



October 18, 2013

John Poole's BACK POCKET

A Thought for Today:

“Unity is strength... when there is teamwork and collaboration, wonderful things can be achieved.”

- Mattie Stepanek

The 1st quarter is almost over

October is more than half over, and the month ends with the first marking period. There is still time to make a difference in the report card grades, but not a lot of time! Summative assessments that occur at the end of a quarter are not re-assessable, so it's time for studying as well as getting all the work handed in. If you are having trouble with your Edline account, please be sure to call Ms. McIntyre for assistance.

November brings back-to-back half days during which parent conferences are scheduled. In elementary school, many teachers have one class of 20 or more students, and that makes for a lot of parent meetings, but middle school teachers generally teach 120 or more students. We can't fit in that many conferences!

For that reason, we select a group of families we would like to schedule for a conference, and we stay extra late on November 11 to help folks who can't get here until after work.

And who gets asked to come in? It's parents we don't know yet, or those with whom we are working on some sort of programming need, or a family with some concerns about how the school year is rolling out. Please don't feel like a conference invitation is a sign of trouble! It's an opportunity for us to work together for your kid's benefit.

Mrs. Ogden will start calling next week. If you haven't been invited to come for a conference by November 1, you may call her at 301-972-7979 to schedule a conference if you feel that would be helpful.

We are fortunate that so many of our families come to school often, volunteer in the school and follow up on Edline effectively, so there are many parents who choose to spend those afternoons in quality time with their kids rather than with us. That's an excellent plan, too! Thanks! - Charlotte Boucher

Reminder:
Make-up School Pictures
are this week on Thursday
morning! If your child
missed being photographed
or had a really bad picture,
here's the chance to get a
portrait and be sure your
child is in this year's
yearbook!

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!



Stephanie Beltran

Gwen Boe

Owen Brill

Jessica Carey

Vincent Chim

Jessica Convers

Andrew Johnson

Julia Rich

John Sartschev

Congratulations to Our Newly-elected SGA

Recently the students at Poole Middle School elected the representatives for the 2013-2014 Student Government Association. Candidates gave speeches in their Social Studies classes and were elected by their fellow students.

Here is the list of students elected to the SGA for 2013 – 2014:

Ryan Kasten - President

Megan Roldan – Vice President

John Thompson - Treasurer

Katrina Rowe – Secretary

Darian Berger

Cheyenne Bowen

Bryce Davis

Sabrina Edwards

Trey Edwards

Erik Eklof

Max Fisher

Bridgett Hammett

Owen Horrigan

Clara Jackson

Ray Kinzie

Kenzie Kovach

Elana Lavanderos

Sean Lyons

Glenn Mandere

Tyler Morningstar

Ben Miller

Rachel Onderko

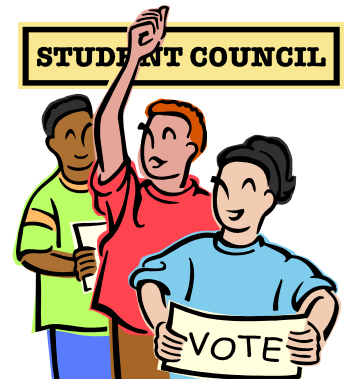
Holly Raines

Heather Robinson

Bostyn Smith

Madeleine Thompson

Rachel Tievy



The SGA is currently working on Breast Cancer Awareness for next Friday. So wear pink!

To the Bay!

By Molly Sherman

On a bright and sunny Wednesday Mrs. Yesnick's group of 7th and 8th graders took a trip down to the Meredith Creek study center run by the Cheasapeake Bay Foundation (CBF).

Tiffany and Foster, the CBF educators, shared their knowledge with all of us, informing us of the pollution coming into our water ways negatively affecting the Cheasapeake ecosystem. Ideal water is crystal clear, prospering with fish and plants of many species. Instead, the Bay is a musty green with

70% of the marsh gone. The class realized that in order to save the Bay, we will have to cut down on the toxins that humans have been producing.

