



**December 13, 2013**

# **John Poole's BACK POCKET**

## **A Thought for Today:**

**Kindness is the language which the deaf can hear and the blind can see.  
- Mark Twain**

# **Let It Snow, Let It Snow...**

Two of the most beautiful words in the English language are “snow day,” and we had a double whammy this week. I loved it! There is now a chance I’ll be ready for Christmas after all!

Of course, for every action there is an equal and opposite reaction, and our lovely time off has to be balanced against the unyielding academic calendar. We have two fewer days to prepare for winter break, so tests have had to be rescheduled, deadlines reset and lessons compacted to fit everything in. Once we get back from vacation, there is basically one week and one weekend before we are in exams.

The best plan is always to go into a vacation with all assignments turned in and every responsibility met. That way families can really relax and enjoy the time off. Please check your child’s interim report, assignment book and Edline to help him or her meet that goal.

We’ll help at this end. Tomorrow is the last Saturday School of 2013. There’s snow in the forecast, but unless MCPS cancels weekend activities, we’ll be here from 8:00 until the last student finishes or 11:30, whichever comes first. Check the MCPS website if you’re wondering if activities are happening. The emergency information phone number is 301-279-3673 if you prefer to call. That number connects you to a recording with the latest MCPS updates.

Today we sent home a letter about our security upgrades. (See the November 15 *Back Pocket* for details.) The letter is also reproduced in this issue in case your copy doesn’t make it home. It is very poignant to be talking about these issues with the anniversary of the Sandy Hook tragedy arriving on Saturday.

We deliberately avoided talking with students about Sandy Hook this week, because each family has its own perspective about bringing up or bringing back painful topics – especially those that could make kids fearful. As you probably have already heard, the families of the murdered children and adults have asked for their loved ones to be remembered this weekend through deliberate acts of kindness. What a meaningful way to transform loss into gain – and how appropriate for this season of hope and peace. Whether or not you link it to Sandy Hook, why not make this weekend a time to help our kids find a way to show kindness? Just a little can go a very long way. – Charlotte Boucher

**Don't miss the  
winter concert!**



**This  
Thursday  
December 19  
7:00 PM  
JPMS Gvm**

# 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!

**Dottie Ballmann**

**Jacob Carin**

**Luke Lightcap**

**Aidan Briancon**

**Tess Insalaco**

**Josephine Mallow**

**Charlie Brill**

**Emily Lewis**

**Emma Parker**



## December's Featured Artists

Look at the beautiful student artwork on display in my office this month! I love the bold colors and intricate designs. And how about the three-dimensional pieces!

Congratulations to Mr. Gemmell and these very talented students!

Endangered Animal Prints by **Aidan Auel** and **Josephine Mallow**

Pop Art Print by **Stefan Fessenden**



Watercolor Trees by **Alayna Dockstader**, **Carter Fry**, and **Emily Bolten**

Mimbres Plate by **Ryan Kasten**

Butterfield Horse by **Alli Haddaway**

Calligraphy and Pattern Print by **Cole Roy**.

Stop by the next time you're in the office to see how great the artwork looks up close. I know you'll be impressed!

And don't miss the fabulous self-portraits on the main-office bulletin board. **James Royal** and **Elise Evans** have done amazing work on these watercolor images.

Students are creating a wide variety of projects in art class, but the quality is uniformly high. What a talented group of students!

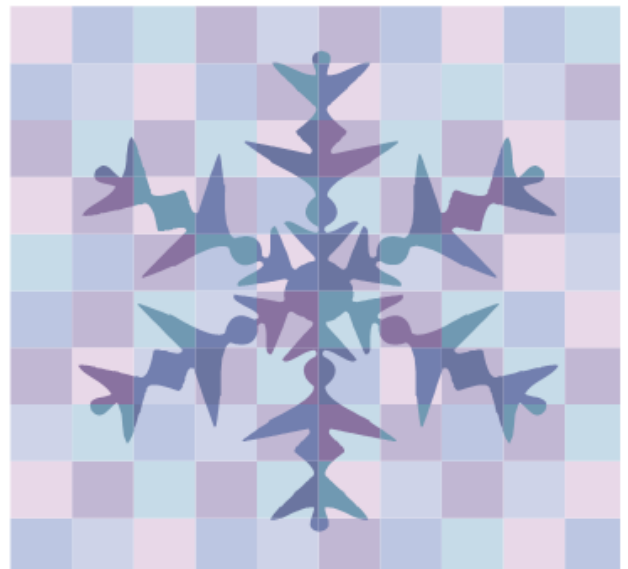


## Winter Break is a great time to serve!

Remember that in order to count toward the SSL requirement, hours must be served through pre-approved organizations and documented on MCPS Form 560-51, *Student Service Learning Activity Verification*. Be sure your form is complete and signed by the leader of your activity! Learn about the SSL graduation requirement and how to meet it in MCPS by referring to the website [www.mcpsssl.org](http://www.mcpsssl.org).



