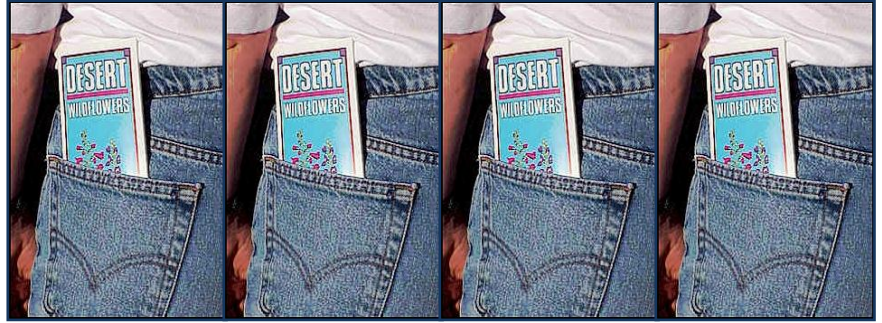


John Poole's **BACK POCKET**



January 18 & 25, 2013

A Thought for Today:

“You are the center of your universe, and you can make anything happen.”

- Ashley Smith

How Do We Find Out What We Want to Be When We Grow Up?

Nobody wants to be a cowboy anymore. When I was growing up and the TV was full of westerns, my whole neighborhood wanted to herd cattle. Our games of Cowboys and Indians were epic, with dozens of kids running around wearing bandanas and feathers and ambushing each other until our parents called us in for supper. Today, not even the five year olds are considering cowboy as a career choice; it's just not on their radar. Kids say they want to be professional athletes or rock stars, because that's who seem to be leading the most interesting lives in the world they see in the media, and these glamorous folks so obviously care about their professions. RG III plays hurt because he is so devoted to his team; tears and drama are the mainstays of *American Idol* and its many imitators. Every kid wants a life's work that is so all-consuming - but we can't all be athletes and entertainers. Somewhere along the line, we have to turn fantasy into the reality of our futures.

We are blessed with an amazing high school in our little community. This week, we are celebrating **Anand Vijaykumar Patel** and **Joy Shuang Zeng**, both PHS students, for being named semi-finalists in the Intel Science Talent Search, America's most prestigious pre-college science competition. The Intel Talent Search recognizes 300 students and their schools as semifinalists each year to compete for \$1.25 million in awards. From that select pool, 40 finalists are then invited to participate in final judging, display their work to the public, meet with notable scientists, and compete for the top award of \$100,000. Having a semi-finalist (much less TWO) is an honor most high schools never dare to dream of. Former participants hold more than 100 of the world's most coveted science and math honors, including the Nobel Prize and National Medal of Science; clearly these young people have found their passions and are launching exciting, rewarding careers.

So how do we take advantage of the academic riches available at our high school? I think we need to encourage students to be curious and to find out where their interests lie now, while they're still in middle school. JPMS offers lots of ways to extend and explore a student's knowledge. You just have to want to learn.

The up-coming Science Expo lets kids try their hands at scientific research. Students who love social studies come after school to work on National History Day projects. The Math Team practices regularly and competes with other middle school teams. SGA (Student Government Association) lets kids experience leadership in action. All this and more is out there to enrich our kids' education - and to add resume items to those magnet applications in Grade 8. One of these activities may be the first step to a brilliant future. - Charlotte Boucher

Last week I missed publishing the *Back Pocket* because I was laid low by one of the nasty bugs going around this winter. I want to be sure, however, that both LAST WEEK's and THIS WEEK's Hallway Heroes are recognized, so both lists are included below. These kids are just too fabulous to overlook! Thanks for your understanding - CCB

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!