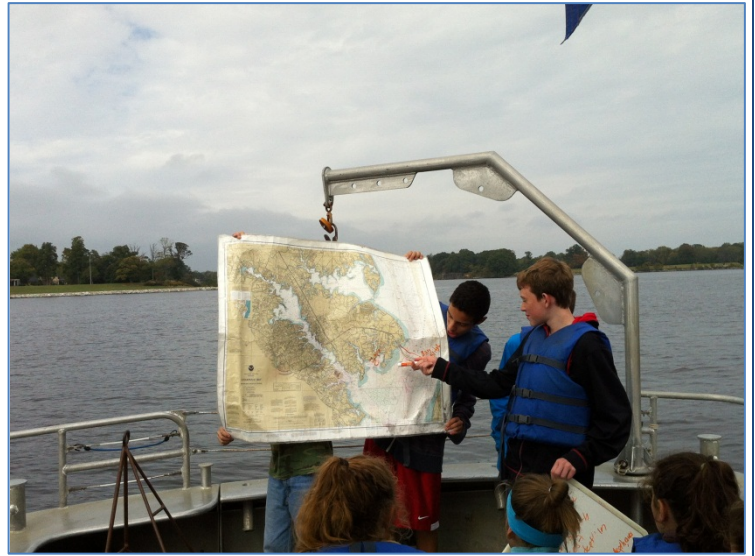
Following the riviting discussions, the 7th and 8th graders split into groups. A research boat took to the waters. Students were able to study maps and experience the adventures of commercial fishermen. Foster threw a net into the Bay and dragged it along as students scooped water into the buckets for observing organisms. They caught crabs and several species of fish and jellyfish. The experience was beautiful and informative.

After the activity was complete, students learned the importance of using reusable materials during lunch. The students then switched groups and did

canoeing. Canoeing was difficult to some but came naturally to others. Students paddled around the Bay; others threatened to tip the boats! The canoes were pulled up onto shore as students maneuvered through the woods. Critters and the smell of nature lingered in the air as students observed the ways of the woods. Groups trampled through the stinky marsh contaminated with pollution that had failed to get into the Bay. Students then went fishing on their own with a seine net. Even though many got soaked in the process, they found some very interesting fish!

The day came to an end as the students clamored into the cars and drove away from the beautiful Bay...

Thank you to our wonderful parent drivers who made this trip possible for us: Mr. Burdette, Ms. Cervera, Ms. Firestine, Ms. Lockett, Ms. Rowe and Ms. Savage!



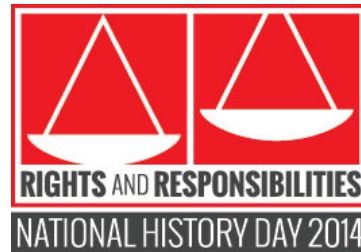


CHESAPEAKE BAY FOUNDATION

Saving a National Treasure





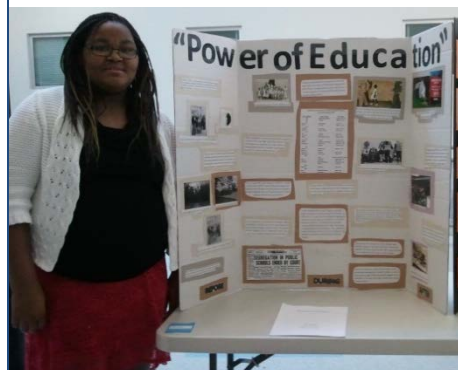
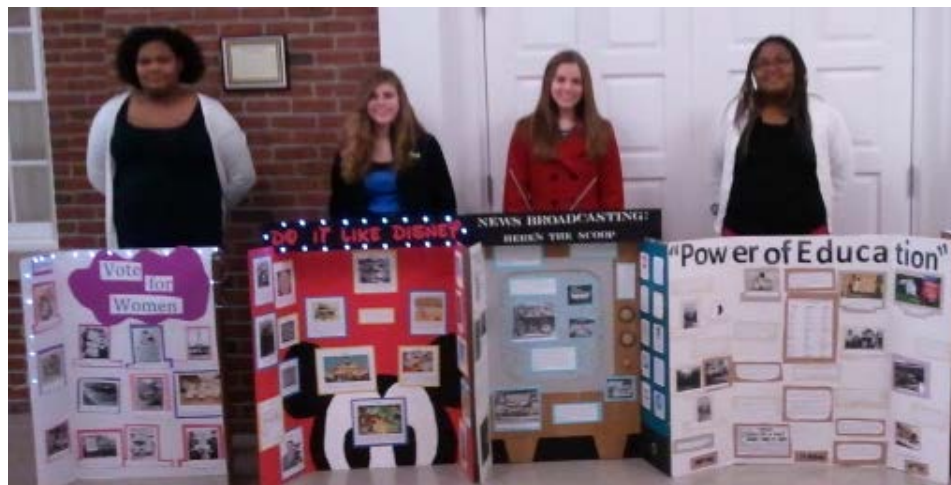
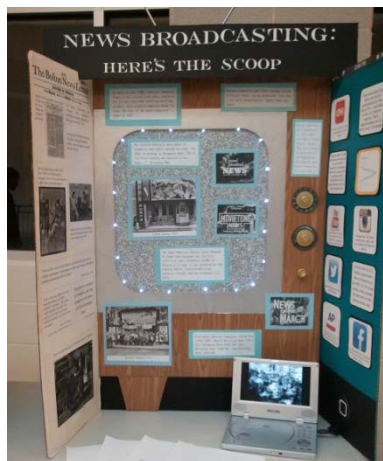


