



May 30, 2014

John Poole's BACK POCKET

A Thought for Today:

What lies behind us and what lies before us are tiny matters compared to what lies within us.

- Ralph Waldo Emerson

June Is Bustin' Out All Over!

This last week in May is a huge transition. Now we are turning from instruction to review and tying up loose ends for the year. Yearbooks have arrived and the last day to check materials out from the media center has come and gone. One week from today, every student in all grades will be taking an English exam. The end is near...

BUT, we still have important work to do. Reteaching and reassessment are extra important now, because there are just no do-overs at the end of this term. Getting homework in is still a big priority, and studying for exams needs to begin so the material sticks. Most of us have had the experience of cramming at the last minute for a test and then forgetting everything the next day.

And at home there are lots of things you can help us with. Of course, this time of year we're always sensitive to wardrobe malfunctions. Going to school is our children's job, and JPMS is their workplace, so they need to come Dressed for Success. It's so hard when the cutest fashions involve skimpy short shorts, bare shoulders and underwear peeking out, but all those beach and pool outfits are distracting on the job. Anyway, the air conditioning is on and it's too cold for hot-weather wear. Please make sure your child is coming to school with shoulders, tummy, bottom and underwear covered!

There are also lots of books and other materials assigned during the year that need to be returned to school. The price of textbooks is outrageous these days, so losing just one can put a major dent in the budget and generate problems when it's time to clear. Students are beginning to receive notices called *obligations* when they have missing materials. Please ask your child about end of year obligations and work with him or her to get everything turned back in as soon as possible.

Because students are returning their materials, they have less and less to carry each day. Today was the preliminary locker clean-out, and by this time next week, there should be very little besides lunch and a binder for kids to bring to school. We have students stop carrying back packs because they don't need them and all too often, the back pack is where that "lost" library book or sheet music is hiding out. Please strategize with your child about how to manage his or her belongings – bring home that winter coat that's been clogging up your locker for example! – and lose the pounds he or she has lugged around in the backpack all year.

Congratulations to all the families whose children are graduating from PHS on Monday. We share your pride in their accomplishments. – 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!

Gabriella Brooks

Chase Hilegas

James Savage

Nicolas Cayzedo

Zachary Lease

Bostyn Smith

Vivian Galentine

Stephanie Parker

Liam Speck-McMorris



Music in the Park

by Vincent Chim and Izzy Gibbs with editing by Alexis Abrigo

The 2014 Music Festival in Hershey Park was an amazing experience for our participating JPMS musicians. The Jazz Band then Orchestra kicked off the performances at the Hershey Lodge followed by the Concert Band performing at the Lower Dauphin High School. Then everyone changed out of their performing attire to go enjoy time at the park.

Plenty of students went on fast rides, such as Storm Runner and Sky Rush. Others went on loud rides like the Great Bear. At 6:00 p.m. all musicians gathered in the Music in the Parks arena for the award ceremony. Our Orchestra, Jazz band, and Concert band all received ratings of good. Orchestra and Jazz band received first place and Concert band finished in third place.

After everyone received their very shiny trophies we all got to enjoy a few more hours in the park and taking tours in Chocolate World or buying some merchandise in the gift shops. At 9:00 p.m. everyone boarded our bus to close our exciting trip. Thanks Ms. Sprague for making our trip possible and thanks to all the chaperones for looking over us at the park!



A Trip to the US Capitol

Members of the Student Government Association visited the US Capitol on Tuesday, May 27th for a look at representative government in action. Students visited the crypt, saw a replica of the Magna Charta, viewed scenes from American history hanging in the Rotunda, and toured the Hall of Whispers (the old House of Representatives). Thanks to the staff of Congressman Van Hollen for setting up the tour and our visit to the House Gallery.



Smith Island Green School Field Trip

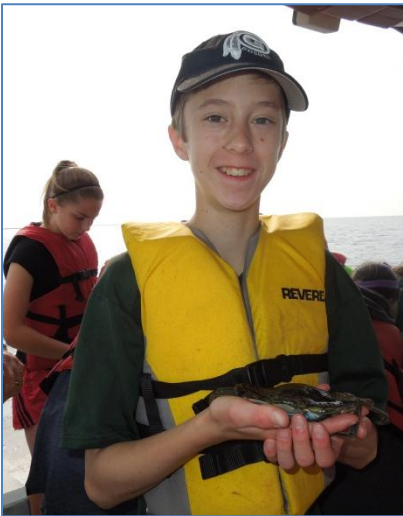
By Ali Ransom 7th grade

On May twenty first to the twenty third, eighteen JPMS students, as well as three teacher volunteers and one parent, went on the field trip to the tiny town of Tylerton on Smith Island. This three day and two night trip was a once in a life time experience to learn about island life and the environment. We did many things on the island but we never knew what exactly we were