Keila Alfaro

Brooke Hamm

Julia Pavlick

Cassandra Campbell

Isabella Garner

Estephan Lavanderos

Grace Clark

Andrew Kindle

Willie Stanoyevitch

Arianna Carr

Jake Hough

Jake Lowe

Dakota Grimsby

Trevor McFall

Alivia Tetlow

Michael Edwards

Paige Houston

Tyler Morningstar

JOHN POOLE MIDDLE SCHOOL SCIENCE EXPO JANUARY 31, 2012

5:30 Early Bird Pizza: \$4.00 Meal Deal

5:30-7:00 Project Expo in Media Center

6:00-6:30 *Session I

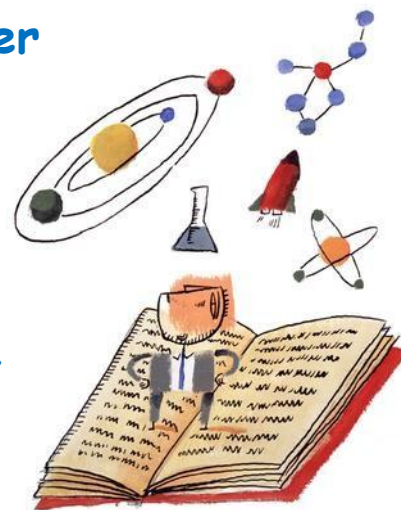
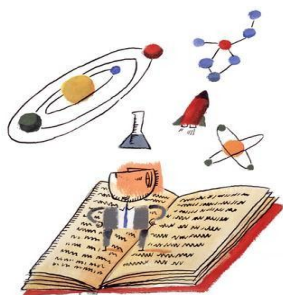
6:30-7:00 *Session II

Session Rotations:

Rm. 301 - Egg Drop Challenge

Aux Gym - Pop Fly Challenge

Liquid Nitrogen Demo



*Bring the family & be sure to get tickets in the lobby for your favorite rotations!

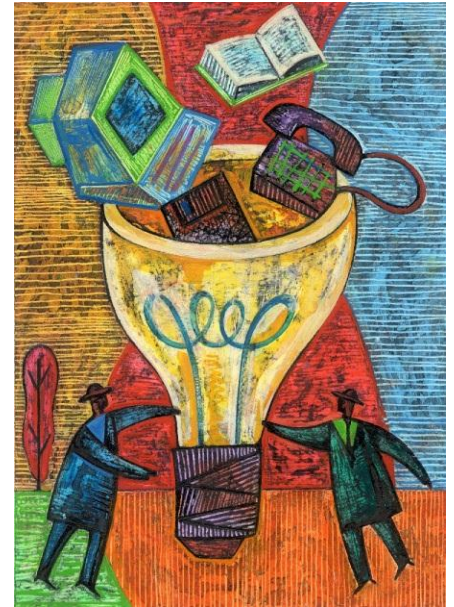
PBIS Recycling Fundraiser

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	

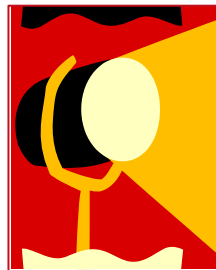


Please drop off any of the above items you would like to recycle.

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!

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>

Parents, when you register your child for the *BUILDERS OF THE FUTURE* workshops at Montgomery College on February 9 (see the ad later in this issue), consider signing yourself up for the special optional two-hour parent workshop called “Materials, Tools, and Projects That Rock.”

It's a special opportunity to learn how to use basic hand tools and where to find tested maker projects and inspiration. For registration information, contact Workforce Development & Continuing Education at 240-567-7264 or 240-567-7917 or at <http://cms.montgomerycollege.edu/wdce/youthmcadventures.html>

Our Next Blue Monday Is This Week - January 28



Every month we designate time on a Monday to talk with our students about being positive members of a social community. It's part of our anti-bullying effort as well as reinforcement of our core values, especially Respect and Integrity. Because we launch the year's focus during Blue Ribbon Week in the fall, we call these days Blue Mondays. Students and staff wear blue to show their support for civility and respect, and many wear the Blue Timberwolf PRIDE bracelets they received during Blue Ribbon Week.

