools, and share their thoughts and ideas with Dr. Starr, guest panelists, and other participants. Interpretation and childcare will be available. Additional information is available at www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org or by calling 301-309-MCPS (6277).

El Superintendente de Escuelas Joshua Starr estará realizando cuatro foros durante esta primavera, cada uno de ellos enfocado en un tema específico—Estudiantes de Inglés Como Segundo Idioma (English Language Learners) (12 de marzo, en Kennedy HS); Educación Para Estudiantes de Alto Potencial (22 de marzo, en Magruder HS); Educación Especial (16 de abril, en Seneca Valley HS); y, Aprendizaje Social y Emocional (10 de mayo, en Walt Whitman HS). Cada foro se realizará de 7:00 a 8:30 p.m., y ofrecerá una oportunidad para que los padres, el personal y la comunidad conozcan las últimas tendencias e investigaciones, para que sepan lo que está sucediendo en nuestras escuelas y para que compartan sus opiniones e ideas con el Dr. Starr, con los panelistas invitados y con los demás participantes. Habrá a disposición servicio de interpretación y cuidado infantil. Se puede obtener información adicional en www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org, o llamando al 301-309-MCPS (6277).

Summer Institute for the Gifted

The **Summer Institute for the Gifted** offers summer programs that combine academics with social, cultural and recreational opportunities for students ages 4 – 17. Catalogs for the 2012 **Summer Institute** are now available. If you are interested in residential, commuter, and day programs for gifted and academically talented students, go to <http://www.giftedstudy.org/> for information.

Learn how to be a puppeteer!

Montgomery College MC Adventures has something new - Kaydee Puppets!

This special one-day program offered for students in grades 4 – 6 is scheduled for Saturday, March 24, 2012 from 9:00 a.m. to 2:50 p.m. on the Takoma Park/Silver Spring campus.

Students will have an opportunity to participate during the day in workshops on puppeteering. Workshops will include making and using show puppets, manipulating puppets, creating script writing, learning to be a puppeteer and performing a group puppet production. Let that inner puppeteer come out and register today on our website www.montgomerycollege.edu/wdce/youthpdf/mcadventures.pdf. Workshops fill quickly, so register right away! For more information, call the Youth Programs office at 240-567-7264 or 240-567-7917.

Montgomery College Summer 2012 Youth Programs

Registration is now open for courses for students in grades K - 12 held on all three campuses, Germantown, Rockville and Takoma Park/Silver Spring. There are over 200 exciting full- and half-day courses that cover a wide range of topics, such as art, music, science, math, writing, sports, robotics, study skills, engineering, wood working, technology, and more.

The summer program runs for an eight-week period from June 18 – August 10, 2012. So, if you are interested in doing something really different and fun this summer, **REGISTER NOW online, by fax, by mail, or come to the Rockville Campus, Campus Center, Room 220. Classes fill quickly, so register right away!!**

For registration information, contact the Youth Programs Office at 240-567-7264 or 240-567-7917 or access our website at <http://cms.montgomerycollege.edu/wdce/youthsummerbrochure.html>

Homework Hotline Live

Ask teachers for help Tuesdays-Thursdays, 4-9 PM, on MCPS TV's Homework Hotline Live (HHL). Watch teachers on TV as they work with you to solve homework problems. **Here's how to ask your question:**

- From 4 to 6 PM, call **301-279-3234** (STILL THE BEST--talk directly with a teacher).
- From 4 to 9 PM, send a text message from the Homework Hotline website (AskHHL.org); send a text message from your cell phone to **724-427-5445**; post a message on the [HHL Facebook wall](#), or send an e-mail to question@AskHHL.org.

Young Scholars Program

The Jack Kent Cooke Foundation has announced the opening of the application process for the Jack Kent Cooke Young Scholars Program. This program honors 50 to 75 seventh-graders who demonstrate outstanding academic ability, accomplishments outside the classroom, and substantial financial need. Students who are selected receive financial support for educational and extracurricular activities as well as help applying to high schools, colleges, summer programs, and more. The application deadline is Monday, April 16, 2012. For more information, contact Lionel Foster at the Center for Talented Youth at 410-735-6270 or jkcinfo@jhu.edu

Maryland Summer Centers for Gifted and Talented Students

Continuing a tradition of excellence for 45 years, the Maryland Summer Centers (MSC) engage gifted and talented students entering Grades 4-12 in unique summer programs. Centers located across the State offer one- to three-week residential and nonresidential programs with a focus on the arts, sciences, technology, engineering, and world languages.

Please consult the Maryland State Department of Education website www.marylandpublicschools.org/summercenters for more detailed descriptions of the Centers and application forms. Spanish translation is available. Call 410-767-0821.

The deadline for applications is April 15, 2012. Directors will accept applications after April 15 until the Center enrollment is filled.