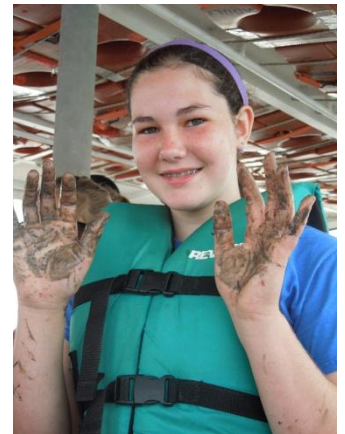
going to do next. Having “island time” helped us focus on what we were doing in the now instead of later on the trip.

A few of the things we did on the island were: crabbing, marsh mucking, testing water quality, preparing a health of the bay report card, learning the geography of the island, learning about island life, discovering the Bay’s biodiversity, eating home cooked meals, eating the Maryland state dessert - an eight layer yellow cake with fudge icing - and much more.



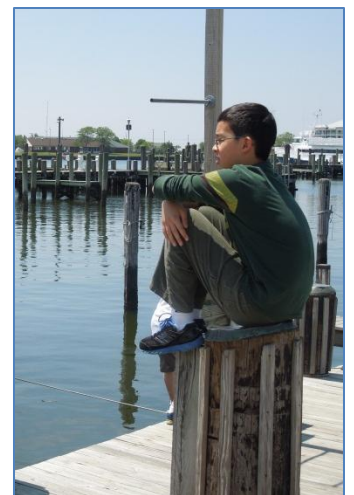
muskrats of the marsh, and we had an Olympic belly sliding contest. We then swam around in a mud pit. After all this was completed we took a

quick rinse off in the bay and went back to Tylerton for a dock shower. That was the only shower we got in those three days.



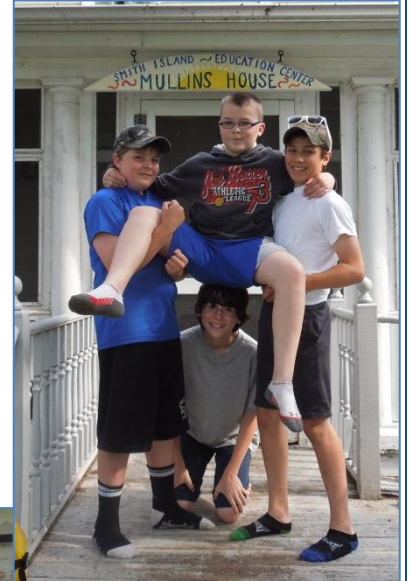
that are taken care of by everyone as well as two peacocks. Both of the peacocks are male but one of them has a mutation in its genes that makes it white. (It is not an albino, though.)

The food was also amazing. Two nice ladies cooked our dinner for us as well as made the cakes. We had two choices besides the state cake and we chose Reeses and banana cream. The banana cream one was the best in my opinion.





Overall this field trip is one everyone who went on it will remember for the rest of their lives. I hope there will be more trips so others can experience the wonderful island life.





End of the Year Awards

All year long, we recognize our wonderful students for their many accomplishments in and out of the classroom. Because school is out when fourth quarter report cards are ready to go home, we have no Honor Roll celebration this marking term, but we make sure awards are distributed before we head out for the summer.

Of course, the biggest honors are accorded our departing 8th graders. They have a special promotion ceremony next Thursday morning, June 12, to which parents are invited. Grade 8 Awards will be presented at the promotion. Younger students get their awards here at school in front of their classmates. Distribution of subject awards for 6th and 7th graders has already begun this week.

Here are the end-of-year awards for which *all three grades* are eligible:

- **Perfect Attendance** (No days missed during the school year)
- **Straight A's** (All A's during the first three marking terms of the year)
- **Subject Awards** (Exemplifies the school vision; personifies JPMS PRIDE; GPA is among the top 5% of the class in that subject)

These awards are given only to 8th graders:

