

October 25, 2013

John Poole's **BACK POCKET**

A Thought for Today:

“Teaching is only demonstrating that it is possible. Learning is making it possible for yourself.”

- Paulo Coelho

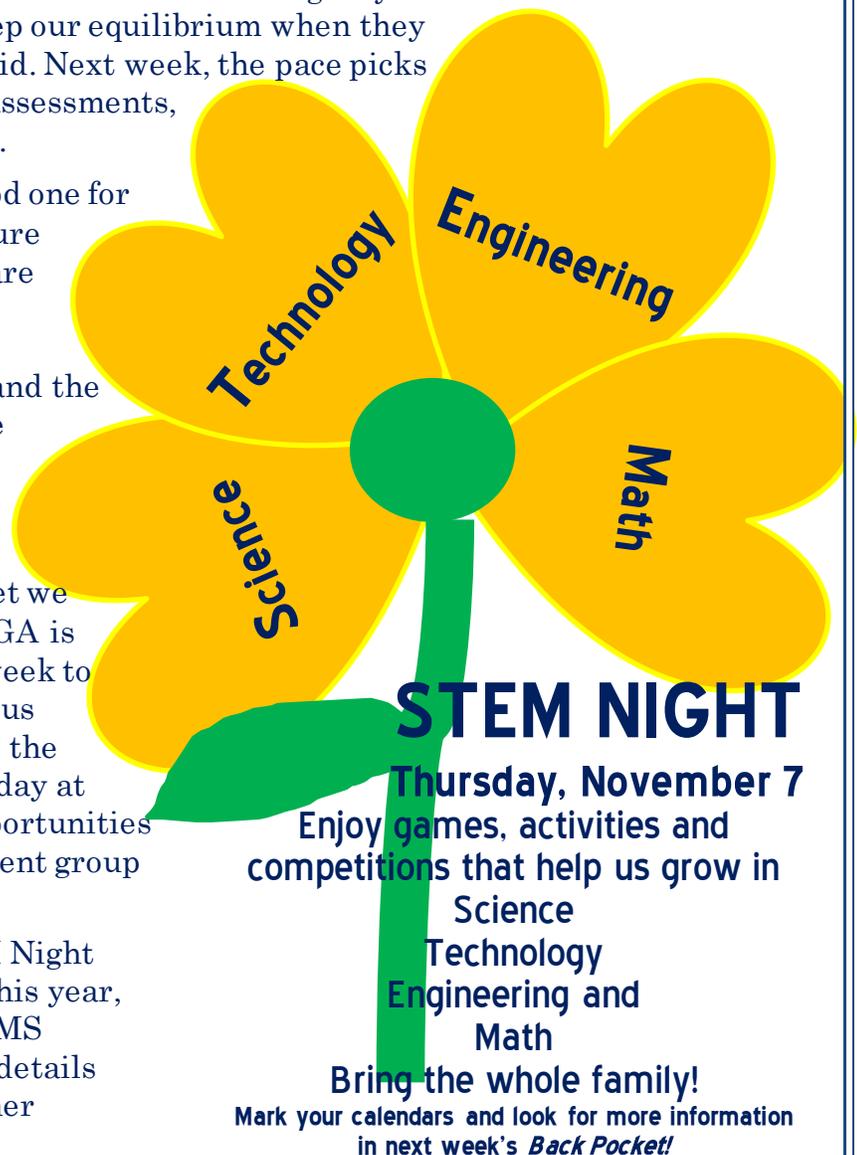
Next Week Is Short but Big!

We've just finished a week that could almost be described as *normal* – five consecutive school days without major field trips, events, or even a weather emergency! These little lulls can seem few and far between, but they help us keep our equilibrium when they come at the end of a quarter as this one did. Next week, the pace picks back up with end-of-quarter summative assessments, Halloween, and Friday's professional day.

I hope the first quarter has been a good one for your family; it has certainly been a pleasure working with your kids! Our 6th graders are pretty much at home now – the one big routine some of them have left to face is rotating into a 2nd quarter health class, and the PE teachers will make sure to explain the process to everyone making the change.