This Monday's lesson is about how being mean to each other is never funny and always harmful. It's an important concern of most middle schoolers. So is cyber safety, and that is the topic of a special assembly scheduled for Friday, February 1. We have a representative from the Montgomery County State's Attorney's Office coming to talk about online safety.

This week would be a great time to talk with your kids about these important issues in the life of every student. Please encourage your child to wear blue on Monday and share Monday and Friday's lessons with you. Schools and homes working as partners to reinforce the positive messages that support our kids provides the safest, happiest environment for them to grow. Thanks!

More Winter Weather May Be On the Way



It was a little surprising this week when cold and snow brought us the first delayed opening in a couple of years. 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, 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 17, 2013.
2. If schools are closed for six days, the school year will be extended by two days to June 17 and June 18, 2013.
3. If schools are closed seven days, the school year will be extended by three days to June 17, June 18, and June 19, 2013.
4. If schools are closed for eight days, the school year will be extended by four days to June 17, June 18, June 19, and June 20, 2013.
5. If schools are closed nine days, the school year will be extended by five days to June 17, June 18, June 19, June 20, and June 21, 2013.

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.



More About the Changes in the MCPS Math Program

We've been talking about the Common Core State Standards and how they will affect teaching, learning and assessment in the next few years, and elementary schools have been implementing Curriculum 2.0 in the lower grades already. Now, the rollout is reaching middle schools. The article below and the Frequently Asked Questions sheet that follows come from the curriculum office and provide information about changes to the math program. It's the same information we ran in the last issue, in case you missed it!

Upgrades to the mathematics program in Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) are being made based on the findings and recommendations in the K–12 Mathematics Work Group Report (2010) including the alignment of the curriculum with the internationally driven Common Core State Standards (CCSS). Additional factors influencing changes to the mathematics program include—

- evolving definition of college/career readiness driven by the demands of the 21st century work force;
- University System of Maryland's new expectation that students complete 4 years of high school math, including Algebra 2 and a “non-trivial” mathematics course in their senior year; and
- anticipated Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC) Algebra 2 test mandated by the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) scheduled to begin in the 2014–2015 school year.

We believe the deeper mathematical understanding and higher expectations of the grade-level CCSS in elementary and middle school will prepare **most** students for Algebra 1 in Grade 8 and college level courses in high school. There will be **many** students who will need enhanced instruction; for these students, MCPS has developed additional enrichment and acceleration options to ensure that students who demonstrate understanding of a topic will be able to deepen and extend their learning within the grade-level curriculum. For the **few**

students who consistently demonstrate deep understanding of all of the mathematical concepts at their grade level, they may need to be advanced. Beginning in Grade 4, access to a compacted curriculum will be available to students who consistently demonstrate this deep understanding of grade-level content across all mathematics strands.

Some students may require more time to complete the trajectory to Algebra 1. Supports will be included throughout the curriculum to provide options for accessing rigorous mathematics content. These supports may include alternate activities that address different learning needs, additional instructional time when needed, or courses designed to provide remediation and a slower pace to master the curriculum. The goal will be for all students to reach deep understanding across all mathematical topics.

MCPS began making upgrades to the 2001 mathematics program for elementary schools in 2007. The upgraded program is called Curriculum 2.0 and is currently in place in kindergarten–Grade 3 in all elementary schools throughout the district. Rollout of Grades 4 and 5 and Algebra 1 is planned for next year.

School-based staff members will require professional development opportunities to implement the CCSS, and the Fiscal Year 2014 Superintendent's Recommended Operating Budget includes resources and support for implementation of Curriculum 2.0.

To find more information about changes to the MCPS mathematics programs, please visit the MCPS website at—

www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/curriculum/2.0/ or www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/curriculum/math/.

PARENT FAQ

1. When will students who are currently in the 2001 Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) curriculum first experience the new C2.0 in mathematics, which is based on the CCSS?