CC Bids for Hope C

Circle of Hope Therapeutic Riding Center **Silent Auction**



April 14th, 2012

St. Mary's Pavilion in Barnesville
1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Join Us for good company, music, tasty food, a chance to bid on some great donations and to support a wonderful cause. All proceeds from the auction will be put towards the care of the center's five therapy horses.



Some Items for Auction Include

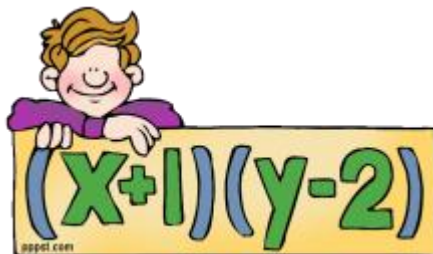
Local artisan's work, event tickets, landscape design services, specialty cakes, handcrafted jewelry, gift baskets, antiques, gift cards to your favorite restaurants and much more!



For more information visit chtr.org
If you would like to make a donation or help with the event please contact Circle of Hope through
Facebook - Circle of Hope Therapeutic Riding
Marjory Jones - Jones.marjory@gmail.com
Lesley Shear - chtrinc@aol.com



Algebra 2 Jumpstart



Our Honors Geometry students are among our Best and Brightest students at JPMS; we want them to have every opportunity to be the Best and Brightest at Poolesville High School! All Honors Geometry students are invited to attend a very special *Summer Program* that will give you a *Jumpstart* into Algebra 2!

Over the past two years, Mrs. Aulls has developed this curriculum to help strong students refresh their Algebra skills so they are ready for excellence in high school. It has been a year since Honors Geometry students took Algebra – of course those skills are a little rusty. This class is a great way to review Algebra 1 concepts so JPMS students are ready on Day 1 to excel in Algebra 2. Mark your calendars now for this great opportunity which is available only to John Poole students.

The class will run Monday through Friday for three weeks at John Poole Middle School. The first day of class is Monday, July 9th and the last day is Friday, July 27th. The class will be from 9:30am – 11:30am. Students will need to have their own transportation to attend this program. There *may* be afternoon transportation if there are other summer programs at John Poole MS.

There is a small fee of \$10 for this great opportunity to jumpstart your Algebra skills (checks made payable to JPMS). Fill out and detach the reservation slip below and return it with your registration fee to Mrs. Ogden in the main office or Mrs. Aulls in room 309 as soon as possible and no later than Friday, March 30th.

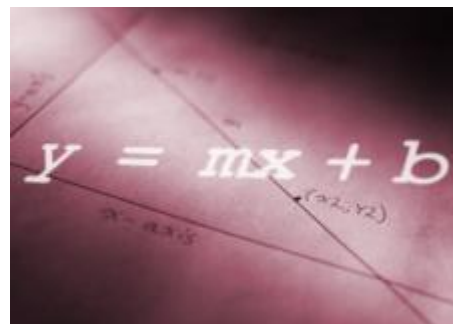
I would like to reserve a spot for the three week Algebra 2 Jumpstart class.

Student Name: _____

2012-2013 Math Course: _____

Parent Name: _____

Parent Signature: _____



Please provide a name and number below of someone who can be reached in case of an emergency.

WANTED!

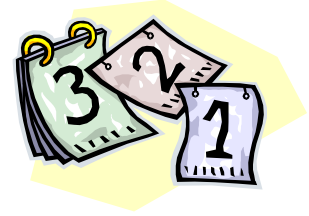
**LOOKING FOR
FURNITURE FOR A READING CORNER.**



Ms. Vega and Ms. Grifone would like to make their reading classroom more inviting for young readers. If you have chairs that are in decent condition or furniture that you are looking to get rid of please contact John Poole Middle School.

We have received some wonderful donations of comfortable furniture, but there is still room for another chair or two. Spring cleaning is coming – perhaps you're ready to refresh your current furniture. We're happy to help!

Save the Date!



Important events you won't want to miss!

March 11 (Sunday)	Move your clocks forward 1 hour for Daylight Savings Time!
March 12-22	MSA Testing
March 22	JPMS Spring Recital (7:00 p.m.)
March 29	Third Marking Period Ends
March 30	Professional Day for Teachers (No School for Students)
April 2,4,5	Spring Break
April 3	Holiday – Primary Election Day
April 6	Holiday – Good Friday
April 9	Holiday – Easter Monday
April 10	4 th Marking Period Begins
April 12	Report Cards Distributed
April 20	Honor Roll Celebrations

JPMS Soccer Schedule

April 12	Girls play King at JPMS (2:50 p.m.)
April 12	Boys play King at King (3:15 p.m.)
April 26	Boys play Neelsville at JPMS (2:50 p.m.)
April 26	Girls play Neelsville at Neelsville (3:15 p.m.)
May 2	Boys play Kingsview at JPMS (2:50 p.m.)
May 2	Girls play Kingsview at Kingsview (3:15 p.m.)
May 8	Girls play Rocky Hill at JPMS (2:50 p.m.)
May 8	Boys play Rocky Hill at Rocky Hill (3:15 p.m.)
May 15	Girls play Baker at JPMS (2:50 p.m.)
May 15	Boys play Baker at Baker (3:15 p.m.)