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**All 1st Semester Hours**  
**Are Due to Mrs. Arnold by**  
**January 3!**





Do you want to be a published writer?

Do you like to write?

Do you want to impress your  
friends and family?

Do you want to win a prestigious  
award?

If you answered yes to any of these  
questions, this contest is for you.



## Creative Writing Contest Celebrating Diversity

**Write a poem, a dialogue, a story, or an essay  
celebrating diversity, and enter this contest!**

- You could write about your family's ethnic background or traditions, your religion, important holidays you celebrate, working with students with disabilities, or having a disability.
- You could write about learning about other cultures or celebrating what your culture has in common with others!
- You could make up a fictional poem or story about people from different cultures learning about each other!

**Your writing piece needs to show diversity among  
people in a positive light!**

**To enter, you must submit a registration form and  
your writing to your English teacher by January 17.  
See your English teacher for details.**

# *Celebrating Diversity Through Creative Writing*

## STUDENT PARTICIPATION FORM

BY COMPLETING THE INFORMATION BELOW, YOU AGREE TO PARTICIPATE IN THE FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY MIDDLE SCHOOL WRITING CONTEST, "CELEBRATING DIVERSITY THROUGH CREATIVE WRITING." AS A PARTICIPANT, YOU AGREE TO WRITE AN ESSAY, A SHORT STORY, OR A POEM (INCLUDING A WRITTEN VERSION OF A RAP OR SPOKEN WORD) BASED ON THE THEME, "MY CULTURE." YOU AGREE TO WORK WITH YOUR SCHOOL'S CONTEST CONTACT TO SUBMIT YOUR WORK ON TIME BASED ON THE REQUIREMENTS OF THE CONTEST. FINAL SUBMISSIONS ARE DUE ON THURSDAY, JANUARY 31, 2013, BUT YOU MUST SUBMIT REQUIRED DRAFTS TO THE CONTEST CONTACT AS REQUESTED. PLEASE SEE YOUR SCHOOL'S CONTEST CONTACT, MS. RICE, IF YOU HAVE QUESTIONS.

Student Name \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Name \_\_\_\_\_

Home Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Grade (check one) ☐ 6 ☐ 7 ☐ 8

School Name \_\_\_\_\_



# **John Poole Middle School**

17014 Tom Fox Avenue  
Poolesville, Maryland 20837  
301-972-7979 Fax: 301-972-7982

<http://www.mcpsmd.org/schools/poolems>



*Office of the Principal*

December 13, 2013

Dear Parents/Guardians:

During the next few months, a new access control system (ACS) will be installed at John Poole Middle School. This initiative to enhance school-based security is a component of the Montgomery County Public Schools six-year capital improvements plan, which includes installation of an ACS in all middle schools during the next three years.

The ACS consists of a surveillance camera installed at the school's main entrance with a second camera at another entrance. Signs will direct a visitor to push a button to alert main office staff of your arrival. A remote locking system, controlled from the main office, will allow entry into the building during the period between students' morning arrival times and afternoon dismissal times. When a visitor arrives during these times, he or she will be prompted to press an alert button at the main entrance. Office staff will communicate with the visitor and provide controlled entry into the school. All visitors will be instructed to report to the main office to sign in. Visitors arriving at the secondary entrance will be instructed to enter only through the main entrance. In order to ensure the successful implementation of the ACS, all other entrances to the school building will remain secured at all times.

This initiative and others that will follow are provided to ensure the safety and security of the learning and working environment. Thank you for your continuing support. Please call me if you have questions or wish to discuss this new security initiative.

Sincerely,

Charlotte Chakan Boucher  
Principal

CCB:edu

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

Montgomery County Public Schools





## *Economics for Success*

Dear Parents:

As a result of the economic challenges facing our nation in the last few years, the need for students to begin building a foundation of financial understanding is greater than ever. Maryland has mandated that all schools systems include instruction of the Maryland Standards for Financial Literacy at the Elementary, Middle, and High School levels. In the middle schools of Montgomery County Public Schools these standards will be addressed through social studies classes in Grades Six and Seven.

This year, students in Grade Six will take part in five lessons from the Junior Achievement program, Economics for Success. Junior Achievement has been a long-standing partner with MCPS in delivering volunteer-led lessons to students throughout the county. Volunteers are drawn from local businesses and community organizations as well as the parent community. Economics for Success explores personal finance and students' education and career options based on their skills, interests, and values.

Junior Achievement (JA) is seeking adult volunteers to teach prepared, interactive [lessons](#) about goal-setting, budgeting, insurance and credit to 6<sup>th</sup> grade students at John Poole Middle School.

Training and materials are provided. Volunteers teach with a professional educator in the classroom and receive constant support from Junior Achievement staff.

