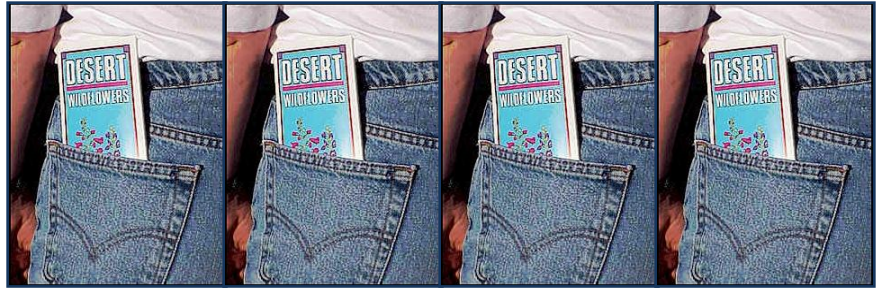


John Poole's **BACK POCKET**



November 30, 2012

A Thought for Today:

**Come, come thou bleak December wind,
And blow the dry leaves from the tree!**

- Samuel Taylor Coleridge

Let's Talk About Homework

This week I attended a meeting with Superintendent Starr during which he talked about his parenting experiences. His oldest is in fifth grade this year, so he will soon be living the Wonder Years with the rest of us in middle school. One of his interests was homework, and that made me think that families up and down the county are probably coming to terms with expectations for homework also as the children transition from elementary to high school.

I will be honest with you and admit that I believe in homework. I made my kids set aside time every evening to work at the kitchen table: no phones, no music, no food, no talking. I was working with them, because teachers always have papers to grade and lessons to plan, so they understood that homework was not a punishment but a part of our jobs. This routine meant that we all got to bed at reasonable times and slept soundly knowing we were prepared for the next day. That alone was a valuable benefit, but I also felt my kids were learning good time management skills and developing the sense that hard work paid off. When they got good grades, they knew they had earned them.

I also assigned homework for my students every night. Sometimes the assignment was to clean up and organize notes from the day's lesson; sometimes it was to edit a writing task we were working on; sometimes it was to work on a long-

term assignment or simply to read. I had come across some research on memory that said students retained twice as much from a lesson if they reviewed the content within the first 24 hours of learning it, and I wanted my students to hold onto the material I was teaching. I also had seen a study by the American College Testing Program (ACT) that indicated a routine of daily studying led to higher achievement in college. Year after year, I documented that the students who consistently did their homework earned consistently stronger grades than those who didn't, and I saw student after student turn around poor performance just by getting the homework done regularly.



The analogy I generally use with students is sports-related: even the most successful athletes come to practice every day because it keeps them at their peak performance and helps them get even better.

But there are other benefits to regular homework as well. This fall, we've worked with our students to identify their preferred learning styles: auditory, visual, or tactile (kinesthetic). Typically, any lesson will emphasize one or two of these modalities, but homework allows students to reinforce their learning in the manner that suits them best.

Auditory learners can read their notes aloud; visual learners can concentrate without the distractions of sound and movement so common in the classroom; tactile learners can stand or move around the room as they work.

We've been working on the learning styles for a number of reasons, not the least of which is the upgraded expectations that accompany the Common Core State Standards (CCSS) being phased in around the US. These new standards call for all students to be independent learners who know how to navigate information, use technology to support on-demand learning, and persevere with a task until they get the result they require. I think this is especially important in today's world when it is impossible to predict exactly what knowledge and skills kids will need in the future. It's anticipated that more than half the jobs our students will work at haven't even been invented yet! All our kids will have to know how to master new ideas and skills long after they have left school and left the support of teachers who will structure lessons for them. It has been true in my own life that it's harder to teach an old dog new tricks, so the tricks of self-discipline, perseverance, and independent learning are best acquired while still young.

We've all seen those reports about the work ethic of foreign students and the long school days that are typical in many countries. I don't know if that's the main reason the US ranks so low in many measures of student performance, but I think it may well play a part.



Finally, I hear often from our colleagues at Poolesville High School that the students we send them are capable and well-prepared, but they often have trouble getting the homework done. It's a feature of the wonderful programs available at our high school that can't be avoided: they require a lot of work. Training our kids to be hard workers and independent learners will make a huge difference when they reach ninth grade.

In short, I'm convinced that homework is not a bad thing. There are problems, of course. Students will work at their own paces, and so what takes 20 minutes for one may take 30 minutes for another. There are many wonderful opportunities for kids who are interested in sports or scouting or the performing arts; it can be hard to choose what to do and what to give up in order to balance school work with outside interests. And teachers have to be careful to assign work that is worthwhile – nobody gains from mere busy work. But the benefits of investing in meaningful work once the school day is over are, to my mind, pretty clear.