We have A Blue Ribbon Monday this week (Please remind your child to wear Blue on Monday and find the blue bracelet we gave kids last month to wear, too.) Our SGA is also sponsoring a Mix-It-Up Lunch this week to help kids get to know each other. Most of us are creatures of habit, so we tend to sit at the same table with the same friends every day at lunch. For this one day, there will be opportunities to sit with and make friends with a different group of students.

Please mark your calendars for STEM Night coming up. We're trying something new this year, and it will be a lot of fun for you, your JPMS student, and the younger kids, too. More details next week. Thanks! - Charlotte Boucher



STEM NIGHT

Thursday, November 7

Enjoy games, activities and competitions that help us grow in

**Science
Technology
Engineering and
Math**

Bring the whole family!

**Mark your calendars and look for more information
in next week's Back Pocket!**

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!



Anna Akdag

Aidan Auel

Darian Berger

Oriol Guitart

Bridgette Hammett

Jessica Hawkins

Ariana King

Ethan Tievy

Dalton Webber

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

Why don't we allow costumes for Halloween?

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

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

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

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

Of course, anything that would be acceptable on any other day of the year is fine for Halloween, too: orange shirts, earrings shaped like pumpkins – these are all okay. It's the actual costumes, hats and masks that would not be appropriate on a regular school day that we also don't allow on Halloween.

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



Rocket Sighting in Clarksburg

Our John Poole Cross Country Team traveled to Rocky Hill Middle School for the fourth and final meet of the season last Tuesday. **Ryan “The Rocket” Lockett** turned on the afterburners in the boys’ race, finishing a full minute ahead of Rocky Hill’s best runner and thereby sweeping first place in all four of the season’s cross country meets. No doubt “The Rocket” will be glaring red for Poolesville’s pride in the years to come.

In the girl’s race, **Haley Harkins**, battling an upset stomach, summoned the reserves of her favorite fuel...heart...and finished just 10 seconds behind a very speedy Rocky Hill runner, taking 2nd place. The Rocky Hill course lived up to its name, however, as the balance of the Running Timberwolves struggled on the undulating terrain and fell to Clarksburg’s hill-conditioned team. Nevertheless, the team, as a whole, enjoyed a fun and rewarding season, raising fitness levels and breaking down barriers.

Run, Timberwolves, Run!



Members of the JPMS Cross Country Team, The Running Timberwolves, end the season at their favorite training facility...McDonald's

Just a Regular Day at JPMS..



Thanks to
Mr. Boettner
for taking
the pictures!

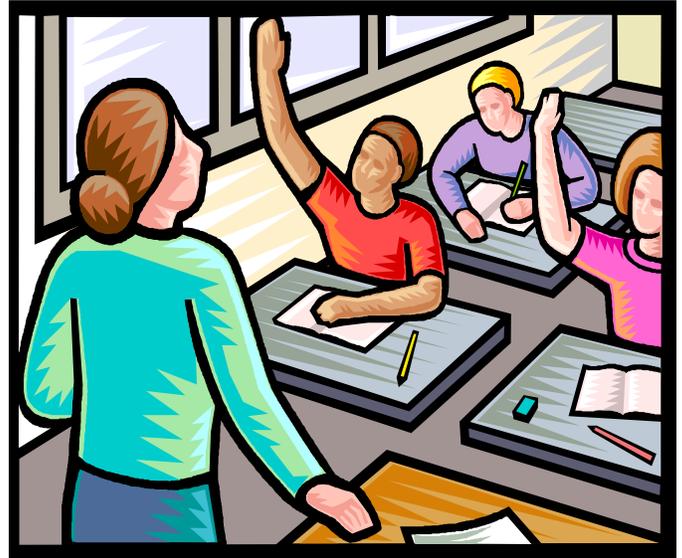




And one of our signature, picture perfect fire drills!



The Extended Day After-School Math & Reading Classes



The Extended Day After-School Reading Class will begin next week on Tuesday, October 29 in room 200. The Extended Day After-School Math is already underway. The first class met yesterday, October 24 in room 204. Thanks to those who have signed their kids up for these important learning supports!

Do Scary Movies Scare You More than Your Kids?

This time of year brings lots of fun but lots of opportunities to frighten young children, too. One good parent resource you may want to check out is located at www.common sense media.org. You can find lots of thoughtful tips on choosing appropriate videos, movies, games and other media all year round at this website, but they offer special material for Halloween, too.

