

November 22, 2013

A Thought for Today:

"Piglet noticed that even though he had a Very Small Heart, it could hold a rather large amount of Gratitude."

- A. A. Milne, Winnie-the-Pooh

### **Happy Thanksgiving!**

Incredibly, a holiday that is unusually late this year managed to sneak up on me. Here it is, almost Thanksgiving, and I have a whole mountain of blessings to count!

Number 1 is our exceptional students. Each day I am impressed all over again with their desire to do well at school and their cheerful demeanors. This morning, I watched a notebook slip out of its owner's hands in the crowds changing classes, and two students headed the other direction both stopped to help pick it up. I realized that each student was from a different grade and none of them may have been actual friends, but all three worked comfortably together and went on their ways smiling.

Number 2 is the outstanding array of adults I work with. From the highly dedicated staff to the conscientious, supportive parents, our students are surrounded by role models of caring, competent, committed grown-ups. (The kids have myriad blessings to count, too!)

Number 3 is our strong sense of community. It's evident in the effective collaboration we maintain among our cluster schools as well as in the social and service ties that bring us together at everything from Poolesville Day to Board of Education meetings. We are a small town with a big heart, and even newcomers feel the pulse. Our new bakery – Zaglio's – at 19639

Don't Miss the Play! YEARBOOK Friday and Saturday 7:00 PM – JPMS APR! Fisher Ave (next to Oriental Gourmet) has been open one week today and already is providing free cookies to students with straight A report cards. And with our fabulously successful students, that's a very generous donation!

So as I extend sincere best wishes to you and your family for a warm and happy Thanksgiving holiday, it's with real gratitude to you all for supporting education so comprehensively and making my job so rewarding.

There's no newsletter next week, but the *Back Pocket* will return in December for the exciting last month of 2013. Happy Hanukkah!

- 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 provid to colobrate their high expectations and the



and we are proud to celebrate their high expectations and their Timberwolf PRIDE!

Colin Hemingway Robert Siegrist Kathleen Van Houten Casandra Maier Lillian Staples Sam Varona Cade Seeley Kelsey Szafranski Kira Wathen

## Honor Roll Celebrations

### **November 27, 2013**

Grade 6 – 11:10 Grade 7 – 9:10 Grade 8 – 8:10

#### in the Auxiliary Gym

### Parents and Families Are Cordially Invited to Attend

### **Congratulations!**

**Maureen Hueting** and **Bryce Taylor** auditioned for the Montgomery County Middle School Honors Chorus and both were selected to participate. They will rehearse with other outstanding singers from around the County and will perform a concert this winter.



### Newseum Trip

JPMS 8<sup>th</sup> Grade students spent an engaging day at the Newseum on Friday, November 15<sup>th</sup>. Students explored 7 floors of exhibits and hands on activities designed to help them understand how the news is made and its importance in a free democratic society.

Highlights include the largest fragment of the Berlin Wall outside of Germany, the 9-11 Exhibit, front pages from around the world, and the interactive news experience. Students will use this information in the coming weeks in US History as we explore the foundations of the Constitution and the Bill of Rights.

Thanks to the parents who helped us chaperone and to Mr. McKee for providing photos and comments!



Selecting photos for a newspaper story











#### At the Sports Desk

Visiting the 9/11 Exhibit

### Friends Helping Friends

If it's Friday, it's time for the mile run. On a chilly November morning last week, this group of boys helped a friend run his personal best time by running an extra lap with him – after their miles were finished – to show their support. Great kids showing their PRIDE and making a difference!





November 22 & 23 this Friday & Saturday!

7:00 PM in the JPMS All Purpose Room

### Cyber Awareness = Cyber Safety

The co-captains of the award-winning PHS Computer Science Team, Chris Thompson (a JPMS alum) and Carolina Zarate, spoke to all three grades this week about online security. They explained that every time we use our computers we are leaving digital footprints that may never be wiped away.

Interactive demonstrations showed how unprotected information can be stolen from your computer and explained why files you thought you had deleted were still visible to people who know how to find them.



It was an informative and important assembly for our students, and a great way for us to see two outstanding high school students using their expertise to help younger kids.



### **Recycling Team 6**

John Poole is a Maryland Green School, and we are proud of our work to create and sustain a clean and healthy environment.