The JPMS Social Studies Department is proud to announce the **2014 National History Day Project**. National History Day is an exciting program that encourages students to explore a historical subject related to an annual theme. This year's theme is **Rights and Responsibilities in History**. We will have an interest meeting this Wednesday, October 23, to share more information about the project: important dates/future meetings, topics, resources, etc. If you have any questions, please contact your Social Studies teacher.

- **Who:** All students in Grades 6-8
- **When:** Interest Meeting Wednesday, October 23, 2013 from 2:30 to 4:00 (An activity bus will be available for those who attend the meeting.)
- **Where:** Room 210
- **Why:** To increase student's historical understanding by developing a lens to read history, an organizational structure that helps students place information in the correct context and finally, the ability to see connections over time.

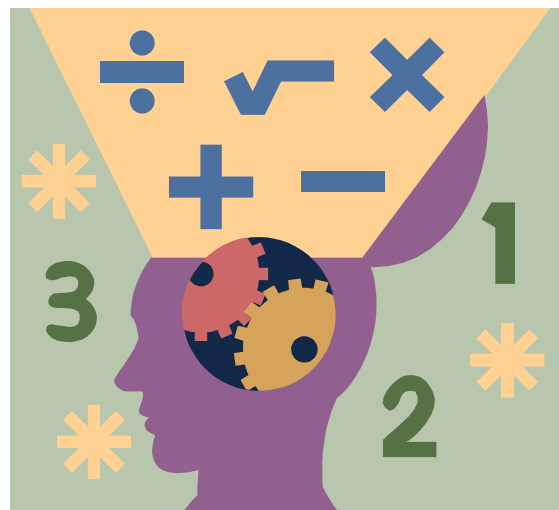
Background about NHD:

National History Day is an extracurricular opportunity for students to learn and practice disciplinary literacy in the social studies content. It allows students to apply research, analysis, critical thinking, and presentation skills as they explore a subject and bring together history content knowledge with skills of investigation and interpretation in a meaningful way. Every year National History Day frames students' research within a historical theme. The theme is chosen for the broad application to world, national, state or local history and its relevance to ancient history through more recent past. The intentional selection of the theme for National History Day is to provide an opportunity for students to push past the antiquated view of history as mere facts and dates and drill down into historical content to develop perspective and understanding.



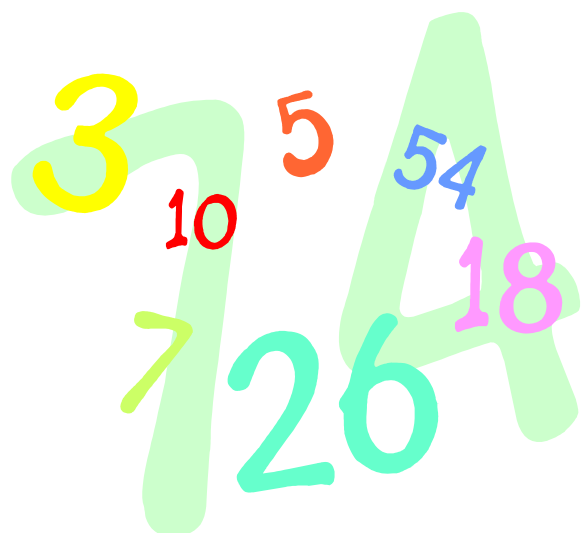
Could You Coach Our Mathletes?