There is something to fit everyone's schedule—JA staff will help you find the class time that meets your schedule, or you can volunteer in your child's social studies class! The time commitment is 45 minutes per week for five weeks during the school day. John Poole will participate on the following dates: **1/30, 2/6, 2/13, 2/20, 2/27 (Snow Date - 2/25)**

Junior Achievement's [partnership with Montgomery County Public Schools](#) supports the State of Maryland mandate for financial literacy education. This is a [prime](#) opportunity to give back to our community by sharing your economic 'life lessons'!

To learn more, contact Jeni Pastier at [jeni.pastier@ja.org](mailto:jeni.pastier@ja.org) or 301-838-0471.

Junior Achievement of Greater Washington  
804 West Diamond Avenue, Suite 300, Gaithersburg, MD 20878  
301-838-0471  
[jeni.pastier@ja.org](mailto:jeni.pastier@ja.org)  
[www.myJA.org](http://www.myJA.org)

District of Columbia  
Main Office  
1050 17<sup>th</sup> Street, NW  
Suite 750  
Washington, DC 20036  
202-296-1200

Virginia  
4099 Pickett Road  
Fairfax, VA 22032  
703-426-1560

Maryland  
804 West Diamond Avenue  
Suite 300  
Gaithersburg, MD 20878  
301-838-0470

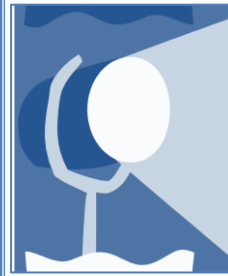
[www.myJA.org](http://www.myJA.org)

Work Readiness | Entrepreneurship | Financial Literacy

John Poole Middle School



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



## Spotlight on...

### Contributing to Your School

PTSA fundraising pays for  
programs and facilities that  
benefit all our kids.

Questions? Ideas? Opinions?  
Getting in touch with your PTSA is as easy  
as sending an email message!

JPMSPTSA@gmail.com

Membership and volunteer forms are available at the JPMS website:

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

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

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

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

## Giving to the PTSA Makes it Possible to Provide More for Our Children

The PTSA will officially begin its Donation Drive in February 2014. Our target this year is \$6,000 in donations.

In preparation for the Donation Drive, we encourage parents to investigate their company's giving campaigns and donation matching policies. Many organizations match donations made from an employee to a non-profit organization like the JPMS PTSA.

If you would like to get a donation in before the end of the calendar year to increase your 2013 charitable donations, please drop a check off in the office at the school. The check should be made out to JPMS PTSA.

We will continue to share more information about this effort as we approach February. The JPMS PTSA wants to thank our families for their support of our school and wishes everyone a safe and happy holiday season.





# Defining the Holidays: Creating Family Traditions



by Pam Mintz, YMCA Youth & Family Services [parenting@ymcadc.org](mailto:parenting@ymcadc.org) 301 229-1347

- Ask your kids what they remember about past holidays, what was most important to them. (If the response is presents, ask about what else they remember.) Talk about traditions and how your family can create ones that mean the most to them.
- Be aware that just because it's a special time doesn't mean that family tensions and relationship issues can be put on hold. Be realistic!!!
- Give your child a beginning, a middle, and an end to the holiday. Design practices that show when the holiday is starting for this family. For example, Christmas starts when we get out the Christmas music or Christmas starts when we buy or go cut down the tree. Christmas ends when we pack up the decorations and put them away until next year.
- Read a different holiday book each night or week. Reading about Hanukkah, Kwanzaa, and Winter Solstice can be an opportunity to discuss how other cultures celebrate holidays at this time of year and can stimulate an "interest in the interests of others".
- Create family traditions around doing things together: cook together, watch a holiday movie, create a memory book, decorate the house, sing, dance, have a talent show, set out a jigsaw puzzle, play games inside or outside (a multiple family soccer game).
- Give your child realistic expectations about gifts; if what they want is not going to happen, let them know. This might be an opportunity to talk about your values and your budget.
- Realize that what is most important for kids is joyful family time together. Don't let the pressures of the schedule crowd out the important "just being together" time. Have realistic expectations of what your kids can handle successfully in terms of social events. Practice saying "We'd love to see you, let's get a date scheduled for January".
- Recognize when you are getting overwhelmed by the need to create the ideal holiday – prioritizing family time may feel like you are lowering your standards but will allow you to enjoy the time too. A big step for me was realizing I could just buy the pies!
- Go to a religious service (any service, any religion and talk about the meaning and history of the holiday for different people and past generations).
- Gifts: Be sure kids are on the giving end, not just the receiving. Talk to your extended family if the sheer number of gifts is overwhelming. Encourage gifts of time: a special event, a regularly scheduled "just the two of us" lunch. Kids can give these too: 'coupons' good for helping with fixing dinner, going with you grocery shopping and other tasks that are not their regular responsibility. Encourage gifts from the heart: homemade items, books that you want to share, have each person find a poem for each person, write a story, draw a picture. If you want to downplay the gifts, find other activities to fill the time: light a menorah, fry up some latkes, go cut down a holiday tree together, make the ornaments, make gingerbread houses, sing, go to a special performance like the Nutcracker Suite, go for a hike, visit holiday displays.
- Find ways for kids to become part of the family's donations to charities. Sponsor a family for the holiday, visit an animal shelter, allow each child to pick an organization for a donation (institute an allowance plan that includes the child's own donations, % for savings, % for giving, % for own spending.)