Recently, our sixth grade has stepped up to lead our recycling program. Under Mr. Boettner's guidance, teams of sixth graders are rotating the responsibilities of collecting classroom recyclables. This way, every student has a chance to contribute to the project.

Because our recycling is done by MCPS and not the town of Poolesville, we must still separate paper from plastic bottles and metal cans. Extra mixed paper bins have been provided in the hallways along with one bin on each hall with a



special lid for drink containers. We are asking everyone to help by putting waste in the correct bins and making it easy for the recycling team to complete their collections without interrupting instruction. So far, it's been a great success!





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 <u>gotlewski@msn.com</u>.

# Thanks to our Wonderful PTSA for your constant generosity and support!

Happy Thanksgiving to all our families!



### **Student Service Learning** (SSL) Notes Give a Little Time...Make a Big Difference

- Keep Track of the SSL graduation requirement: See the number of SSL hours required, the number of hours completed, and the number of hours remaining on each report card.
- Holidays and early release days are great SSL times to Give a Little Time and Make a Big Difference. Plan ahead!
- Remember: All service must occur in a public place... not a private residence. There is a maximum of 8 SSL hours that can be earned in a 24-hour period.
- All service for which SSL hours are desired must be supervised by an adult representing an official, approved, nonprofit, tax exempt organization not a parent or relative.

• The SSL graduation requirement does not take the place of what students do to support their neighbors, family members, and members of their faith-based organizations. SSL addresses a need in the greater community through secular service.

# ntendent's Service Learnin

Student Service Learning (SSL)



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 <u>Friday, April 4, 2014</u>.



#### Please remember that all students staying after school must be supervised

Staying for supervised activities is great – staying to hang out with friends is not. Thanks!

#### **MCPS Community Forums on Bell Times**

Superintendent Joshua Starr is recommending that MCPS consider changing school starting and ending times, also known as bell times. Dr. Starr is recommending that high schools start 50 minutes later, middle schools start 10 minutes earlier, and that the elementary school day be extended by 30 minutes. MCPS would like to hear from you on this proposal. The district will provide various opportunities for members of the community to give input, including community forums, focus groups, surveys, Neighbor-to-Neighbor discussions, and email (belltimes@mcpsmd.org). Upcoming forums are as follows:

-**Monday, December 16**: Richard Montgomery High School, 250 Richard Montgomery Drive, Rockville

-Monday, January 6: Seneca Valley High School, 19401 Crystal Rock Drive, Germantown

-Monday, February 10: Montgomery Blair High School, 51 University Blvd., East, Silver Spring

Free child care (ages 4 and older) and interpretation services will be provided. For more information about the bell times proposal and ways you can provide input, visit <u>www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org</u>, search "bell times."

#### Foros Comunitarios de MCPS para Discutir Cambios en el Horario de Timbres

El Superintendente Joshua Starr está recomendando que MCPS considere cambiar el horario inicio y salida de la escuela, también conocidos como Horario de Timbres. El Dr. Starr está recomendando que las escuelas secundarias comiencen 50 minutos más tarde , las escuelas de enseñanza media comiencen 10 minutos antes , y que la jornada escolar de la escuela elemental se extienda 30 minutos. A MCPS le gustaría saber su opinión acerca de esta propuesta. El distrito proporcionará diversas oportunidades para que los miembros de la comunidad proporcionen sus comentarios , incluidos los foros comunitarios, grupos de enfoque, encuestas, discusiones de Neighbor to Neighbor y correo electrónico (belltimes@mcpsmd.org) . Los próximos foros están programados para :

- Lunes, 16 de diciembre : Richard Montgomery High School, 250 Richard Montgomery Drive, Rockville

- Lunes, 06 de enero : Seneca Valley High School , 19401 Crystal Rock Drive, Germantown

- Lunes, 10 de febrero : Montgomery Blair High School, 51 University Blvd. East, Silver Spring

Se ofrecerán servicios gratuitos de cuidado de niños (mayores de 4 años) e interpretación. Para obtener más información acerca de propuesta de Horario de Timbres y maneras de proporcionar su opinión, visite <u>www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org</u> y busque "Horarios de Timbres"

### **COMMON CORE** REAL LEARNING FOR REAL LIFE

### Reality Check

The world is changing – as are the expectations for what individuals need to be able to know and do in order to be successful in college, careers, and life. Our education system must change to meet these challenges and provide today's students with the skills they need to be prepared for tomorrow.