Each year, the Middle School Montgomery County Math League invites teams from all over the county to compete in four math contests. The first meet of this school year is in November, so it's time to get our team up and practicing!



Unfortunately, our previous coach is not able to take on the team this year, so we are looking for a coach.

What do you need to do? Work with students to prepare – generally after school one day a week – and accompany the team to the four meets. That's it!



You don't have to be a math teacher to be a coach. If you have a strong background in math or a job that involves using math regularly, you would be fine. Practice materials are provided from the Math League and JPMS teachers will help you if you need a little brushing up.

MCPS pays a stipend of \$1,330 for coaching.

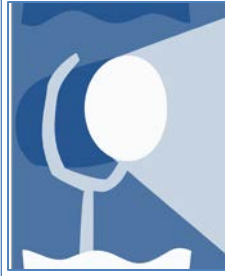
Interested? Got some questions? Please contact Mr. McKay at Michael_a_mckay@mcpsmd.org or 301-972-7979. Thanks!

CTY Talent Search

Johns Hopkins University is searching for students who have demonstrated superior academic performance. Through the CTY Talent Search Program, participants gain opportunities to develop their skills to the highest possible level.

If interested, brochures are available in the Counseling Office or call 410-735-6278 or visit <http://cty.jhu.edu/2013/> for more information.

John Poole Middle School



Spotlight on...

State of the Schools

November 1, 2013

Straithmore, Bethesda MD

Dr. Joshua Starr will deliver the State of the Schools Address at 7:30 Am to 9:30 AM.

- Jennifer Kasten - President
- Neile Whitney - Vice President
- Hisaho Blair - Secretary
- Michelle Hobbs – Treasurer
- Wendy Goflewski – 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 Goflewski, membership coordinator, at goflewski@msn.com.

Parent Conferences are coming on November 11. Should I schedule a conference?

Every parent is always welcome to come in for a conference!

It's a high priority if

- *You get a call inviting you to come for a conference*
- *You have questions about how your child is doing*
- *You have medical or personal updates to share*
- *You have a concern of any kind you'd like to discuss*

It's less of a priority if

- *You have been in for a conference recently*
- *You feel comfortable with the level of communication you already have with your child's teachers*
- *Everything seems to be going well and your child seems happy at school*

Fall 2013 School-Based Flu Clinics



Nasal Spray Flu Vaccine will be offered at school clinics this fall!

November 1, 2013

John F. Kennedy High School

Richard Montgomery High School

Seneca Valley High School

for all students

9:00 a.m. – 12 p.m.

November 11 and 12, 2013

All Elementary Schools

for MCPS students enrolled at the school

For more information visit:

<http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/emergency/flu/>
www.montgomerycountymd.gov/flu



Student Service Learning (SSL) Notes

Give a Little Time...Make a Big Difference

SSL is a graduation requirement...but it is also an opportunity! Explore careers, learn new skills, expand understanding, and strengthen character. If you can make a difference... do it!

- Learn about the SSL graduation requirement and how to meet it in MCPS by referring to the website www.mcpsssl.org.
- All SSL must be documented on MCPS Form 560-51, *Student Service Learning Activity Verification* and turned in the school-based SSL coordinator according to timelines. Mrs. Arnold is our SSL Coordinator.
- The MCPS SSL plan allows students to earn SSL hours in specific middle and high school courses, in school-sponsored clubs and organizations that have a service focus, and with approved, official nonprofit, tax exempt organizations in the community. Know the SSL guidelines and follow them!

VOLUNTEER IN MONTGOMERY PARKS FALL 2013

FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THESE VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES, OR TO APPLY
GO TO WWW.PARKSVOLUNTEERS.ORG



Owl-O-Ween Campfire, Meadowside Nature Center, Rockville

Friday, Oct. 25. Help us show off how cool owls are this magical evening around the campfire! We will be sharing facts, folklore and fun...and S'mores! We need your help with setup, fun activities and cleanup. 5:15 to 8pm. Minimum Age is 14.