Middle school aged kids want to tell their parents they are fine without any input or oversight, but most of them need help to organize their time and follow through on their good intentions. You can make a huge difference by setting routines, keeping calendars, checking Edline and the assignment book, rewarding progress and providing reminders of your expectations and support.

Here at school, we have Homework Club twice a week, so students can come right after school, get some homework out of the way and ride safely home on the activity bus. There are also opportunities to work with specific teachers at lunch or after school if there's a particular support that is needed. Students just need to make an appointment with the teacher and then come in for help. We provide re-teaching and reassessment daily at lunch and weekly during TAP as well.

Working together, we can help our kids learn to accomplish their assignments efficiently and maximize the time they have for other activities, and it's important to keep in mind that homework is a valuable component of their learning that will have lasting personal and academic benefits.

Thanks!

- Charlotte Boucher

Hallway Heroes

Hallway Heroes are students we honor for demonstrating exemplary **PRIDE** behaviors as they move from class to class, helping to keep our hallways safe and comfortable for everyone.

The students recognized below consistently demonstrate **Purpose, Respect, Integrity, Dedication** and **Effort** everywhere they go at JPMS. They are **Hallway Heroes** and we are proud to celebrate their high expectations and their Timberwolf PRIDE!

Jordan Allentuck

Lauren Chilla

Brian Jacobs

Morgan Bliss

Alec De Luna

Megan Roldan

Keyon Budd

Isabelle Falls

Megan Windall



Come to the Fall Play This Weekend!

Friday, November 30

Saturday, December 1

7:00 PM

JPMS APR



Students - \$4.00

Adults - \$6.00

Concessions available

We promise you'll laugh out loud!

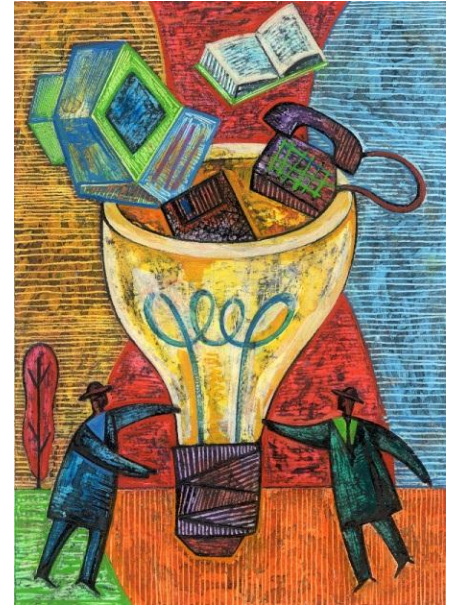
PBIS Recycling Fundraiser

PBIS is conducting our recycling fundraiser again this year. Thank you for making last year's drive a great success!

This fundraiser helps us raise money for our Positive Behavior Program and protects the environment through the donations of your used consumer electronics. Your used items are recycled in accordance with EPA regulations. One hundred percent of the proceeds help fund PBIS.

We are collecting the following items:

Cell Phones	Laptop Computers	GPS Devices
Inkjet Cartridges	E-Book Readers	MP3 Players
Radar Detectors	Handheld Game Systems	
Digital Cameras	Digital Video Cameras	



Please drop off any of the above items you would like to recycle. There is a bin for cell phones, inkjet cartridges, and other small electronics in the school's foyer. Larger items can be dropped off in the office. We greatly appreciate your support!

Buy a poster – frame it yourself!

With the holidays right around the corner, you just can't beat the prices offered through our poster sale, and the high-quality frames are a great way to display your poster professionally. We were all impressed by the sample frames that came in last week – sturdy, easy to use, and very attractive. The link is available on the poster order form; order your frames online and enter the code JPMS at checkout. Your frames will be delivered here at school with no delivery charge.



GREG KINNEAR STEVE CARELL TONI COLLETTE PAUL DANO WITH ABIGAIL BRESLIN AND ALAN ARKIN

"THE FUNNIEST LAUGH-OUT-LOUD AUDIENCE REACTION I'VE EVER HEARD OF"
AT THE SUNDAY

HOLLYWOOD Comes to JPMS!

Thanks to our
good friends at

Kentlands Stadium 10 Theaters
we have a treasure trove of authentic
movie posters to sell over the next few
weeks!



Posters from movies for all ages!