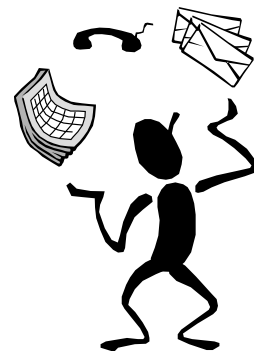
- **Perfect Attendance** (No days missed for all three years)
- **Straight A's** (All A's in Grades 6 and 7 as well as during the first three marking terms of Grade 8)
- **Presidential Award** (GPA greater than 3.5 for every marking period in middle school through Quarter 3 of Grade 8)
- **Academic Improvement Award** (Significant overall improvement in GPA from Quarter 1 through Quarter 3 in 8th grade; exemplifies the school vision; personifies JPMS PRIDE)
- **Service Learning Award** (All students who have earned more than 100 SSL hours by April 30 of Grade 8)
- **Odd Fellows Award** (Two students who have earned the most SSL hours through April 30 of Grade 8)
- **American Legion Award** (Honor, Leadership, Patriotism, Scholarship, and Service; nominated by all staff and selected by staff vote)

The highest accolade we accord our 8th graders is **The Linda Fiore Memorial Award**. Named for the first principal of John Poole Middle School, this award focuses on the qualities Mrs. Fiore established through her leadership as hallmarks of our school. The honoree must have attended JPMS all three years and consistently demonstrated academic growth, effective interpersonal skills, effective use of technology, and perseverance in overcoming obstacle(s) and/or problem-solving. Selection is made by nomination and vote of the staff.

In this year's final issue of the *Back Pocket*, which comes out on June 13, we'll feature the names of all our student award winners; but first, we have to get through exams!



Ending an Unusual School Year with Some Different Procedures



It has been a long time since the school year has had to be extended due to missed winter days, and this year's calendar adjustments came late enough in the school year that we have really had to think creatively to be able to fit everything into the last few days of school in June. We recognize that many families have made plans well in advance to end the year with events that cannot be reorganized now, and it's too late for us to change bookings we made months ago for Smokey Glen, Hershey Park, buses, and all the other pieces of the end of year activities that require reservations and deposits. So we've decided to handle some aspects of our closing procedures differently this year, beginning with exams.

As you probably remember from the exam schedule at the end of the first semester, we have typically scheduled exams by class period, working in two each day during exam week. This time, we are scheduling exams by subject.

Since all grade levels have a county-wide English final, we will begin with English on the morning of June 6. All students will be taking their exams until about 10:00 AM when we will return to a schedule that sends students to all their classes for shortened periods. After lunch, classes will continue, but students who take Spanish 1 will be pulled out to take their Spanish exam.

On June 9, 8th graders will take their US History exams in the morning while the rest of the students maintain a regular schedule. That afternoon, Spanish 2 students will be pulled out for their exams.

Algebra and Geometry students will take their exams on the morning of June 10. 8th graders will take science that afternoon. Classes that do not have a county-wide final exam, such as Math 6, Math 7 and Algebra Prep, Science 6 & 7 and World Studies 6 & 7, will take their exams, which are shorter, during regular class time.

Class activities will be held, as previously scheduled, on June 11.

During June 12, which will operate on a regular class schedule, PE/Health and elective classes will give their exams.

The 8th grade promotion ceremony will be held on June 12 as well, from 10:00 to 11:30 AM. These students should report for orientation to PHS on the morning of the 13th. It's the same bus, but a new destination! Thanks for your flexibility.

FINAL EXAM SCHEDULE

Review Day – All Exams

June 5

Exams – English (AM)/Spanish 1 (PM)

June 6

Exams – US History (AM)/Spanish 2 (PM)

June 9

Exams – Math (AM)/Science (PM)

June 10

Make-up Exams by individual arrangement

June 11 - 13

Exams – Electives/PE in class periods

June 12

Final Exam Make-up Day (AM)

June 13

Poolesville High School Incoming 9th Grade Orientation Friday, June 13, 2014

The orientation program for incoming students new to Poolesville High School is scheduled for Friday, June 13, from 7:25 to 11:40 am. This program will give students:

- an opportunity to become familiar with bus runs. Students are to use this year's arrival bus route numbers and locations for the coming to school, and the 2:10 departure bus route numbers and locations for the 11:40 ride back home.
- an opportunity to become familiar with the school facility
- a chance to meet classmates, Heads of Houses, and other school staff
- an introduction to high school policies, procedures, and services
- an overview of academic and extracurricular programs

The morning's schedule is outlined below:

7:20 – 7:30 am	–	Check-in (Auditorium Lobby)
7:30 – 7:45 am	–	Welcome Assembly
7:50 – 11:03 am	–	Facilities Tour
11:08 – 11:21 am	–	Magnet House Meetings
11:21 – 11:30 am	–	Refreshments in Cafeteria
11:40 am	–	Departure





SSL



All SSL Hours Jan. through May Turn in by June 6th!