SSL approved.

The C.P. Hauntington, Haunted Train, Wheaton Regional Park & Eye Spy Train, Cabin John

Various dates between October 12-30. Be a part of this fun and scary event in Wheaton and/or not so scary event in Cabin John! We need lots of volunteers to dress up as their favorite ghouls, princesses, etc. 16 and older (or 13 -15 with parent) in Wheaton or 14 and older at Cabin John. We need Face Painters for the weekends, too. Get your friends together for a fun night! **SSL approved.**



Fruit Flies Festival, Locust Grove Nature Center, Bethesda

Friday, November 1. Celebrating those tiny, annoying flies!??? Nah....we're just launching apples into the air. It's all part of our seasonal seed dispersal bash. Help us fling apples into the meadow, make flying seeds and seed 'bombs', and teach our visitors how seeds stick to us and our animal friends. Shift is 9am-1:30pm. **SSL approved.**

Natural Surface Trail Workdays

Build new trail, repair erosion, stabilize muddy tread surfaces, and help with bridge construction. Connect with new people and learn about trail building and maintenance techniques while getting exercise. The minimum age to volunteer is 16, but sometimes youth 12-15 years old can volunteer if accompanied by an adult. **SSL approved.**



Park and Stream Cleanups



We are gearing up for a busy fall with many cleanup days, starting with a Day to Serve & National Public Lands Day in September and Community Service Week in October. Minimum age is 14 on your own, but younger volunteers are welcome with a parent. Go to

www.montgomeryparks.org/team/npld.shtm to see different locations/dates, or to sign up to host your own cleanup! **SSL approved.**

Other “Long Term” Volunteer Opportunities available:

Nature Center Host/Hostess; Oakley Cabin Docent; Volunteer Naturalist; Historic Interpretation Docents; Gardeners and Groundskeepers; Trail Rangers, and many more opportunities with all the details are on our website at www.ParksVolunteers.org.

Questions about these opportunities or how to apply?

FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THESE VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES, OR TO APPLY
GO TO WWW.PARKSVOLUNTEERS.ORG

Brookside
GARDENS
1800 Glenallan Ave.
Wheaton MD 20902



Brookside Gardens SSL Volunteer Opportunities Fall & Winter 2013

Volunteer at Brookside Gardens to make a difference, to broaden your skills, or just for fun. Apply for any of these Brookside Gardens volunteer opportunities at <http://www.parksvolunteers.org>.

Additional volunteer opportunities may be available.

Please contact the Volunteer Coordinator at (301) 962-1429 or

MCP-GardenVolunteer@MontgomeryParks.org to request information on submitting a volunteer application and for more information.



Noteworthy

National History Day.

Each year, JPMS sends several student projects to the National History Day competition, and many of our students have earned recognition for their work. All interested students are invited to a preliminary interest meeting after school on Wednesday, October 23. Amy Federman, one of the History Day judges, will give a presentation to students about History Day and answer questions. Participation in National History Day is a great resume item for students interested in one of the special programs at Poolesville High School. Mark your calendars for the 23rd and look for more information in next week's *Back Pocket*.

Did you receive a federal aid form this week?

Each year, we receive surveys in connection with Title VIII of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (Impact Aid). We sent them home through TAP classes this week.

The U.S. Department of Education offers funds to school districts like Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) that have many students with families connected to the federal government. The purpose of the funding is to reimburse school districts that have less tax revenue because of their volume of federal personnel and properties.

If you work for the federal government but have not received this form, please check the backpack and call us for another copy if you need it. Thanks!

Thomas Edison High School of Technology Tours

TEHS in Silver Spring is pleased to announce the dates for our Middle School tours for 2013-14 school year! Every year we are pleased to host middle school 8th graders from around the county.

The “*Seeing Is Believing*” *Middle School Tours* provide an opportunity for Grade 8 students in Montgomery County to see **Edison's** eighteen different career and technical programs.

Grade 8 students will soon be mapping out their **Four Year Plans** for high school, and it is especially important for them to have a strong snapshot of the pathways **Edison** offers. These tours are designed to help your students see the big picture and how **Edison** can fit into their **Four Year Plans**.