In addition to reviews of the current movies playing in theaters, there are tips for each age of child from young kids to high school, and opportunities to interact with other parents on questions such as *What's so scary about scary movies?* and *Why scary movies matter*.

Here's the link: http://www.common sense media.org/advice-for-parents/scary-movies-tips?utm_source=101413_Parent+Default&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=weekly

Teaching Digital Responsibility

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

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

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

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

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

John Poole Middle School



Spotlight on...

**Dr. Starr's State of
the Schools Address**

**November 1, 2013
Strathmore Music Center
7:30 – 9:30 AM**

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

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

JPMSPTSA@gmail.com

Membership and volunteer forms are available at the JPMS website:

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

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

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

It is very easy to join. All the information is found on the JPMS homepage under the parents tab. If you have any questions, please email Wendy Goflewski, membership coordinator, at goflewski@msn.com.

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

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

It's a high priority if

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

It's less of a priority if

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

Fall 2013 School-Based Flu Clinics



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

November 1, 2013

John F. Kennedy High School
Richard Montgomery High School
Seneca Valley High School
for all students

9:00 a.m. – 12 p.m.

November 11 and 12, 2013

All Elementary Schools
for MCPS students enrolled at the school

For more information visit:

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



Student Service Learning (SSL) Notes

Give a Little Time...Make a Big Difference

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

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

VOLUNTEER IN MONTGOMERY PARKS FALL 2013

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



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

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

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

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



Fruit Flies Festival, Locust Grove Nature Center, Bethesda

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

Natural Surface Trail Workdays

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



Park and Stream Cleanups



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

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

Other “Long Term” Volunteer Opportunities available:

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

Questions about these opportunities or how to apply?

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

Brookside
GARDENS
1800 Glenallan Ave.
Wheaton MD 20902



Brookside Gardens SSL Volunteer Opportunities Fall & Winter 2013

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

Additional volunteer opportunities may be available.

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

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



Noteworthy

National History Day.

Each year, JPMS sends several student projects to the National History Day competition, and many of our students have earned recognition for their work. All interested students were invited to a preliminary interest meeting last week, but you can still participate if you couldn't attend the meeting. Participation in National History Day is a great resume item for students interested in one of the special programs at Poolesville High School. Talk to your social studies teacher and look for more information in next week's *Back Pocket*.

Did you receive a federal aid form last week?

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

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

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

Thomas Edison High School of Technology Tours

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

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

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

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

Contact the JPMS Counseling Office for additional information.

**Remember to wear Blue for Blue Ribbon
Monday - October 28**

Sign Up for the 2013 Flu Vaccine Clinics

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

After School Activities

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



Running Club is coming!

The following dates are scheduled for this activity:

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

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



Homework Hotline Live

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

**Just 1 week left in the Thespian Society's
Canned Food Drive!**

Place your donations in the collection box in the APR. Thanks!

Save the Date!



Important events you won't want to miss!

October 28	Blue Ribbon Monday
October 30	Second Magnet Prep Class
October 31	End of First Marking Period
November 1	Professional Day – <u>No School for Students</u>
November 3	Daylight Savings Time Ends – Clocks Move <u>BACKWARD</u> 1 Hour
November 7	STEM Night
November 8	Magnet Applications Due
November 11	Veterans' Day Dr. Starr's State of the Schools Address Parent Conferences Early Release for Students
November 12	Early Release for Students
November 13	First Quarter Report Cards Distributed
November 15	Grade 8 Newseum Field trip

MCPS State of the Schools Event Set for November 11

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

El Evento “Estado de las Escuelas de MCPS” Está Programado Para el 11 de Noviembre

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

Magnet Dates

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

PHS NEWS

Go Falcons!



Food Drive October 23 – 31

Athletic Schedule (partial)

Boys Varsity Football:	10/25/13	6:30 PM	(A)	PHS vs. Wheaton (game played at Blair HS)
	11/1/13	6:30 PM	(H)	PHS vs. Boonesboro
	11/8/13	6:30 PM	(A)	PHS vs. Rockville
Girls Varsity Volleyball:	10/25/2013	6:00 PM	(A)	PHS vs. Richard Montgomery

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**