# Winter Weather May Be ~~On the Way~~ Is Here!



The last few winters have been usually mild – maybe this one will be the hard season we lovers of snow days have been waiting for! Whatever the season brings, it's time to refresh our memories about how MCPS responds when the weather gets tough.

Winter weather emergencies, such as snow and ice, may cause disruptions in school operations, including the closure of school, a delayed opening, or an early dismissal. Here is some information about the procedures used when such disruptions occur and about the weather contingency plan that would add student instructional days to the end of the scheduled school year if schools are closed for more than four days due to weather emergencies.

## **Closure of School**

When schools are closed systemwide, all instructional programs and extracurricular activities in schools are canceled. Private day-care providers in school buildings may elect to stay open if the schools are closed but the administrative offices are open. In extreme conditions, administrative offices may also be closed. If this occurs, private day-care programs located in school buildings are closed as well.

## **Delayed Opening**

A delayed opening means that schools open two hours later than scheduled. All buses operate on the same delayed schedule and, therefore, the pick-up times are two hours later than normal. When elementary schools open on a delayed schedule, morning sessions of Head Start, prekindergarten, and other specialized programs or field trips scheduled before 10:30 a.m. are canceled. Activities that begin after 10:30 a.m. will be held as scheduled. Afternoon sessions of prekindergarten begin at the regular time. Parents should continue to check for radio, television, or Web announcements in the event a decision to delay the opening of schools is reconsidered and a decision to close schools for the day is made (by 7:00 a.m.).

## **Early Dismissal**

An early dismissal means that schools will close 2.5 hours earlier than scheduled. All buses operate on that same early schedule and, therefore, drop-off times are 2.5 hours earlier than normal. When elementary schools close early, afternoon prekindergarten and other early childhood programs are canceled, as well as any special programs or field trips scheduled after 10:30 a.m. Morning prekindergarten and morning half-day Head Start students will be dismissed at 10:30 a.m.

## **Public Announcements**

Information about school operations is announced publicly as soon as possible on area radio and television stations, Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) Cable TV (Comcast Channel 34, Verizon FIOS Channel 36, RCN Channel 89), Outlook, on the Internet at

[www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org](http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org), and on a recorded telephone message at 301-279-3673.

Emergency announcements are available by signing up for MCPS *QuickNotes* and *Alert MCPS* text and e-mail notifications on the school system's home page. If schools are closed or delayed, the announcement is made no later than 6:00 a.m. (or the night before if possible). If schools are closing early, the announcement is made by 11:00 a.m.

## Emergency Weather Contingency Plan

An emergency weather contingency plan will add student instructional days to the end of the scheduled school year if schools are closed more than four days because of weather emergencies. The planned school year for students ends on Tuesday, June 14, 2013. However, if schools are closed for more than four days due to weather emergencies, the following schedule would extend the school year in order to add the necessary make-up days:

1. If schools are closed for five days, the school year will be extended by one day to June 13, 2014.
2. If schools are closed for six days, the school year will be extended by two days to June 13 and June 16, 2014.
3. If schools are closed seven days, the school year will be extended by three days to June 13, June 16, and June 17, 2014.
4. If schools are closed for eight days, the school year will be extended by four days to June 13, June 16, June 17, and June 18, 2014.
5. If schools are closed nine days, the school year will be extended by five days to June 13, June 16, June 17, June 18, and June 19, 2014.

## Weather Conditions and Decisions



The school system uses a variety of sources of information to determine whether to close schools, delay the opening of schools, or dismiss schools early. These sources include actual physical inspection of road and school conditions by Department of Transportation officials and other staff at areas throughout the county, and an analysis of independent reports from the National Weather Service, Accu-Weather, and the news media. The most severe weather conditions within the county are used as the basis for decision making. Consistent procedures are maintained in order to respond quickly to emergency weather conditions and protect the safety and well-being of students.

All public schools within Montgomery County adhere to the same schedule relating to emergency weather conditions. The decision to change school operations is made by the superintendent of schools or his designee and affects all schools within the school system.

# Coming Soon to JPMS

## Thanks to the generosity of our wonderful parents:



# WeatherBug®

Your Weather Just Got Better®



# Superintendent's Fiscal Year 2015 Operating Budget Recommendation

December 2013

Superintendent Joshua P. Starr released his Fiscal Year (FY) 2015 Operating Budget recommendation after receiving significant internal and external input. This included more than 200 students, staff, parents, and community members who participated in focus groups and budget planning teams. The budget was developed in full partnership with the employee associations that represent Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) employees—MCEA, MCAAP/MCBOA and SEIU Local 500—and the Montgomery County Council of Parent-Teacher Associations (MCCPTA), and in alignment with the Board of Education's budget interests.