Tour Dates: Wednesday, November 13, 2013; Thursday, November 14, 2013; or Friday, November 15, 2013. **Times:** Edison Session 1: 8:15 - 9:00 AM OR 9:15 – 10:00 AM; Edison Session 2: 11:20 – 12:05 PM OR 12:15 – 1:00 PM.

Contact the JPMS Counseling Office for additional information.



"Piggy Banks to Portfolios"

This one-day workshop sponsored by the Financial Literacy Organization for Women and Girls is scheduled for Saturday, October 26. The focus is on helping girls aged 11 to 17 learn about money management. It's not free – the cost is \$35. If you're interested, you can get full details at www.sitting-pretty.org

Sign Up for the 2013 Flu Vaccine Clinics

The Montgomery County Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) will conduct free nasal spray flu vaccine (FluMist) clinics in November for children 18 and under at various Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) schools.

On Friday, November 1, 2013, flu clinics will be held at John F. Kennedy, Richard Montgomery, and Seneca Valley high schools from 9:00 a.m. to noon. No classes will be held on that day because it is a professional day for teachers. These clinics will be open to any school-aged child.

All MCPS elementary schools will host a flu clinic on either Monday, November 11, or Tuesday, November 12, 2013, following early dismissal of students on those days.

**Monocacy Elementary School's clinic is scheduled for November 11;
Poolesville Elementary's clinic will be November 12.**

All clinics are free, but registration is required due to limited vaccine supplies.

For more information about the upcoming clinics and the FluMist, visit the following websites: <http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/emergency/flu/>
<http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/flu>

Both the injectable seasonal flu vaccine and nasal spray flu vaccine will be available, at no charge, at other DHHS flu clinics at various locations in the county, October through December. Visit <http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/flu> or call 311 for county locations. The Flu vaccine also may be available from your health care provider.

After School Activities

RecXtra is returning to John Poole this year with a full schedule of after school activities. Listen to the morning announcements or follow them [online](#) at our website so you will be ready to participate in the programs that interest you.



Running Club is coming!

The following dates are scheduled for this activity:

November 6, 13, and 20; December 4, 11, and 18; January 8, 15, 22, and 29; February 5, 12, 19, and 26; March 5

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.



Homework Hotline Live

Homework Hotline Live has returned to the web and TV! Go to AskHHL.org or MCPS cable TV to get help from real MCPS teachers. The TV show can be seen from 4:00 to 6:00 PM, and online help is available from 4:00, all the way up to 9:00. Call 301-279-3234 or go to AskHHL.org.

Save the Date!



Important events you won't want to miss!

October 23	1 st Magnet Prep Class
October 24	Yearbook Portraits – Makeups
October 15	Wear Pink for Breast Cancer Awareness
October 28	Blue Ribbon Monday
October 30	Second Magnet Prep Class
October 31	End of First Marking Period
November 1	Professional Day – <u>No School for Students and Teachers</u>
November 3	Daylight Savings Time Ends – Clocks Move Forward 1 Hour
November 8	Magnet applications due
November 11	Veterans' Day Parent Conferences Early Release for students
November 12	Early Release for students
November 13	First Quarter Report Cards Distributed
November 15	Grade 8 Newseum Field trip

MCPS State of the Schools Event Set for November 11

Superintendent Joshua P. Starr will deliver his second State of the Schools address on Monday, November 11, at the Music Center at Strathmore, 5301 Tuckerman Lane in Bethesda. MCPS parents and community members are invited to join Dr. Starr as he shares his vision for preparing all students for success and we celebrate the outstanding students of Montgomery County Public Schools. This free event will take place from 7:30 to 9:30 a.m. and will feature artwork and performances by MCPS students. Visit the State of the Schools website at www.mcpsstateoftheschools.org for more information and to RSVP.