Once a world leader in education, the U.S. has fallen behind other top performing countries.

- The U.S. ranks 25th out of 34 top performing countries in math, and 17th in science.
- The U.S. has fallen from 1st to 10th in the number of students who graduate high school, and ranks 12th in the number of 24-36 year-olds with a college degree.

The new reality is that a high school diploma is just the starting point. Tomorrow's jobs will require more education and training, and new skills.

- By 2018, 63% of all jobs will require some kind of post secondary education of training.
- 60% of employers say that job applicants lack the necessary skills to fill open positions.
- It is estimated that the U.S. will fall short by at least
   3 million middle and high skills workers by 2018.

American students are leaving school without the skills and education needed to succeed.

- 66% of Maryland's students in 2-year colleges and 48% of those in 4-year colleges require remediation.
- 34% of employers deem the preparation of newly hired employees with only a high school diploma as "deficient."

### **COMMON CORE**

### Real Learning **P** for Real Life



The best way to prepare students for college, careers, and life after high school is to ensure that they graduate with a strong foundation in the core academic areas that will open doors in the future. That's why Maryland and 45 other states are raising the bar for students by adopting the Common Core Standards.

Developed and validated by K-12, higher education, and industry leaders, the Common Core challenges our students to build a deeper understanding of subject matter, learn how to think critically, and apply their learning to the real world.

#### THE COMMON CORE STANDARDS ARE:

Grade-specific academic standards in math and English/language arts

Higher, clearer, deeper, and based on what students must learn to succeed in college and modern careers

Creating the same expectations for all students so families can understand exactly what every student should be learning

Emphasizing skills students will need for today's workplace: collaboration, critical thinking, communication, and creativity

Built upon strengths and lessons from the highest-performing states and countries



To learn more: MarylandPublicSchools.org Toll Free 1-888-246-0016

#### **After School Activities**

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



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

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

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

Homework Club (Tuesday)
Drama Club (Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday)
Basketball Practice (Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday)
Extended Day Reading Classes (Tuesday)
Zumba Club (Tuesday)
Leo Club (Wednesday)
HERO Club (Wednesday)
Magnet Prep Class (Wednesday) – Class Full
Yoga (Wednesday and Thursday)
Jazz Band (Wednesday)
Newspaper Club (Wednesday)
Math Extended Day (Thursday)
Running Club (December 4, 11, & 18; January 8, 15, 22, & 29; February 5, 12, 19, & 26; March 5)

#### **Coming Soon: Algebra Support Class!**

#### Watch for signup information, because space will be limited!

#### **Teaching Digital Responsibility**

At JPMS, the theme of "Kindness Counts" will be part of our programming all year. The particular aspect of our theme featured 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.commonsensemedia.org/educators/educate-families/tip-sheets

 $\label{eq:linear} http://www.commonsensemedia.org/digitalcitizenshipweek?utm_source=2013_10_Newsletter_1&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=weekly$ 

<u>http://www.commonsensemedia.org/blog/parents-top-10-cyberbullying-</u> <u>questions?utm\_source=100713\_Parent+Default&utm\_medium=email&utm\_campaign=weekly</u>

### STUDENT'S RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

#### HOW WELL DO YOU KNOW YOUR RIGHTS AS A STUDENT?

Provided is a summary of the most crucial student's rights and responsibilities that each MCPS student should know.

#### TAKE CHARGE OF YOUR EDUCATION

You have the ability to influence how materials are taught in your classes. You are responsible for participating and following classroom rules.

Did you know that you can work with school staff members to suggest relevant classroom activities or short studies on selected topics?

Regulation JFA-RA: Student Rights and Responsibilities

#### THE FIVE: DID YOU KNOW?

A group of students cannot be punished for the actions of **one** student. Students are disciplined based on their individual conduct.

You will be marked as present for a half day if you are at school for **two** hours.

If you are absent, you must bring a note from your parent/guardian within **three** school days of the absence. If a note is not received, the absence will be marked as unexcused.

You will be marked as present for a full day if you're present for at least **four** hours of the school day. Basically, the absence will not be shown on official documents, such as your transcript.

Before missing school, keep in mind that your teachers do not have to help, give credit, or allow extensions for work that is missed during an unexcused absence.