This budget is the continuation of a multiyear budgeting strategy that began in FY 2014 and is focused on three key areas:

- Managing the district's continued growth
- Re-energizing efforts to narrow achievement gaps
- Investing in our future

The budget recommendation continues the commitment of MCPS and the Board of Education to allocating resources to schools based on enrollment and need. This includes providing extra funds to schools that are more impacted by poverty. For instance, MCPS provides, on average, \$1.9 million in additional money per school to the district's 67 most impacted elementary schools, which is used to hire additional staff, offer prekindergarten classes, and lower class sizes in grades K-2.

## FY 2015 Operating Budget Overview

Dr. Starr is recommending a \$2.282 billion operating budget for FY 2015, which is an increase of \$56.4 million, or 2.5 percent, over FY 2014 (the current fiscal year). The budget is about 1 percent (\$17.4 million) above the minimum county funding level required by state law.

This recommendation should be considered preliminary for a number of reasons:

- Uncertainty about the level of state funding MCPS will receive
- Uncertainty about the county's economic situation
- Ongoing negotiations with the employee associations (compensation increases for FY 2015 are not included in Dr. Starr's recommendation)

## Managing Growth

Eighty-five percent of Dr. Starr's recommended budget increase is dedicated to managing growth and continuing costs. Enrollment this school year is 151,289 students, an increase of more than 2,500 students from last school year and nearly 14,000 students over the past six years. Enrollment is expected to increase by 11,000 students over the next six years. At the same time, a greater number of MCPS students require specific services and support to ensure success. More than 52,500 students (35% of total enrollment) now receive free and reduced-price meals, an increase of more than 14,500 students

since 2008. Nearly 20,000 students (13.2% of enrollment) receive English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) services. This number has doubled since 2000.

- Dr. Starr's recommendation includes \$21.9 million to address enrollment changes, including—
  - 178 elementary and secondary positions to serve an additional 2,721 students;
  - 8 positions to serve additional ESOL students; and
  - 75 positions to increase individualized services for special education students.
- This budget also includes \$6.8 million for continuing salary costs and \$17.3 million to cover increased costs for providing benefits for current and retired employees. The money for benefits includes \$3.3 million for state teacher pension costs.
- \$3.3 million in efficiencies and reductions are included in Dr. Starr's budget, including further cuts to central services, which have been reduced considerably in the past five years.

## Embracing the New to Narrow Achievement Gaps and Face Future Opportunities

Over the past decade, MCPS has had tremendous success narrowing the achievement gap in some areas, including Advanced Placement access and success, early grades reading, and graduation rates. In other areas, the gaps have been more persistent. At the same time, MCPS is preparing its students and staff for the future. This includes the implementation of the Common Core State Standards (CCSS); new, more rigorous state and national assessments; and a workplace that will require students to have a very different set of skills and knowledge. The MCPS Strategic Planning Framework—*Building Our Future Together: Students, Staff and Community*—identifies the key competencies that students will need for success in the 21st century so they can thrive in their futures: academic excellence, creative problem solving, and social emotional learning. Along with a commitment to organizational effectiveness, Dr. Starr's budget invests money in strategic areas to deepen the district's efforts to narrow gaps and prepare our students for their futures.

In FY 2014, the first year of the multiyear budgeting strategy, MCPS invested and reallocated funds to address specific areas of need, despite receiving a budget at the minimum county funding level. These areas included placing additional teachers in middle schools to address achievement gaps; additional staff to improve mathematics teaching and learning; and an increase in professional development around the CCSS and Curriculum 2.0. MCPS also began two programs aimed at providing customized support to schools and improving timely interventions to students who are struggling. The Innovation and Interventions Schools Networks did not have a budgetary impact in FY 2014, but required the realignment of funds and central office services.



Dr. Starr's Recommended FY 2015 Operating Budget builds on the investments made in FY 2014 with \$11.8 million in enhancements and restorations, as well as the realignment of some existing funds.

- **Districtwide Investments:** Dr. Starr is recommending additional funding aimed at fostering innovation and improved instruction and support across all grade levels, including—

- \$800,000 to begin an effort that will encourage exemplary teachers to move to or stay in high-needs schools. These funds will provide teacher salary supplements for up to 250 teachers, who will provide instruction and leadership. The funding also includes grants that schools can use to improve teaching and learning;
- \$3 million for the purchase of technology, mainly tablets, to enhance instruction and properly deliver new state assessments;
- \$947,109 to continue a multiyear effort to improve the student support model. These funds will add 5.5 elementary school counselors, 4 school psychologists, and 3 pupil personnel workers, with more positions to be added in future years to lower caseloads; and
- \$300,000 to provide additional support and coaching to Innovation and Interventions Schools Networks.