El Evento “Estado de las Escuelas de MCPS” Está Programado Para el 11 de Noviembre
El Superintendente Joshua P. Starr pronunciara su segundo discurso sobre el Estado de las Escuelas el lunes, 11 de noviembre en el Centro de Música en Strathmore, 5301 Tuckerman Lane en Bethesda. Los padres de MCPS y los miembros de la comunidad están invitados a acompañar al Dr. Starr cuando él presente su visión para preparar a todos los estudiantes para el éxito y a celebrar a los estudiantes destacados de las Escuelas Públicas del Condado de Montgomery. Este evento gratuito se llevará a cabo de 7:30 a 9:30 a.m. y contará con la presentación de obras de arte y actuaciones de los estudiantes de MCPS. Visite la página de internet del Estado de las Escuelas en www.mcpsstateoftheschools.org para obtener más información y para registrarse al evento.

**We encourage kids to dress specially for
Breast Cancer Awareness and Blue Ribbon Week...**

Why don't we allow costumes for Halloween?

Most elementary schools celebrate Halloween, and there is not much more adorable than the traditional costume parade – but JPMS does not allow costumes, hats, masks, etc. for Halloween. By middle school, our students need to be focused primarily on instruction, our highest priority.

When we interrupt the focus on academics, it is to focus on other lessons – the Social Emotional Learning that our Superintendent has emphasized in his new Strategic Plan. The lessons in empathy, civility, respect for ourselves and others – in short, Timberwolf PRIDE – are still instruction.

Sometimes those lessons can get pretty heavy for students and staff. Blue Ribbon Week could seem like endless preaching if we didn't work hard to make the learning fun. That's why we do the dressing up along with the classroom lessons – it's to help students focus, not distract them.

Halloween is a great holiday with a ton of fun attached – but it's not part of our curriculum, and the huge quantity of candy that circulates is not in line with the healthy eating habits we teach about.

So please, don't send your child to school in costume and keep the big sacks of candy at home. Thanks!

Magnet Dates

Event	Date	Time	Location
Application available	Distributed at JPMS already Application posted online 9/21 at http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/curriculum/specialprograms/admissions/applications.aspx		
Application Deadline	November 8		
Testing for Magnet Program	December 7 (Snow Date December 14)	8:00 - 11:00 AM	See application for details
Special Needs Testing for Magnet Program	December 8 (Snow Date December 15)	8:00 - 11:00 AM	Richard Montgomery High School
Notification of Magnet Selection Results	By mid February, 2014		

October is National Bully Prevention Month

At JPMS we opened the month with Blue Ribbon Week, and our theme of "Kindness Counts" will be part of our programming all year. The particular aspect of our theme featured in next week's Blue Ribbon Lesson and throughout November is digital responsibility.

We all recognize that Cyber bullying is a problem, but it may not always be clear what to look for or what to do about it. Here are some web resources you might find helpful in working with us to keep your children safe and teach them positive ways to use their electronic resources.

<http://www.common sense media.org/educators/educate-families/tip-sheets>

http://www.common sense media.org/digitalcitizenshipweek?utm_source=2013_10_Newsletter_1&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=weekly

http://www.common sense media.org/blog/parents-top-10-cyberbullying-questions?utm_source=100713_Parent+Default&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=weekly

PHS NEWS

Go Falcons!



Food Drive October 23 - 31

Dig Pink Campaign Volleyball Game and Fundraiser Monday, October 21, 2013 at 6:30 PM.

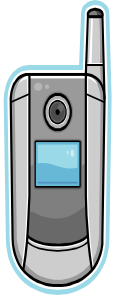
Come promote Breast Cancer awareness and family support. Wear something pink!

Athletic Schedule (partial)

Boys Varsity Football:	10/25/13	6:30 PM	(A)	PHS vs. Wheaton (game played at Blair HS)
	11/1/13	6:30 PM	(H)	PHS vs. Boonesboro
	11/8/13	6:30 PM	(A)	PHS vs. Rockville
Girls Varsity Soccer:	10/22/2013	5:00 PM	(H)	PHS vs. Churchill
Boys Varsity Soccer:	10/22/2013	7:00 PM	(H)	PHS vs. Churchill
Girls Varsity Volleyball:	10/21/2013	6:30 PM	(H)	PHS vs. BCC
	10/23/2013	6:00 PM	(A)	PHS vs. Springbrook
	10/25/2013	6:00 PM	(A)	PHS vs. Richard Montgomery
Field Hockey Varsity:	10/14/2013	7:00 PM	(A)	PHS vs. Rockville
	10/16/2013	7:00 PM	(A)	PHS vs. Quince Orchard

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**