In the 2013–2014 school year, Math 4, Math 5, and Algebra 1 will be the new courses available in C2.0 mathematics. This will be the first exposure to some of the elements of the new curriculum and the CCSS for students going in to C2.0 Math 5 and Algebra 1. Instructional materials and teacher preparation will include resources to assist students in demonstrating proficiency of the new standards. The design of the Algebra 1 curriculum will support students transitioning to C2.0 mathematics.

2. For students currently in C2.0 in Grade 3, what courses will be available for next year?

Next year, the courses for current Grade 3 students will be C2.0 Math 4 and for a few students, the compacted C2.0 Math 4/5. Only students who have consistently demonstrated proficiency, as defined by UCARE, of all grade-level indicators and enrichment and acceleration opportunities, will be considered for the compacted Math 4/5. A system-wide process will be in place to help guide schools in reviewing data and making placement decisions.

3. For students currently in the MCPS mathematics curriculum in Grade 4, what courses will be available for next year?

Next year, the course for current Grade 4 students in MCPS Math 4 is C2.0 Math 5.

Next year, the courses for current Grade 4 students in MCPS Math 5 are C2.0 Math 5 or the existing MCPS Math 6.

Next year, the course for current Grade 4 students in MCPS Math 6 is the existing MCPS Math 7.

4. For students currently in the MCPS mathematics curriculum in Grade 5, what courses will be available for next year?

Depending on local middle school articulation guidelines:

Next year, the course for current Grade 5 students in MCPS Math 5 is MCPS Math 6.

Next year, the course for current Grade 5 students in MCPS Math 6 is MCPS Math 7.

Next year, the course for current Grade 5 students in MCPS Math 7 is MCPS IM.

5. How will we prepare Grade 4 students for CCSS Curriculum 2.0 Grade 5 Math?

Starting in February professional development opportunities and resources will be provided to teachers to prepare current Grade 4 students in MCPS Math 4 with the transition to C2.0 Grade 5 Math. A unit plan for the final marking period of this school year has been designed to help students in Grade 4 making this transition.

6. What is the design of the compacted courses?

The content of 12 marking periods (Math 4, 5, 6) is kept in sequence and compacted into the eight marking periods across Grades 4 and 5.

7. How is the CCSS being rolled out in middle school and high school?

Next year, Curriculum 2.0 Algebra 1, aligned with CCSS, will be the first secondary mathematics course to roll out in both middle school and high school.

In 2014–2015, C2.0 Math 6 and Geometry will be rolled out.

In 2015–2016, C2.0 Math 7, Investigations in Mathematics (IM), and Algebra 2 will be rolled out.

In 2016–2017, C2.0 Math 8 will be rolled out.

8. Will students taking grade-level mathematics courses in elementary school be prepared for Algebra 1 in Grade 8?

Curriculum 2.0 in Grades K-7 is designed to provide the strong foundation needed to be successful in Algebra 1 by Grade 8.

9. What is the policy on Algebra 2 as a high school graduation requirement?

The MCPS high school graduation requirement continues to be four credits of mathematics, with one full year of algebra and one full year of geometry. The state of Maryland is considering making Algebra 2 a high school graduation requirement, but no decision has been made at this time. In addition, the University System of Maryland requires students to complete Algebra 2 in high school.

10. Why should students complete at least Algebra 2 in high school?

Research has shown that students who complete Algebra 2 by the end of Grade 11 with a “C” or higher will perform better on the SAT and ACT college entrance exams and are less likely to require remedial mathematics courses in college. Students who complete Algebra 2 also are more than twice as likely to graduate from college than are students with less mathematical preparation. In addition, the University System of Maryland requires students to complete Algebra 2 in high school.

11. Will there be options/electives for mathematics courses in high school?

There will continue to be elective mathematics courses available in high school, such as Bridge to Algebra 2, Quantitative Literacy, Advanced Placement (AP) Statistics, AP Calculus, and many others. As the C2.0 secondary mathematics courses are developed and implemented, the need for these course offerings will continue to be evaluated.