- **Middle Schools:** Some of the district's largest achievement gaps are in middle schools and Dr. Starr's recommendation continues to invest in improving this key area, including—

- \$1.45 million that will fund positions in 21 middle schools to provide focused support to ESOL students; and
- \$704,167 that will provide middle school teacher leaders more opportunities to engage and support educators and school staff.

- **High Schools:** To support the improvement and redesign of MCPS high schools, Dr. Starr's budget recommends several additional investments, including—

- \$977,145 for 15 high school focus teachers that, in combination with 23.5 existing positions, will reduce English and mathematics class sizes in the district's most impacted schools;
- \$996,918 for additional positions that will allow high school resource and staff development teachers to increase opportunities for planning, coaching, and professional learning in high schools;
- \$136,534, combined with \$300,000 in realigned funds, to redesign Alternative Programs. These funds will help provide more individualized instruction and support to students who have not been successful in traditional school settings; and
- \$49,500 to further project-based learning at Wheaton High School, which will serve as a model for the district on how to engage students in instruction that builds academic excellence and creative problem-solving skills.

- **Elementary Schools:** In addition to providing additional resources to the 67 elementary schools most impacted by poverty, Dr. Starr's budget recommendation includes—

- \$251,832 to create additional team leader positions in some elementary schools that serve

higher special education and ESOL populations, as well as the arts;

- \$456,000 for teachers to support the expansion of the compacted mathematics curriculum to Grade 5; and

- \$541,677 to restore various positions in smaller elementary schools that have been reduced over the past five years, including staff development teachers, reading specialists, media specialists, and counselors.

- **Building Community Partnerships and Engagement:** To support the mission of the *Building Our Future Together* Framework, Dr. Starr's budget invests in the expansion of community partnerships that support student success, including—

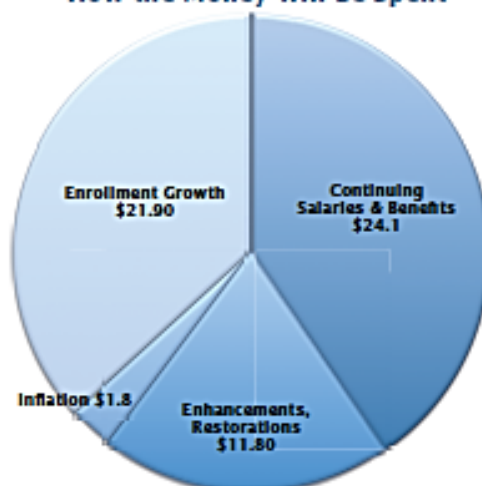
- \$118,157 to expand the Kennedy Cluster Project, a multiagency partnership that provides students and families with access to healthcare, housing, financial assistance, and other social services. These funds would extend the program into the Watkins Mill Cluster;
- \$148,480 to expand transportation for students in Excel Beyond the Bell, a collaborative effort that provides high-quality after-school programs in middle schools that are impacted by poverty; and
- \$532,230 to add positions to the Office of Community Engagement and Partnerships as part of a multiyear effort to develop business and community connections and provide support to parents in our schools.

#### Sources of Revenue for FY 2015 Budget Increase (\$ in millions)

		Total
Local Required Funding:		
Maintenance of Effort	\$25.3	
Pension Shift from State	3.3	\$28.6
Local Above Maintenance of Effort		17.4
State Aid		14.0*
Federal Aid		(-4.3)
Other		0.7
Total Revenue Increase		\$56.4

\*estimated

#### FY 2015 Operating Budget Increase How the Money Will Be Spent



**Efficiencies and Reductions: (\$3.3 million)**  
**TOTAL: \$56.4 million**

Note: Totals may vary slightly due to rounding.



# Noteworthy

## Monday is the last Blue Ribbon Monday of 2013

Remind your child to support our PRIDE values by wearing Blue this Monday!

## Drama Fundraiser

On Tuesday, December 17 from 5:00 to 8:00 p.m. the Phantom Players will have a gift wrapping fundraiser at the Old Town Bank. Bring your gifts and we will wrap and tag them for you. Donations will be gladly accepted. If you have any questions email [Dturner322@aol.com](mailto:Dturner322@aol.com)

## Winter Programs at the National Wildlife Visitor Center

The Visitor Center is located on Powder Mill Road between the Baltimore-Washington Parkway and Rt. 197. There are some wonderful opportunities for kids and the whole family to enjoy the outdoors in winter!

**Bird Count 4 Kids** takes place on Saturday, January 11th, 8:30 am -1:00 pm, Ages 5-14. Join experienced birders as you discover what birds are out and about in Maryland during the winter. This half-day event is patterned after the National Audubon Society's Christmas Bird Count. Bring binoculars and a field guide if you have them (some will be provided). Dress for the weather and wear comfortable shoes or boots. Bring a brown-bag lunch and a curiosity for birding! At least one parent or guardian must attend. Please register by January 7th by calling 301-497-5887. Registration is required.

**Winter Walk** is **scheduled for** Saturday, January 18th, 1:00-2:00 pm, Ages 5+ Join a naturalist on this forest walk to learn about common trees while looking and listening for signs of wildlife along the trail. Registration is required.