Regulation JFA-RA: Student Rights and Responsibilities Regulation IKA-RA: Grading and Reporting Regulation IQB-RA: Extracurricular Activities

#### Ten legitimate reasons for missing school

- You are visiting college campuses or going to a college orientation program\*
- You have a job interview\*
- 3. You have a short-term, full-time job\*
- 4. You have a death in the family
- You are sick
- 6. You have been summoned to court
- 7. It is a religious holiday for you
- There has been a state emergency or weather is hazardous
- 9. You have been suspended
- You qualify for the school bus but it has not been set up yet

\*must be pre-approved by the principal

#### GRADES

The grade for work turned in **after the due date or before the deadline** cannot be lowered by more than one letter grade or 10 percent of the grade.

Work turned in after the deadline will be given a zero.

However, due dates and deadlines generally cannot be the same date, but there may be exceptions.

#### OUR VOICE

You are guaranteed a voice in the decisions that our school makes.

- Student governments may make recommendations to school administration. School administration must reply within five school days.
- Petitions may be circulated during noninstructional time, as long as they have a clear purpose that won't disrupt school operations.
- You are encouraged to work collaboratively with school staff members to suggest and plan programs and review major policies on the school and county level.

#### Ways to get involved:

- Montgomery County Regional Student Government Association/Montgomery County Junior Councils. Contact: Karen\_L\_Crawford@mcpsmd.org
- Contact your student member of the Board of Education!
- Join your school's PTSA or instructional council Regulation JFA-RA: Student Rights and Responsibilities

#### HAVE YOUR VOICE HEARD!

### STUDENT'S RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

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#### "LES" BE HONEST...

Emergency procedures are important, yet are forgotten amid piles of homework and extra-curricular activities. That's why it's up to you to familiarize yourself with the following "LES" procedure:

Lockdown—Imminent danger exists inside or outside of the school building. All students must be supervised by adults.

Evacuate—An emergency has occurred inside of the school building. All students and staff members must exit the building.

Shelter—An emergency has happened at or near an MCPS building. All students must be under adult supervision within the school building.

#### HAVE AN EMERGENCY?

#### Montgomery County Public Schools

Safe Schools 24-Hour Hotline: 301-517-5995			
Montgomery County Police			
Emergency:			
Nonemergency:			
Drug and Gang Tip Hotline: 240-773-8477			
Text-a-Tip			
Regulation EKA-RA: Emergency and Disaster Preparedness			

Regulation EKC-RA: Bomb Threatz/Explosive Devices Regulation JFA-RA: Student Rights and Responsibilities

#### SEARCH AND SEIZURE

Authorized school personnel conducting a search of person, possessions, locker, or assigned personal storage space will make a reasonable effort to inform the student before the search.

Regulation JFA-RA: Student Rights and Responsibilities Regulation JGB-RA: Search and Seizure Annotated Code of Maryland, Education Article, Section 7-308

#### RINGING IN ON YOUR CELL PHONE RIGHTS

Technology is becoming a bigger and bigger part of our world. Middle and high school students can have their cell phone on hand during the school day, but it must be kept off and out of sight during school hours (take the battery out if you need to). You have the responsibility to be respectful to your teachers! High schoolers can use their cell phones during lunch.

Elementary school students are not allowed to have portable communication devices during the school day, unless a parent writes a request to the principal and receives approval.

"Student day" includes High School Plus and Saturday School.

Regulation COG-RA: Portable Communication Devices

#### GET THE WORD OUT!

Getting the word out about upcoming student events is important—events like these create communities. However, as fun as these events can be, advertisements must follow guidelines if they are to be posted within MCPS.

#### SCHOOL-SPONSORED EVENTS

If your advertisement has names or photos of students or any other nonpublic figure, or if it contains a company's trademark, you must get the advertisement approved.

If your advertisement can be mistaken as anything besides an advertisement, it must be labeled as an "advertisement."

#### NONSCHOOL-SPONSORED EVENTS

Advertisements in nonschool-sponsored materials may be distributed in the manner approved by the school administration.

The advertisement must include the name of the sponsoring individual or organization.

