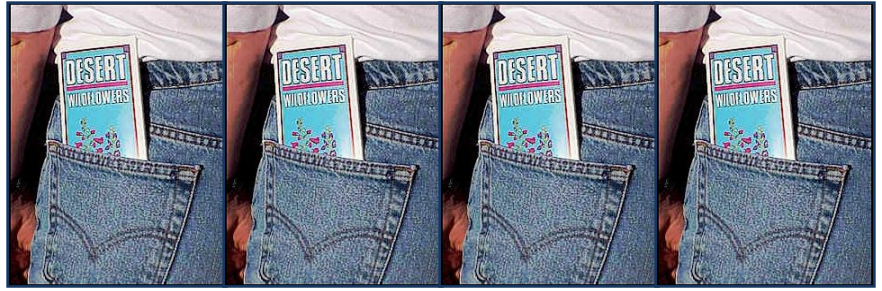


John Poole's **BACK POCKET**



December 14, 2012

A Thought for Today:

The child must know that he is a miracle, that since the beginning of the world there hasn't been, and until the end of the world there will not be, another child like him.

- Pablo Casals

Counting Our Pennies

If you are anything like me, this time of year you are enjoying the holiday season while visions of dollar signs dance in your head. I want to make sure everyone gets nice gifts; we can give generously to charities that care for the less fortunate; our family is able to enjoy the special tastes and events of the season; and the bills that come in in January won't trigger a family recession.

It's all about good planning and clear priorities for my family's budget, and the same is true for the FY 2014 MCPS Operating Budget Dr. Starr brought forward this week. He's asking for a ton of money – I find it very hard to imagine how much \$2.217 BILLION really is – but I see the budget in action every day, and I know we are getting our money's worth.

There's complete information about the budget online at the MCPS website. If you visit <http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/departments/budget/> you can learn anything anyone might ever want to know about the proposal, but here are a couple of points that concern me and JPMS directly:

- This budget addresses important needs in middle schools. Previous cuts maintained professional development staff and support in elementary and high schools while reducing these resources for us. We have really felt the loss, and it is time to begin to move back to parity with other schools in MCPS. Middle schools are important!
- Some monies are targeted specifically to support and enhance math instruction. I say, "Hooray!" We're in the process of implementing significant math curriculum upgrades that cannot wait because the Common Core State Standards are on our doorstep. To do it right and make sure none of our kids fall through the cracks, math has to be a major instructional priority. The only way I can see to do that is to give our teachers the tools and training to meet the learning needs of every student – and that will cost a little more than we have had in the last few years of belt-tightening.
- The increases in this budget total less than one half of one percent of last year's budget. That's not much! It's not enough to give staff raises, but it can help us address the priorities for which the need is greatest. The MCPS student population has been growing by more than 1% each year for the past 5 years, and the growth shows no signs of stopping. Without at least a little added money in the budget, I fear the overall increase in students could jeopardize the critical funding that keeps a little community school like ours going.

So I'm hoping the superintendent's budget is fully funded. I hope you can support it, too. – 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!



Killian Carney

Julianna Garrett

Michael Morgan

Paris Copeland

Claire Jensen

Tucker Ross

John Foster

Dylan Mason

Samantha Varona

Sounds of the Season

Congratulations to the following students for a great performance in the Poolesville Baptist Church's Christmas Program on the evening of Sunday, December 9! Their hard work and practice paid off in a beautiful performance. You can enjoy the entire music department at the winter concert, this Wednesday, December 19 at 7:00 PM in the JPMS gym! Don't miss it!

Band

Jordan Allentuck- clarinet

Nicole Slebochnik- clarinet

Triana Wallace- clarinet

Lev Malinin- clarinet

Robert Queen- clarinet

Kaley Fisher- sax

Johnny Wasilik- sax

Ryan Johnston- trumpet

Daria Sharifi- trombone

Ali Ransom- baritone

Donald Vogel- baritone

Ray Kinzie- bells

Orchestra

Daria Sharifi- violin

Brennah Ringling- violin

Nathaly Portillo-Rivas - cello

Haley Harkins- viola

Sara Himmelfarb- violin

Chorus

Melanie Staszewski

Taylor Ramirez

Bryce Davis

Cassie Volkle

Emily Lewis



Monday, December 17 is our next Blue Monday!

This month the focus will be on cyber safety and preventing cyber bullying. Please take time to discuss this important topic with your child.

As our students receive phones, iPods and readers with Wi-Fi access, photography options and the ability to download a multitude of apps, we need to be intentional about setting boundaries on technology use and “screen” time. Here’s a great resource to give you some ideas.



PARENTS' GUIDE TO SMARTPHONE SAFETY

SMART OR SCARY?