**Bird Walk** is a program at the North Tract, located on Rt. 198 between the Baltimore-Washington Parkway and Rt. 32. It will take place on Sunday, January 19th, 8:15-10:15 am, and is for all ages Search for birds in several refuge habitats on this guided hike. Field guides and binoculars are recommended. Registration is required.

**Owl Prowl.** Also at the North Tract, will be held on Sunday, January 19th, 4:45-6:15 pm, Ages 10+. Explore the refuge at night while looking and listening for owls. Registration is required.

## Winter Weather Plans

Earlier in this issue you will find reminders of how to receive news about school closings, delayed openings and early releases due to inclement weather. It is also very helpful for working parents to have an emergency plan for times when you can't get home to be with your children.

If the weather is so bad that we have to close school early, it may not close your place of business. In addition, the roads may be so bad that it takes unusually long for you to get back home even if you can leave work early. What to do? Please connect with family, friends or neighbors to agree who will be responsible for your children in case of bad weather when you cannot be there yourself. If you want a neighbor or family member to pick your child up from



school, you need to give us permission to release your child to that person. If you send a note in to Mrs. Ogden now, she will have it on file for the rest of the year and you don't have to worry if we have an early release for bad weather. If you want your child to report to a neighbor, please be sure he or she knows where to go in case you cannot get home, and remind everyone to keep your work or cell number handy so you can get a call as soon as the kids are safe and warm in the designated location.

Having a foul weather plan that everyone knows in advance can really lower your stress when the weather gets bad!

## After School Activities

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



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

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

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

**Homework Club** (Tuesday)

**Drama Club** (Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday)

**Basketball Practice** (Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday)

**Extended Day Reading Classes** (Tuesday)

**Zumba Club** (Tuesday) – Low enrollment, students needed to keep program alive!

**Leo Club** (Wednesday)

**HERO Club** (Wednesday)

**Magnet Prep Class** (Wednesday) – Class Full

**Yoga** (Wednesday and Thursday) – Low enrollment, students needed to keep program alive!

**Jazz Band** (Wednesday)

**Newspaper Club** (Wednesday)

**Math Extended Day** (Thursday)

**Running Club** (December 11, & 18; January 8, 15, 22, & 29; February 5, 12, 19, & 26; March 5)

## Running Club

Do you need something to do after school? The running club just might be the place for you. Mr. Gemmell holds running club on Wednesdays. While at running club you will get a chance to run throughout the neighborhood with your friends, work out in the weight room, play basketball and many fun activities. Permission slips can be picked up in the locker rooms or from Mr. Gemmell. If you have any questions please see Mr. Gemmell or Mrs. Gerrie.

## Did You Catch PHS on Channel 9's Cool School Segment this week?

If not, here's the link to see it online.

[http://www.wusa9.com/\(X\(1\)A\(92EZIV22zAEkAAAAMzFkZWM3NzQtYjg3My00NzBiLTljZTgtZjk4NThmOTE0MmE4gDM05vFDPcmfgzctcqAxjFx6vJ81\)\)/news/morning/CoolSchools/article/285820/377/Cool-Schools-Chocolate-on-Mars](http://www.wusa9.com/(X(1)A(92EZIV22zAEkAAAAMzFkZWM3NzQtYjg3My00NzBiLTljZTgtZjk4NThmOTE0MmE4gDM05vFDPcmfgzctcqAxjFx6vJ81))/news/morning/CoolSchools/article/285820/377/Cool-Schools-Chocolate-on-Mars)

# *Give the gift that lasts a Lifetime!*



## **Order Your 2014 Yearbook NOW.**

Dear Parents & Students,

We look forward to an amazing year at John Poole Middle School! Our yearbook staff will be there to capture all the big events of the school year. Pre-order your child's yearbook **NOW**.

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

Please order online at [jostensyearbooks.com](http://jostensyearbooks.com) as John Poole Middle School does not accept any in-school purchases.

Online payment options include credit card, debit, personal check, Bill Me Later, Paypal or monthly installment option. Yearbooks may sell out, so order **NOW** and reserve your copy today!

NEED A HOLIDAY GIFT IDEA? Order your child's yearbook today and then share one of the certificates below with them to let them know that they will be receiving a yearbook.