Annual Poolesville High School Student/Staff Basketball Game

Save the date **Friday March 16th at 7:00 PM** and come put to cheer on your favorite team in this epic battle of athletics and antics! Under the direction of Mr. Jonathan Leong, 14 PHS staff members will need all the support you can give, as they face a young, strong student team!

With the Pep Band whipping up the crowd, the Ref and the Announcer calling the game, and concessions in the lobby, the PHS Gym will be the best ticket in Poolesville next Friday night!

Admission is \$5 adults, \$2 students, and \$1 discount with donation of a canned good. Don't miss it!

PHS NEWS

Go Falcons!



Boys Varsity Lacrosse

March 13	4:15 p.m.	PHS vs. Gaithersburg HS at PHS (Scrim.)
March 17	TBA	PHS vs. Brunswick HS at Brunswick HS (Brunswick Play-Day)
March 17	TBA	PHS vs. Walt Whitman HS at Brunswick HS (Brunswick Play-Day)
March 17	TBA	PHS vs. Frederick HS at Brunswick HS (Brunswick Play-Day)
March 21	5:15 p.m.	PHS vs. Northwest HS at Northwest HS
March 23	7:00 p.m.	PHS vs. Quince Orchard HS at PHS

Girls Varsity Lacrosse

March 21	7:15 p.m.	PHS vs. Northwest HS at Northwest HS
March 23	7:00 p.m.	PHS vs. Quince Orchard HS at Quince Orchard HS
March 28	7:00 p.m.	PHS vs. Sherwood HS at PHS
April 11	7:00 p.m.	PHS vs. Damascus HS at PHS
April 13	7:00 p.m.	PHS vs. Wheaton HS at Wheaton HS
April 18	7:00 p.m.	PHS vs. Einstein HS at PHS



Varsity Baseball

March 21	3:30 p.m.	PHS vs. Whitman HS at PHS
March 23	3:30 p.m.	PHS vs. Richard Montgomery HS at Richard Montgomery HS
March 26	3:30 p.m.	PHS vs. Magruder HS at Magruder HS
March 29	3:30 p.m.	PHS vs. Blair HS at PHS
April 2	12:00 p.m.	PHS vs. Gaithersburg HS at Gaithersburg HS

Varsity Softball

March 21	3:30 p.m.	PHS vs. Whitman HS at PHS
March 24	1:30 p.m.	PHS vs. Richard Montgomery HS at Richard Montgomery HS
March 26	3:30 p.m.	PHS vs. Magruder HS at Magruder HS
March 28	3:30 p.m.	PHS vs. Blair HS at PHS

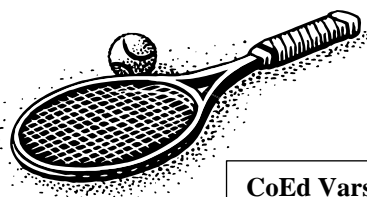
CoEd Varsity Track and Field

March 21	3:30 p.m.	PHS vs. Clarksburg HS and Watkins Mill HS at PHS
March 27	3:30 p.m.	PHS vs. Northwest HS at PHS
April 12	3:30 p.m.	PHS vs. Damascus HS at Damascus HS



Boys Varsity Tennis

March 21	3:30 p.m.	PHS vs. Watkins Mill HS at Watkins Mill HS
March 23	3:30 p.m.	PHS vs. Einstein HS at PHS
March 27	3:30 p.m.	PHS vs. Springbrook HS at PHS
March 28	3:30 p.m.	PHS vs. Rockville HS at Rockville HS

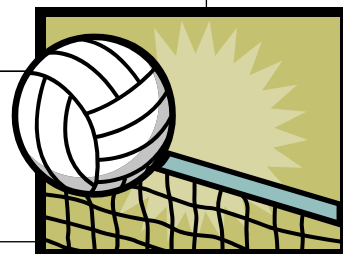


CoEd Varsity Volleyball

March 21	5:15 p.m.	PHS vs. Watkins Mill HS at Watkins Mill HS
March 23	7:00 p.m.	PHS vs. Wootton HS at Wootton HS
March 26	7:00 p.m.	PHS vs. Northwood HS at PHS
March 28	5:15 p.m.	PHS vs. Northwest HS at Northwest HS

Boys Varsity Volleyball

March 21	3:30 p.m.	PHS vs. Watkins Mill HS at Watkins Mill HS
March 23	5:15 p.m.	PHS vs. Wootton HS at Wootton HS
March 26	5:15 p.m.	PHS vs. Northwood HS at PHS
March 28	3:30 p.m.	PHS vs. Northwest HS at Northwest HS



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**