Smartphones are essentially little computers, so you might be a little worried when handing one over to your child. Take some time to understand the risks and implement a few safeguards so that you can help your child use smartphones safely.

About 1 in 4 teens report owning a smartphone.

THE RISKS

- **CYBERBULLYING**
With the constant connectivity of smartphones, your child may be more susceptible to cyberbullying or have more opportunities to cyberbully others.
- **GEOLOCATION**
A GPS-enabled smartphone can reveal your child's location through online posts and uploaded photos.
- **INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT**
With smartphones, your child has mobile access to content you may consider inappropriate, such as pornography or violent videos.
- **SEXTING**
Your child may use the Internet and social apps to send, receive, or forward revealing photos.
- **VIRUSES & MALWARE**
Just like a computer, a smartphone is vulnerable to security attacks if your child accesses unsecured websites and apps.

5WAYS TO BE SMARTER THAN THE SMARTPHONE!

- 1. Be a parent and a resource.**
Establish clear guidelines, including time limits and consequences for inappropriate behavior, but be open so your child will come to you with any problems.
- 2. Set up password protection.**
This will keep everyone but you and your child from accessing personal information stored on the phone.
- 3. Update the operating system.**
New versions often contain important security fixes.
- 4. Approve apps before they are downloaded.**
Make sure you understand their capabilities and approve their content.
- 5. Understand location services.**
GPS features are useful when using maps, but you'll want to disable location-tagging when your child posts anything online.

For more resources visit NetSmartz.org/TipSheets
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NetSmartz Workshop
A PROGRAM OF THE
NATIONAL CENTER FOR MISSING & EXPLOITED CHILDREN

Lenhart, Amanda.
Teens, Smartphones & Texting.
Pew Internet & American Life Project,
March 18, 2012.

Writing up family expectations and contracts can be very helpful as we teach our children proper use of these technological conveniences.

These websites are two more great resources for parents:

<http://www.common sense media.org/>

<http://www.netsmartz.org/InternetSafety>

When you're busy you don't always have time to check out everything your children ask for, and this is a very busy time of year.

Common Sense Media has a website devoted to the movies, games, apps and music marketed to kids from infancy to age 19. Everything is rated and all ratings are clearly explained. Check out their holiday hub at <http://www.common sense media.org/holiday>

Help for the Holidays

Looking for Ways to Earn SSL Hours during Winter Break?

During your holiday break, you can earn SSL hours at the Interfaith Clothing Center in Rockville.

- Students can volunteer any time 9:00 AM - 4:30 PM, Tuesday - Friday & 9:00 AM - 2:00 PM Saturday.
- To schedule your hours, contact the ICC at 301-424-3796
- For more information, call Mrs. Arnold at 301-972-7980 or check the SSL Bulletin Board.

PBIS Recycling Fundraiser

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

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

We are collecting the following items:

Cell Phones

Laptop Computers

GPS Devices

Inkjet Cartridges

E-Book Readers

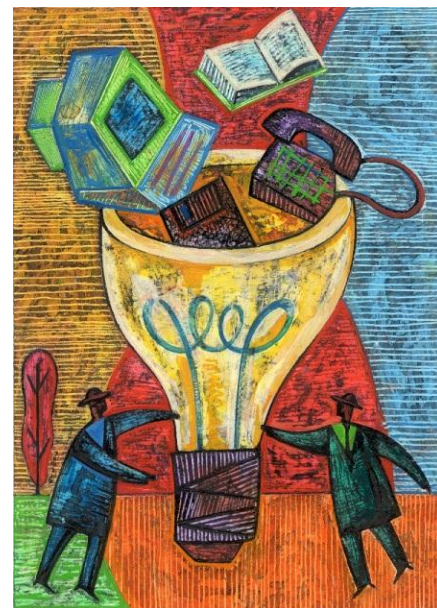
MP3 Players

Radar Detectors

Handheld Game Systems

Digital Cameras

Digital Video Cameras



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

Here Are Some Ways to Make the Season Bright!

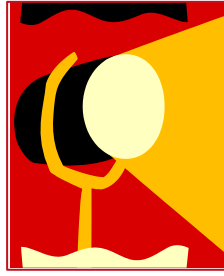
1. Donate a coat to keep a neighbor warm. Bring a clean, new or gently used coat to the Counseling Office for pick-up by local Girl Scouts. Your donation will be distributed by WUMCO Help here in the upper county.
2. Pick up a gift tag from the snowman in our main lobby. Buy a gift that matches the age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

Share your holiday joy with others!

Your PTSA –

“Every child, one voice”

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



Spotlight on... Math Curriculum Changes

MCCPTA is hosting a math forum
January 30 from 7:00 – 9:00 PM
850 Hungerford Drive in Rockville

Volunteer Your Time and Join the PTSA!