Because these are actual posters sent
to the theater for publicity, we have
hundreds of movies to choose from,
and both regular-sized movie posters
and giant banners are available.

There are duplicates of many movie
posters, but only one of others, so
purchase will have to be first come,
first served.

\$5 for regular posters
\$10 for large paper posters
\$30 for huge canvas banners

Browse the catalog of posters online at
our website. You can begin sending in
your orders on

Monday, October 29.

KENTLANDS
STADIUM 10

<http://www.kentlandsstadium8.com>



John Poole Middle School Movie Poster Order Form

Student's Name: _____ Grade: _____

Parent's Name: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Name of Movie #1: _____

Size: ☐ regular (approximately 27" x 40") \$5
☐ large paper (see database for size) \$10
☐ large canvas banner \$30

Name of Movie #2: _____

Size: ☐ regular (approximately 27" x 40") \$5
☐ large paper (see database for size) \$10
☐ large canvas banner \$30

Name of Movie #3: _____

Size: ☐ regular (approximately 27" x 40") \$5
☐ large paper (see database for size) \$10
☐ large canvas banner \$30

Name of Movie #4: _____

Size: ☐ regular (approximately 27" x 40") \$5
☐ large paper (see database for size) \$10
☐ large canvas banner \$30

Looking for a frame to go with your poster?

Ligon to : http://snapframesdirect.com/Snap-Frames/Movie_Poster_Frames_SALE.html?gclid=CMmazfXtmbMCFQSf4AodJzIAuw

When you order a frame, use the code JPMS. Your frame will be shipped at no charge to JPMS where we will send it home with your child or hold it for you to pick up.

Free shipping for you – a bonus for JPMS!

Total amount

enclosed: \$_____

Make checks payable to JPMS.

For Office Use Only
Received

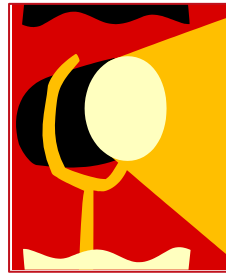
Date:

Time:

Your PTSA –

“Every child, one voice”

- Jennifer Kasten - President
- Dawn Albert - Vice President
- Dreama Hemingway - Secretary
- Wendy Roldan – Treasurer
- Lori Kocur – Membership & Volunteers
- Anne Donovan & Jackie Gaddis – Staff Appreciation



Spotlight on...
**PRIDE Holiday
Store**

You can help!

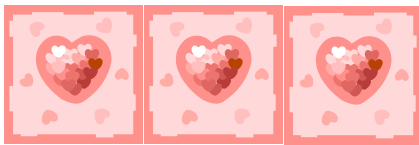
See the box below for ways to support this
December lunchtime tradition.

Volunteer Your Time and Join the PTSA!

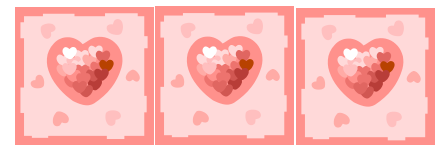
Please contact Lori Kocur at kocurs@verizon.net for membership information or to register as a JPMS Parent Volunteer. Once you are a registered volunteer, you will receive emails when opportunities to help out at school arise. It's as easy as that!

Membership and volunteer forms are available at the JPMS website:

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



Thank You!



These generous parents helped make last week's
Honor Roll Celebrations special for our students –

Laura Carmak
Stacey Cecco
Anne Donovan
Kim Drissel
Dreama Hemingway

Richard Klimkiewicz
Lori Kocur
Judy McKenney
Joan Olmstead

Charlotte Roberts
Leigh Ross
Lynn Sharifi
Helen Tranior
Mary Wink

‘Tis the Season...

Every Friday, the PRIDE Store sets up in the cafeteria so that students can exchange their PRIDE Props during lunch for toys, games, school supplies, and other trinkets to enjoy. In December, the PRIDE Store stocks gifts for friends and family. Many of our students do their holiday shopping with PRIDE Props they have been saving.

You can help in two important ways:

1. Donate new or gently used items for the store. We especially like to receive things for dads and for younger siblings. Just drop them off in the main office any time between now and December 10.
2. Donate your time to come in for a half hour on Friday, December 7 or Friday, December 14 to wrap student purchases. We need help both A lunch (11:12 – 11:42) and B lunch (12:05 – 12:35). Call or email Mrs. Petak to let her know when you can come. Thanks!



Here Are Four Ways to Make the Season Bright!