12. Are teachers receiving professional development in mathematics?

MCPS provides professional development in many forms, as indicated in the left-hand column in the chart below. Recognizing the need to support the significant changes and expectations in mathematics instruction, MCPS is also expanding professional development opportunities as outlined in the right-hand column.

Continuing Math Professional Development Venues (K-12)	Expansion To Support Effective Implementation (K-12)
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Videos, documents, presentations in the Instruction Center• Elementary and secondary Core Team Training includes implementing grade level/course teachers.• Principal Curriculum Updates• Substitute Days for Collaborative Planning/PLCs• Math Content Coaches• Staff Development Teachers• Secondary Resource Teachers	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Expand the number of sub days for collaborative curriculum study and planning.• Face-to-face training for all Grade 4 and 5 and Algebra 1 teachers.• Develop a team of specialists with math instructional expertise to support targeted school implementation.

If you came to Math Night in November, much of this information is familiar to you already. Our PTSA is planning opportunities in coming weeks to keep informed about the Math Curriculum 2.0 rollout, and we’ll be talking about all these details and how they will affect your family as we go through the registration process for next year.

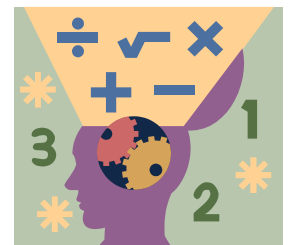
Mark your calendars now for the parent planning meetings:

February 11 – Parents of Current 6th and 7th Graders - 7:00 PM in the media center

February 13 – Parents of Current 5th Graders – 7:00 PM in the APR

Of course, you can always call the counselor or math teacher as well.

JPMS has been preparing to have our students ready for continued success. We’ll make sure they transition smoothly to the new curriculum!





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.

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.

Math Club – Wednesdays after school in room 300

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

Zumba Club – Tuesdays afterschool in Room 108

Rec Extra needs your donations for upcoming classes. Don't throw it away!!! Recycle with us!

You may drop any of these items in the Rec Extra Box in the Main Office.

- Sewing supplies, thread, trim, buttons, fiber fill
- Scrapbook supplies (paper, scissors, stickers, etc.)
- Beads and Jewelry making supplies; old jewelry
- Magnets—too many on your refrigerator? We will take them!
- Fabric and fabric scraps
- Spray paint
- Yarn and knitting needles or crochet hooks

Thanks in advance for your donations!

Cugini's



Authentic Italian Cuisine

**JPMS Leo Club
Restaurant Night
at Cugini's**

Tuesday February 5

5:00 – 9:00 PM

This is a great way to support the LEO Club's efforts and spend some time with your family and classmates.

You can dine in with your friends or carry out.

All money raised will go to the LEO Club's work helping our community.

Come join us at Cuginis!

See You There!!!!

Please drop your receipt in the
Leo Club container after you
place your order!



Noteworthy

Open Gym

Open Gym will begin on Tuesday, January 29 after school. During this time students will be able to choose from a variety of activities in the gym or weight room, such as badminton, basketball, soccer, weight training and volleyball. If the weather is appropriate we can go outside for activities. Permission slips may be picked up in the locker rooms and must be completed before participating. The ECA fee should be paid and students must be academically eligible. The dates for Open Gym are January 29, February 13, February 20 and February 27. If you have any questions please contact Mrs. Gerrie.

7th and 8th Grade Soccer Players

Spring is just around the corner and if you are interested in trying out for the JPMS boys or girls soccer team, now is the time to get your paperwork filled out. In order to try out you must have a current physical on file (physicals are good for 2 calendar years) and a completed parent permission slip. Tryouts can start as early as March 7, but the official day of tryouts will be announced shortly. All paperwork may be picked up in the girls or boys locker room. Please contact the co-athletic directors (Mr. Willett and Mrs. Gerrie) if you have any questions.