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

Membership and volunteer forms are available at the JPMS website:

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



*Music gives a soul to the
universe, wings to the
mind, flight to the
imagination, and life to
everything.*

- Plato



Winter Concert

Wednesday, December 19

7:00 – 9:00 PM

JPMS Gym

Make your heart glad!

WHEN TO KEEP YOUR CHILD HOME FROM SCHOOL

When your child is sick, keep him/her home from school. This not only benefits your child but other children and staff in the classroom at school.

WHAT ARE IMPORTANT SIGNS OF ILLNESS

Some important signs of illness are:

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1. A temperature of more than 100° orally | 8. Earache |
| 2. Nausea or vomiting | 9. Thick yellowish discharge from nose |
| 3. Stomachache | 10. Sore throat |
| 4. Diarrhea | 11. Rash or infection of the skin |
| 5. Pale or flushed face | 12. Red or pink eyes |
| 6. Headache | 13. Loss of energy or decrease in activity |
| 7. Persistent cough | |

WHAT SHOULD I DO IF MY CHILD HAS ANY OF THESE SIGNS?

If your child has any of these symptoms when it is time for school, it is best that he/she stay home. Most childhood illnesses are over soon and no cause for worry. But, if the symptoms are severe or persist for more than 24 hours, you should contact your private source of medical care. Children sometimes use illness as an excuse to miss school. On the other hand, some children force themselves to go to school even though they are sick. There may be times that your child does not show signs of the above-noted symptoms but may be ill. It is up to you to be alert to your child's health and to decide when it is best to send him/her to school.

WHEN MAY MY CHILD RETURN TO SCHOOL AFTER AN ILLNESS?

Generally, your child may return to school when he/she is free of signs of illness. However, there may be times when it is necessary for your child to see your source of medical care before returning to school. Please call your school nurse if you have any questions regarding a specific condition.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF MY CHILD BECOMES ILL AT SCHOOL?

If your child complains of being sick or does not look well after he/she reaches school, we will contact you. Therefore, it is important that you provide the school with up-to-date information and phone numbers to call in case it is necessary to contact you.

¿Cuándo no mandar a su niño a la escuela?

Cuando su niño esté enfermo, no lo mande a la escuela. Esto no solamente beneficiará a su niño pero también protegerá a los otros niños y personal de la escuela.

¿Cuáles son las señales importantes de enfermedad?

Algunas señales de estar enfermo:

- | | |
|-------------------------|---|
| 1. Fiebre más de 100°F. | 8. Malestar de oído. |
| 2. Náusea o vómito. | 9. Secreción o congestión nasal. |
| 3. Malestar estomacal. | 10. Dolor de garganta. |
| 4. Diarrea. | 11. Erupción o infección en la piel. |
| 5. Palidez o rubor. | 12. Ojos rojos. |
| 6. Dolor de cabeza | 13. Pérdida de energía o cansancio extremo. |
| 7. Tos persistente. | |

¿Qué debe hacer si su niño tiene alguna de éstos síntomas?

Si su niño tiene estos síntomas a la hora de ir a la escuela, será mejor que se quede en casa ese día. La mayoría de las enfermedades de los niños desaparecen antes de que sean una mayor preocupación. Pero, si los síntomas son severos o persisten más de 24 horas, entonces usted debe comunicarse con un médico.

Algunas veces los niños usan la excusa de estar enfermos para no ir a la escuela. Por otro lado algunos niños se esfuerzan para ir a la escuela aunque estén enfermos. Habrá veces que su niño no muestre los síntomas que indicamos arriba pero puede que esté enfermo. Siempre observe la salud de su niño y decida lo que sea mejor para él/ella.

¿Cuándo podrá volver mi niño a la escuela después de estar enfermo?

Generalmente, su niño podrá volver a la escuela cuando ya no tenga síntomas de enfermedad. Sin embargo, alguna vez será necesario visitar a su proveedor de salud antes de regresar a la escuela. Favor de llamar a la enfermera de su escuela si tiene alguna pregunta o una condición específica.

¿Qué pasará si mi niño se enferma en la escuela?

Si su niño se queja de estar enfermo o no se mira bien al llegar a la escuela la enfermera la llamará por teléfono. Por lo tanto es importante que usted de toda información pertinente a la escuela y un número de teléfono para que la escuela pueda comunicarse con usted en cualquier emergencia.



Welcome back JPMS students and parents!