1. Donate a coat to keep a neighbor warm. Bring a clean, new or gently used coat to the Counseling Office for pick-up by local Girl Scouts. Your donation will be distributed by WUMCO Help here in the upper county.
2. Pick up a gift tag at the Play Friday or Saturday night. Buy a gift that matches the age and gender indicated on the card and bring it back to school before winter break. The JPMS Junior Thespian Society will make sure your gift will go to a local resident whose holiday will be happier for your generosity.
3. Donate new toys, clothes and supplies to the Leo Club's drive for Shady Grove Hospital's Pediatrics Unit. Bring items to the main office and place in the box marked "Shady Grove". Suggestions include:
 - Packages of disposable sippy cups (without straws)
 - Packages of pull-ups, and overnights (sizes 4-5T- big kids xl)
 - Packages of disposable plastic baby spoons
 - Boxes of character Band-Aids for boys and girls, Dora, Spiderman, Princesses, etc.
 - Packages of children's underwear, especially sizes 4T - 12.
 - Infant Onesie t-shirts in 0-3 month - 18month sizes
 - Batteries, especially size AA and C
 - Pinwheels and small bottles of bubbles (unscented) for breathing exercises
 - Coloring Books, especially girl themes.(Please no Dollar Store crayons)
 - Puzzle magazines: word find, crossword, soduko, mazes, etc. for older kids
 - Toy Doctor kits
 - Barbies (Caucasian and African-American)
 - Baby dolls (Caucasian and African-American) and plastic dolls that are easy to clean
 - New stuffed animals (with tags)
 - Hotwheels or Matchbox type cars
 - Magnadoodles
 - Balls: all types,
 - Superhero action figures: (especially the "good guys")
 - Anything Dora, Spiderman, Elmo, Disney Princesses, or SpongeBob
 - Legos, or Duplos, especially small sets
 - Infant rattles and infant toys
 - Toddler toys, especially musical, light-up, vibrating, or pop-up.
 - Puzzles- wood tray puzzles, boxed puzzles 25-300 pieces for kids/ teens
 - Velvet poster to color kits, Small craft kits
 - Gift cards for teens,
 - New wooden track, accessories, Thomas or other train engines & cars for the train table
 - DVD movies (rated G- PG-13) New or Used. Classics, comedies, adventures, and movies that inspire are great! Please avoid movies with death themes.
4. Donate goods and/or time to the PRIDE Holiday Store (see the blue box above)

TECHNOLOGY

A Welcome Friend? An Unwelcome Intruder?

Technology and the Internet are here to stay. Learn about how you can be proactive in this empowering forum, presented by Peg Arnold, Counselor at JPMS. Free and open to adults only, this event comes highly recommended and is not to be missed!

2 Dates to Choose From

Thursday, November 8, 2012
Poolesville Elementary School
7:00 pm to 8:00 pm
(Following the 6:30 pm PES PTA meeting)

Thursday, December 6, 2012
Monocacy Elementary School
9:30 am to 10:30 am

POOLESVILLE
PRIDE
PROMOTING CIVILITY



Welcome back JPMS students and parents!

It is our goal to provide activities to meet the desires of all students. If you have any suggestions for programs or interests, please contact Mrs. Crutchfield at [Winessa R Crutchfield@mcpsmd.org](mailto:Winessa_R_Crutchfield@mcpsmd.org).

Some of the programs offered this year are Books and Boxing, Babysitting Club, Jewelry Making, Zumba Class, Scrapbooking, Game Room, Book Club and much more. Keep checking the *Back Pocket* for upcoming classes.

Chemistry Club – 12/11, 12/18, room 102

Math Club – Wednesdays after school in room 300

Homework Club – Tuesdays and Wednesdays after school in the Media Center

Scrapbooking – Tuesdays and Thursdays beginning November 27th in room 301



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](mailto:Kelly_M_Aulls@mcpsmd.org).

Season's Greetings!

Poolesville's 7th Annual Holiday Lighting Ceremony will take place Friday, December 7. Santa arrives at 6:30 PM, and the Official Lighting will be at 7:00. Come enjoy local choirs; artisan vendors; ice carving demonstrations; warm soup, sandwiches, and funnel cakes; letters to Santa, the Holiday Express kids' train; a very special reading by Mrs. Claus; and new this year: hop on the Polar Express for a ride to various locations throughout town where local shops are offering specials. Be sure and visit the Old Town Hall to let the kids decorate a Gingerbread Man!

Edline Help Guide

An online Edline help manual is now available at the JPMS website. Click on the "Parents" tab to find the Edline Student/Parent Quick-Start Guide, or locate it in the Quick Links column on our home page.