Student Service Learning (SSL) Tips

Give a Little Time...Make a Big Difference

Students prepare, act, and reflect with approved service organizations.

- Documentation of service performed during the second semester is due to the school SSL coordinator by the "First Friday in June" (June 6, 2014). Senior hours are due earlier. **Don't miss this deadline!**
- Middle school students who successfully pass select courses and fully participate in the SSL aspects of those courses will be awarded 10 SSL hours on the final report card.
- SSL hours are awarded to MCPS students by adult supervisors (not relatives) who represent approved, official, nonprofit, tax exempt organizations. All SSL must occur in public places. No SSL activities in private residences.
- Get MCPS Form 560-50, *Individual SSL Request* approved by Mrs. Arnold before school is out. During the summer months when school-based SSL coordinators are not in their buildings, SSL questions and requests for preapproval may be referred to the SSL Office 301-279-3454.

SSL Hours Opportunity

If you love soccer this is perfect for you!

July 19-27

Maryland SoccerPlex, Germantown MD

The Maryland State Youth Soccer Association will be hosting the **US Youth Soccer National Championship** from July 22-27 at the Maryland SoccerPlex in Germantown MD.

The US Youth Soccer National Championship serves as the crown jewel of competitive youth soccer as the nation's top 96 youth soccer teams, in the Under-13 through Under-19 Boys and Girls age groups, compete for the US Youth Soccer National Championship title.

Volunteers are needed for a variety of tasks from July 19-27 for:

- set up the weekend prior (ages 16 and over)
- ball kids (completed 5th grade and over)
- parking attendants (ages 16 and over)
- hydration crews (ages 16 and over)
- take down the last day (ages 16 and over)

This event has been approved for SSL for those who have completed 5th grade through seniors. If interested, visit the volunteer signup website at <http://goo.gl/FhvmMm> to choose your task(s) and timeslots(s) or contact us for more information at ncsvolunteer@msysa.org.



Under 21 Activities from the Rec Department!



Do you want to have fun, make friends, get student service learning hours, and help your community? Then join the Montgomery County Department of Recreation Youth Advisory Committee (YAC). This committee plans under 21 activities such as Teen Café, Soccer, Basket Ball events and activities for students on half days, weekends, and holidays. The goal of YAC is to decrease the amount of bullying, drugs, underage drinking and violence in our county. So join YAC.

Applications are due by August 29, 2014. Together we can reach out to make a difference for youth in Montgomery County. For more information, call 240-777-8080.

MCPS GIVE BACKpacks



The MCPS GIVE BACKpacks campaign is under way and needs your help to raise funds to purchase backpacks filled with school supplies for MCPS students in need. Last year, MCPS parents, staff, and community members generously donated more than \$100,000 to the GIVE BACKpacks campaign, and nearly 15,000 students in 41 schools received backpacks filled with school supplies. We're hoping to serve even more students this year. A backpack filled with school supplies only costs \$10, and donors have the option to sponsor an individual student, a classroom, a grade level, an entire school, or a cluster of schools. Additional information is available at www.mcpsgivebackpacks.org or by calling 301-309-MCPS.

Vaccination Clinics

All Maryland school students entering 7th grade in August 2014 must show proof of one Tdap (Tetnus-diphtheria-acellular pertussis) vaccination and one Meningococcal (MCV4) vaccination. 7th grade students who do not provide proof of Tdap and Meningococcal vaccinations will be excluded from attending 7th grade.

Montgomery County Department of Health and Human Services will offer FREE Tdap and Meningococcal vaccinations for 7th graders who have not been vaccinated. On June 13, 2014 from 1:00pm through 4:00pm, there will be three vaccination clinics:

Col. E. Brooke Lee Middle School
11800 Monticello Avenue
Silver Spring, MD 20902

Julius West Middle School
651 Great Falls Road
Rockville, MD 20850

Rocky Hill Middle School
22401 Brick Haven Way
Clarksburg, MD 20871

A parent or guardian must be present at the time of vaccination. The student's immunization record should be brought to the vaccination appointment. The vaccination clinics are by appointment only. Make your appointment online at <http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/Resident/vaccination.html> or by calling 311.

John Poole Middle School



Spotlight on...

Next Year!

**Thanks for all your support
this year! See you in the fall!**

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

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

JPMSPTSA@gmail.com

Membership and volunteer forms are available at the JPMS website:

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

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

Directories have arrived and have been distributed. If you paid for a membership and did not receive a directory, please contact us a.s.a.p.

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.