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

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

Chemistry Club – 12/18, room 102

Math Club – Wednesdays after school in room 300

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

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



Yearbooks

Yearbooks can be pre-ordered through Jostens only. If you do not pre-order a yearbook, you are not guaranteed a yearbook. You can go to www.jostens.com today to pre-order your yearbook. If you have any questions, please contact Kelly Aulls at [Kelly M Aulls@mcpsmd.org](mailto:Kelly_M_Aulls@mcpsmd.org).

JPMS Staff Wins the Million Mile Challenge!

Over the past ten weeks, MCPS has conducted the Million Mile Challenge to encourage employees to improve their health by adding more fitness to their lives. Dedication to health and wellness helps decrease stress and fatigue, improves overall health and mental well-being, and inspires others.

Teams from John Poole participated in the challenge and won a grand prize for being one of the top five middle schools: a \$1000 grant for physical education equipment or to promote staff wellness in our school!

Edline Help Guide

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

What's the BIG Idea?

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

Save the Date!

Important events you won't want to miss!



December 14	Interims Mailed
December 15	Saturday School
December 17	Blue Ribbon Monday (Wear Blue)
December 19	Winter Concert (7:00 p.m.)
December 24 & 25	Holiday, Christmas
December 27 - 31	Winter Break
January 1, 2013	Holiday – New Year's Day

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



Basketball Schedule (practice is on Tuesdays and Thursdays)

*January 10	Girls play Baker at JPMS (2:40 p.m.)
*January 10	Boys play Baker at Baker (3:00 p.m.)
January 24	Boys play King at JPMS (2:40 p.m.)
January 24	Girls play King at King (3:00 p.m.)
January 31	Girls play Kingsview at JPMS (2:40 p.m.)
January 31	Boys play Kingsview at Kingsview (3:00 p.m.)
February 7	Boys play Clemente at JPMS (2:40 p.m.)
February 7	Girls play Clemente at Clemente (3:00 p.m.)

*Rescheduled from December 20 to January 10



IMPORTANT NOTE TO PARENTS!

Interim Progress Reports go out electronically to parents with active Edline Accounts, but they are sent via snail mail to parents who do not use Edline or who only use their child's account instead of activating their own. Interims went out today. If you do not receive yours today by email or early next week by US Mail, call the Counseling Office at 301-972-7980 to be sure you get the information before Winter Break! Thanks -

PHS NEWS

Go Falcons!



December 21 is Alumni Day!

Boys Varsity Basketball

December 14	7:00 p.m.	(H)	PHS vs. Wootton HS at PHS
December 17	5:15 p.m.	(H)	PHS vs. Damascus HS at PHS
December 19	5:15 p.m.	(A)	PHS vs. Watkins Mill HS at Watkins Mill HS
December 21	5:15 p.m.	(A)	PHS vs. Seneca Valley HS at Seneca Valley HS
December 27	5:15 p.m.	(A)	PHS vs. Clarksburg HS at Clarksburg HS
December 28	3:30 p.m.	(A)	PHS vs. Northwest HS at Clarksburg HS

Girls Varsity Basketball

December 14	7:00 p.m.	(A)	PHS vs. Wootton HS at Wootton HS
December 17	7:00 p.m.	(H)	PHS vs. Damascus HS at PHS
December 19	7:00 p.m.	(A)	PHS vs. Watkins Mill HS at Watkins Mill HS
December 21	7:00 p.m.	(A)	PHS vs. Seneca Valley HS at Seneca Valley HS
December 27	7:00 p.m.	(A)	PHS vs. Clarksburg HS at Clarksburg HS
December 28	1:45 p.m.	(A)	PHS vs. Northwest HS at Clarksburg HS

CoEd Varsity Swim and Dive

December 15	11:30 a.m.	(A)	PHS vs. B-CC HS at Olney SC
January 5	9:15 a.m.	(A)	PHS vs. Damascus HS at Germantown SC

Boys Varsity Wrestling

December 12	6:00 p.m.	(A)	PHS vs. Einstein HS at Einstein HS
December 18	6:00 p.m.	(H)	PHS vs. Northwest HS at PHS
January 2	6:00 p.m.	(H)	PHS vs. Wheaton HS at PHS

PHS Talent Show – December 20

7:00 PM

All tickets are \$8. Don't miss it!

Poolesville High School Mission Statement

Poolesville High School, the only whole school magnet in Montgomery County, uniting close-knit, rural community values and diverse global perspectives, challenges its students to become confident, versatile, problem-solving citizens through rigorous cross-curricular pathways and meaningful, motivating learning experiences.

Call John Poole!

Main Office 301-972-7979
Counseling 301-972-7980
Cafeteria 301-407-1037
Health Room 301-407-1029



And Ask for...

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

JPMS
Timberwolves
live with
Purpose
Respect
Integrity
Dedication
Effort

Our Vision:

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

Our Mission:

At John Poole Middle School, our mission is to:

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