What's the BIG Idea?

"What's the BIG Idea?" is a new, 30-minute monthly podcast hosted by Superintendent Joshua Starr and Chris Lloyd, an MCPS teacher and vice president of the Montgomery County Education Association. The podcast features in-depth conversations about the complexity, challenges, and opportunities facing public education today. On the first episode, the hosts are joined by Sam Chaltain, a DC-based writer and education activist. Visit "What's the BIG Idea?" Podcast at www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/superintendent/podcast/ to listen to the first episode or subscribe to the podcast via iTunes. You also can follow @wtbipodcast on Twitter to get updates about upcoming episodes.

Save the Date!

Important events you won't want to miss!



November 30-Dec. 1	Drama Production (7:00 p.m.)
December 8	Saturday School
December 14	Interims Mailed
December 14	8 th Grade Air and Space Field Trip
December 15	Saturday School
December 17	Blue Ribbon Monday (Wear Blue)
December 19	Winter Concert (7:00 p.m.)
December 24 & 25	Holiday, Christmas
December 27 - 31	Winter Break

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

Our next PTSA meeting will be December 11th at 6:30. Mark your calendars now so you can come and participate!

The Phantom Players will be performing at the Poolesville Town Center Christmas Tree Lighting on December 7, 2012 at 7:00 p.m.



Basketball Schedule (practice is on Tuesdays and Thursdays)

December 6 December 6	Girls play Rocky Hill at JPMS (2:40 p.m.) Boys play Rocky Hill at Rocky Hill (3:00 p.m.)
December 13 December 13	Boys play Neelsville at JPMS (2:40 p.m.) Girls play Neelsville at Neelsville (3:00 p.m.)
December 20 December 20	Girls play Baker at JPMS (2:40 p.m.) Boys play Baker at Baker (3:00 p.m.)
January 24 January 24	Boys play King at JPMS (2:40 p.m.) Girls play King at King (3:00 p.m.)
January 31 January 31	Girls play Kingsview at JPMS (2:40 p.m.) Boys play Kingsview at Kingsview (3:00 p.m.)
February 7 February 7	Boys play Clemente at JPMS (2:40 p.m.) Girls play Clemente at Clemente (3:00 p.m.)



PHS NEWS

Go Falcons!



December 21 is Alumni Day!

Boys Varsity Basketball

December 6	7:00 p.m.	(A)	PHS vs. Walt Whitman HS at Walt Whitman HS
December 8	3:00 p.m.	(A)	PHS vs. Gaithersburg HS at Gaithersburg HS
December 14	7:00 p.m.	(H)	PHS vs. Wootton HS at PHS
December 17	5:15 p.m.	(H)	PHS vs. Damascus HS at PHS

Girls Varsity Basketball

December 6	7:00 p.m.	(H)	PHS vs. Walt Whitman HS at PHS
December 8	3:00 p.m.	(H)	PHS vs. Gaithersburg HS at PHS
December 14	7:00 p.m.	(A)	PHS vs. Wootton HS at Wootton HS
December 17	7:00 p.m.	(H)	PHS vs. Damascus HS at PHS

CoEd Varsity Swim and Dive

December 1	7:30 p.m.	(A)	PHS vs. Springbrook HS at Olney SC
December 8	9:15 a.m.	(A)	PHS vs. Kennedy HS at Shriver SC
December 9	9:15 a.m.	(A)	PHS vs. Quince Orchard HS at Shriver SC
December 15	11:30 a.m.	(A)	PHS vs. B-CC HS at Olney SC

Boys Varsity Wrestling

December 5	6:00 p.m.	(A)	PHS vs. Blake HS at Blake HS
December 7	4:00 p.m.	(A)	PHS vs. Sherwood HS at Watkins Mill HS
December 7	4:00 p.m.	(A)	PHS vs. Watkins Mill HS at Watkins Mill HS
December 12	6:00 p.m.	(A)	PHS vs. Einstein HS at Einstein HS
December 18	6:00 p.m.	(H)	PHS vs. Northwest HS at PHS

Eleven students from Montgomery Blair, Thomas S. Wootton, Richard Montgomery and **Poolesville** high schools were named semifinalists in the prestigious Siemens Competition in Math, Science and Technology. Only two other Maryland students were named semifinalists. One student from Montgomery Blair High School was named a regional finalist, and will now compete in one of six regional events held in November.

**Congratulations to Meghana Patel,
Poolesville High School's semifinalist!**

Winter Concert – December 13: 7:00 – 8:00 PM

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**