Winter 2013 Parent Academy

The MCPS Parent Academy is back with an exciting lineup of free workshops for parents! The 2013 winter session of the Parent Academy began on Monday, January 14, 2013. The Parent Academy helps equip parents with the tips and tools they need to help their children succeed. All of the workshops are free and are held at schools and locations throughout Montgomery County. Childcare and interpretation services are provided at all classes. The schedule of workshops is available at montgomeryschoolsmd.org/departments/parentacademy/.

Sesión de Invierno de la Academia Para Padres

La Academia para Padres de MCPS regresa con un interesante grupo de talleres gratuitos para los padres! La sesión de invierno del 2013 de la Academia para Padres comenzará el Lunes, 14 de enero. La Academia para Padres ayuda a equipar a los padres con los consejos y herramientas que necesitan para ayudar a sus hijos a triunfar. Todos los talleres son gratuitos y se realizan en escuelas y otros lugares de la comunidad en todo el condado. Los servicios de guardería y interpretación de lenguajes se proporcionan en todas las clases. El horario de los talleres está disponible en montgomeryschoolsmd.org/departments/parentacademy/.

Student Town Hall on January 29

Have a question you'd really like to ask MCPS Superintendent Joshua Starr? Now's your chance! Dr. Starr wants to hear from students about what's working well in MCPS and what the school system can do to improve. He'll be holding a town hall meeting with students at Paint Branch High School on Tuesday, January 29. Students in our school and other middle and high schools can send a question or comment for Dr. Starr via email or Twitter and he'll choose some to answer during the town hall meeting. Go to [MCPS Student Town Hall](#) to submit your questions.

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.

Community Day Drop-In Coffee with Dr. Starr

On Monday, January 28, 2013, Superintendent Joshua Starr will be spending the entire day in the Churchill, Poolesville, Richard Montgomery, Rockville, and Wootton quint cluster. As part of this Community Day, Dr. Starr will hold a drop-in coffee for all secondary school staff in the quint cluster at Robert Frost Middle School, 9201 Scott Drive, Rockville. The coffee will run from 3:15 to 4:15 p.m. and will be an opportunity for staff to meet and talk with Dr. Starr in an informal setting. I hope you will be able to drop by and join Dr. Starr on the afternoon of January 28.

Other Community Day events on January 28 will include school visits by Dr. Starr throughout the day, a morning coffee for elementary school staff at Bells Mill Elementary School from 7:15 to 8:15 a.m., and a Town Hall meeting for parents and community members from 7:30 to 9:00 p.m. at Richard Montgomery High School, 250 Richard Montgomery Drive, Rockville. Additional information about Community Days is available on the MCPS website at www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org, search "Community Days."

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.

Flu Prevention

The 2013 flu season has arrived and Maryland, like many states, is experiencing a widespread outbreak of the virus. We are asking students and staff to take some simple steps to keep themselves healthy, and help prevent the spread of the flu and other seasonal illnesses:

1. The Centers for Disease Control recommends that everyone 6 months and older gets a flu vaccine.
2. Wash your hands often with soap and water, especially after you cough or sneeze, or use alcohol-based hand sanitizer. MCPS-approved hand sanitizer dispensers are available for use at various locations throughout the school (e.g. near the cafeteria or all-purpose room, near the main office).
3. When coughing or sneezing, cover your nose and mouth with your sleeve or a tissue and throw the tissue in the trash.
4. Avoid touching your eyes, nose, or mouth to minimize the chance for infection.
5. Stay home from work or school if symptoms develop such as fever, coughing, sneezing, runny nose, headache, and body aches.
6. If you have concerns about the health of your child, please contact your physician immediately or, in an emergency, dial 911.