**Tenemos  
un anuario  
a tu  
nombre.**

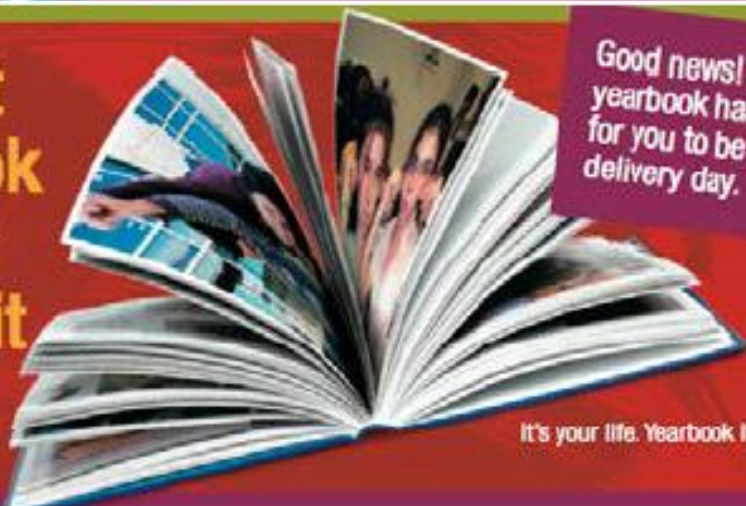


¡Buenas noticias! Se ha reservado un anuario personalizado para ti para que lo recojas el día de entrega.

Es tu vida. ¡Ponla en un anuario!



**We've got  
a yearbook  
with your  
name on it**



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

It's your life. Yearbook it!





# Save the Date!



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

December 13	Interims Mailed
December 16	<b>Blue Ribbon Monday</b> (Wear <b>Blue</b> )
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)
December 24 – 25	Holiday - Christmas
January 1	Holiday – New Year's Day

## JPMS Basketball Schedule

December 18	Girls play Kingsview at JPMS (2:40 p.m.)
December 18	Boys play Kingsview at Kingsview (3:00 p.m.)
January 28	Boys play Baker at JPMS (2:40 p.m.)
January 28	Girls play Baker at Baker (3:00 p.m.)
January 30	Girls play Neelsville at JPMS (2:40 p.m.)
January 30	Boys play Neelsville at Neelsville (3:00 p.m.)
February 5	Girls play Rocky Hill at JPMS (2:40 p.m.)
February 5	Boys play Rocky Hill at Rocky Hill (3:00 p.m.)
February 11	Boys play King at JPMS (2:40 p.m.)
February 11	Girls play King at King (3:00 p.m.)



# Save the Date



- ▶ Looking for the presenters for our
- ▶ **Career Day April 24<sup>th</sup> 2014.**
- ▶ Please contact Diane Kitts in Counseling  
310-972-7980 if you are available!
- ▶ Thank you!

# PHS NEWS

*Go Falcons!*



## Congratulations to the Digital Forensics Challenge Team!

12th overall in the world, 9th overall in the United States,  
top high school team in the world for the third year in a row!! Check it out:

<http://www.dc3.mil/challenge/2013/stats/leaderboard.php>



The SGA has once again teamed up with the United States Marine Corp for its annual Toys for Tots drive. Please keep in mind the children in need in Montgomery County when [shopping](#) this holiday season. We are collecting unwrapped, new [gifts](#) valued around \$10 for children ranging from ages 2 to 17. The drive runs from

November 25th through December 16th (this is the date that the Marines will come pick up our donations).

[Donation](#) boxes will be located in the Main Lobby of the school.

## Poolsville High School Athletics (Winter)

### Boys Varsity Basketball

12/13/13	7:00 p.m.	PHS vs. Watkins Mill HS at PHS
12/16/13	7:00 p.m.	PHS vs. Rockville HS at PHS
12/18/13	7:00 p.m.	PHS vs. Seneca Valley HS at Seneca Valley HS
12/20/13	7:00 p.m.	PHS vs. Blake HS at Blake HS
1/6/14	7:00 p.m.	PHS vs. Damascus HS at PHS
1/10/14	7:00 p.m.	PHS vs. Northwood HS at Northwood HS

### Girls Varsity Basketball

12/13/13	7:00 p.m.	PHS vs. Watkins Mill HS at Watkins Mill HS
12/16/13	5:15 p.m.	PHS vs. Rockville HS at PHS
12/18/13	5:15 p.m.	PHS vs. Seneca Valley HS at Seneca Valley HS
12/20/13	5:15 p.m.	PHS vs. Blake HS at Blake HS
12/28/13	TBA	PHS vs. Oakland Mills Holiday at Oakland Mills
1/6/14	5:15 p.m.	PHS vs. Damascus at PHS
1/10/14	5:15 p.m.	PHS vs. Northwood HS at Northwood HS



### CoEd Varsity Swim and Dive

12/14/13	11:30 a.m.	PHS and Walter Johnson at Kennedy Shriver Aquatic Center
12/21/13	9:15 a.m.	PHS and Richard Montgomery at Germantown Indoor Swim Center
1/4/14	11:30 a.m.	PHS vs. Churchill at Martin Luther King Swim Center

### Boys Varsity Wrestling

12/17/13	6:00 p.m.	PHS vs. Wheaton HS at Wheaton HS
12/19/13	6:00 p.m.	PHS vs. Richard Montgomery HS at PHS
1/4/14	1:00 p.m.	PHS vs. Northwood HS at Northwood 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
Special Education IRT	- Ms. Turnbull
Counseling - (Ms. Kitts, Secretary)	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**