Regulation JFA-RA: Student Rights and Responsibilities

## Save the Date!



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

November 22 & 23	JPMS Drama Club fall play: <i>Yearbook</i> (7:00 p.m.)
November 27	Early Release Honor Roll Celebrations (Grade 8 – 8:10 a.m.; Grade 7 – 9:10 a.m.; Grade 6 – 11:10 a.m.)
November 28	Hanukkah Begins
November 28 & 29	Holiday – Thanksgiving
December 6	Leader of the Pack Ceremony (7:15 a.m.)
December 7	Magnet Testing at PHS
December 13	Interims Mailed
December 14	Magnet Testing for Special Needs Students at Richard Montgomery HS
December 16	Blue Ribbon Monday (Wear Blue)
December 19	Grade 8 Field Trip – National Air and Space Museum Winter Concert – 7:00 p.m.
December 23 -31	Winter Break (No School for Students and Teachers)
January 1	Holiday – New Year's Day
	JPMS Basketball Schedule
December 12 December 12	Boys play Clemente at JPMS (2:40 p.m.) Girls play Clemente at Clemente (3:00 p.m.)
December 18 December 18	Girls play Kingsview at JPMS (2:40 p.m.) Boys play Kingsview at Kingsview (3:00 p.m.)
<b>January 28</b> January 28	Boys play Baker at JPMS (2:40 p.m.) Girls play Baker at Baker (3:00 p.m.)
January 30	Girls play Neelsville at JPMS (2:40 p.m.)
<b>J</b> anuary 30	Boys play Neelsville at Neelsville (3:00 p.m.)
February 5 February 5	Girls play Rocky Hill at JPMS (2:40 p.m.) Boys play Rocky Hill at Rocky Hill (3:00 p.m.)
February 11 February 11	Boys play King at JPMS (2:40 p.m.)

There will be no *Back Pocket* next week because of the Thanksgiving Holiday. See you in December!

# PHS NEWS

### **Go Falcons!**



#### **Magnet Dates**

Testing for Magnet	December 7	8:00 – 11:00 AM	PHS
Programs	Snow Date December 14	0.00 - 11.00 AW	1 110
Special Needs	December 8		
Testing for Magnet	Snow Date December 15	8:00 – 11:00 AM	Richard Montgomery HS
Programs	Show Date December 15		
Notification of			
Magnet Selection	By mid-February 2014		
Results			

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

12/6/13	7:00 p.m.	PHS vs. B-CC HS at B-CC HS
12/10/13	7:00 p.m.	PHS vs. Gaithersburg HS at PHS
12/13/13	7:00 p.m.	PHS vs. Watkins Mill HS at PHS

#### **Girls Varsity Basketball**

12/6/13	7:00 p.m.	PHS vs. B-CC HS at PHS
12/10/13	7:00 p.m.	PHS vs. Gaithersburg HS at Gaithersburg HS
12/13/13	7:00 p.m.	PHS vs. Watkins Mill HS at Watkins Mill HS



ſ	CoEd Varsi	ty Swim and D	live	
	12/7/13	2:30 p.m. PHS and Springbrook at Montgomery College - Takoma		
	12/14/13	11:30 a.m.	PHS and Walter Johnson at Kennedy Shriver Aquatic Center	
	Boys Varsity Wrestling			
	12/07/13	1		
	12/11/13	1	•	
0 9	12/17/13	6:00 p.m	. PHS vs. Wheaton HS at Wheaton HS	



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

POOIE: 301-972-7979 301-972-7980 301-407-1037 And Ask for...

Principal - Mrs. Boucher	Assistant Principal -	Ms. Lemon
Technology & Arts IRT & Grade	Level Coordinator -	Mr. Grotenhuis
English IRT	-	Mrs. Lindsay
Social Studies IRT	-	Ms. Nachlas
Math IRT	-	Mr. McKay
Science IRT	-	Mrs. Callaghan
Special Education IRT	-	Ms. Turnbull
Counseling - (Ms. Kitts, Secreta	ry) Mrs. Arnold -	Mrs. Eisenberg

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



### **Our Vision:**

The Timberwolf community experiences joy in learning, celebrates excellence, and values positive relationships.

### **Our Mission:**

At John Poole Middle School, our mission is to:

- promote joy in learning through motivation and engagement
- celebrate excellence by acknowledging achievement
- foster a shared responsibility for academic and social success
- value positive relationships, thereby promoting a respectful and supportive learning environment