**Congratulations to our PTSA on earning
Gold level membership recognition!**

John Poole Middle School Summer Orientation for 6th Grade!



**Summer Orientation
For Incoming
6th Graders**



Tuesday, August 12

9:00 – 11:00 am

or

1:00 – 3:00 pm

Media Center

- Locker combination races
- Scavenger hunt
- Meet other students



Call for Questions
At 301-972-7980
or 301-972-7979
No Reservations Needed!

**PLEASE ALSO PLAN TO ATTEND
THE 1/2 DAY ORIENTATION
AUGUST 21, 2014**



Noteworthy

Yearbooks

Yearbooks sales begin Tuesday, June 3rd. Students can purchase their yearbooks each morning in the lobby before school. To purchase a yearbook in the afternoon, come to room 207. The cost of the yearbook is \$40. Checks can be made payable to JPMS. If you have any questions please contact Mrs. Aulls.

The SSL Deadline is coming!

Search your closets, drawers, back packs and lockers for those SSL forms. Complete all the information and write a reflection with full sentences. All hours served from Jan to May 2014 are due on June 6th. Do not miss this deadline! Hand your forms in to Mrs. Arnold ASAP. Remember: any hours earned in 2013 are no longer eligible.

Immunization Requirements for Students Entering 7th Grade

There are new school immunization requirements for the 2014-15 school year affecting students entering the 7th grade this fall. Your child will not be allowed in school without these vaccinations next fall. All children entering the 7th grade must have received a vaccination known as Tdap as well as a meningococcal meningitis vaccine. Call your health care provider to discuss if your child has had these vaccines or schedule an appointment for your child to receive a Tdap and meningococcal vaccination. Provide a copy of your child's updated immunization record to the JPMS Health Room - (301) 407-1029, as soon as possible.



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)

Jazz Band (Wednesday)

Save the Date!



Important events you won't want to miss!

- June 2** PHS Graduation at Mt. Saint Mary's
- June 3** Reading Banquet – selected students (5:30 PM)
- June 4** Incoming 6th Grade Parent Orientation (7:00 PM)
- June 5** Leader of the Pack (7:15 AM)
Last Day for Backpacks
Last Day for Activity Buses
- June 6** Last day to submit SSL documents for the second semester.
8th Grade Dance – 7:00-10:00 pm at Poolesville Baptist Church
- June 11** End of Year Activities
Grade 6 – Picnic Lunch/Movie (11:12 - 2:20 PM)
Grade 7 – Smokey Glen (8:00 am – 2:00 PM)
Grade 8 – Hershey Park (7:30 am – 7:30 PM)
- June 12** 8th Grade Promotion Ceremony in the Aux Gym (10:00-11:30 am)
8th Grade Final Locker Cleanout (11:30 am)
Final Locker Cleanout for 6th and 7th Graders at 2:15 pm
Last Day to Access Lockers
- June 13** 8th Graders to PHS for Orientation
6th and 7th Grade Preview to meet next year's teachers
4th Marking Period Ends
Early Release at 11:50 am
- June 16** Last Day for Teachers

Coming this summer...

Restroom upgrades!

Even a beautifully kept school such as ours requires routine maintenance to stay in top working order. This summer, our restrooms will receive new fixtures. It's great news, but it means the water will be turned off for big chunks of the summer, so there will be no summer activities at JPMS. Summer school will take place at Poolesville High School, and other community events we typically host will have to be scheduled elsewhere. Thanks for your patience.



You are cordially invited to our



**Pre-Summer Sixth Grade
Parent Orientation
Meeting**

**Wednesday, June 4, 2014
6:30-7:30 pm
All Purpose Room**

*Please take this
opportunity to tour the
school, discuss the changes
in middle school, summer
expectations, learn about
SSL requirements and
more!*

PHS NEWS

Go Falcons!



**The Class of 2014 Graduates on Monday, June 2
10:00 AM, Mount Saint Mary's College**

Final Exam Schedule for Underclassmen:

Review Day – June 5

Exams periods 1 and 2 – June 6

Exams periods 3 and 4 – June 9

Exams periods 6 and 7 – June 10

Exams periods 8 and 9 – June 11

Rising Senior Pictures – June 9 – 11, 12:00 PM to 4:00 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
Special Education IRT	- Ms. Turnbull
Counseling - (Ms. Kitts, Secretary)	Mrs. Arnold - Mrs. Eisenberg

JPMS
Timberwolves
live with
Purpose
Respect
Integrity
Dedication
Effort

Our Vision:

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

Our Mission:

At John Poole Middle School our mission is to:

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