Additional flu prevention information can be found at the following websites:

MCPS: montgomeryschoolsmd.org/emergency/flu/index.aspx/

Centers for Disease Control: cdc.gov/flu/protect/preventing.htm

Montgomery County: montgomerycountymd.gov/resident/flu.html

Prevención de la Gripe

Ha llegado la temporada de la Influenza (gripe) de 2013 y Maryland, como muchos Estados, está experimentando un brote generalizado del virus. Estamos pidiendo a los estudiantes y al personal que tomen algunas medidas simples para mantenerse saludable y ayudar a prevenir la propagación de la gripe y otras enfermedades estacionales:

1. El Centro para el Control de Enfermedades (Centers for Disease Control - CDC) recomienda que todas las personas desde los 6 meses de edad en adelante se vacunen contra la gripe.
2. Se debe lavar las manos frecuentemente con jabón y agua, especialmente después de toser, estornudar o usar desinfectante para las manos a base de alcohol. MCPS aprobó dispensadores de desinfectante para manos y se encuentran disponibles en diferentes lugares a lo largo de las escuelas (por ejemplo: cerca de la cafetería o salón de reuniones, cerca de la oficina).
3. Al toser o estornudar, cúbrase la nariz y la boca con la manga o un pañuelo de papel y tire el pañuelo a la basura.
4. Evite tocar sus ojos, la nariz o la boca para minimizar el riesgo de infección.
5. Si está enfermo con síntomas como fiebre, tos, estornudo, congestión nasal, dolor de cabeza y dolores musculares, es importante que permanezca en casa.
6. Si tiene preocupación acerca de la salud de su hijo/a, por favor comuníquese con su médico inmediatamente o en el caso de una emergencia, llame al 911.

Se puede obtener información adicional acerca de la gripe en el siguiente sitio de internet:

MCPS: montgomeryschoolsmd.org/emergency/flu/index.aspx/

Centro Para el Control de Enfermedades: espanol.cdc.gov/enes/flu/

Montgomery County: montgomerycountymd.gov/resident/flu.html

Builders of the Future

Register NOW for a one-day enrichment program offered for students in grades 4 - 6, scheduled for Saturday, February 9, 2013 from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. on the Germantown campus of Montgomery College.

Students will have an opportunity to select two 3-hour workshops from the 8 exciting workshops offered. Workshops include topics on:

- designing and creating custom-made parachutes and stuff sacks,
- making soft sculptures and wearables that incorporate light and sound,
- building whimsical electromechanical gizmos,
- building LEGO take-home projects and flying machines, and woodworking

For brochures or additional registration information, contact Workforce Development & Continuing Education at 240-567-7264 or 240-567-7917 or access our website at <http://cms.montgomerycollege.edu/wdce/youthmcadventures.html>

Workshops fill fast, so don't delay!

**There's
information
about a
concurrent
parent
workshop on
the PTSA
page of this
issue!**

Community Forum on Pedestrian Issues in The Upcounty

There will be a community meeting held on Saturday, January 26 in the Germantown Public Library meeting room to discuss issues relating to pedestrian traffic in the upcounty region. If you are interested in these issues, contact Cindy Snow of The Action Committee for Transit for information about the meeting. Her email is admin@actfortransit.org. The meeting will take place from 2:00 – 4:00 PM and will address questions such as, "How can we make walking safe, comfortable, and convenient in the Upcounty?"

Save the Date!

Important events you won't want to miss!



January 28	Blue Ribbon Day (Wear Blue)
January 29	Open Gym begins afterschool
January 31	Report Card Distribution
January 31	Science Expo (5:30 – 7:00 p.m.)
February 2	Saturday School
February 5	JPMS Leo Club Restaurant Night at Cugini's from 5:00 – 9:00 p.m.
February 8	Holocaust Field Trip (7 th Grade)
February 9	Saturday School
February 11	Incoming 7 th and 8 th Grade Parent Orientation Meeting at 7:00 p.m.
February 12	Magnet Meeting for Students/Parents at PHS at 7:00 p.m.
February 13	Incoming 6 th Grade Parent Orientation Meeting at 7:00 p.m.
February 15	Honor Roll Celebrations – 8 th Grade – 8:40 a.m.; 7 th Grade – 10:30 a.m.; and 6 th Grade – 12:50 p.m.

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 31	Girls play Kingsview at JPMS (2:40 p.m.)
January 31	Boys play Kingsview at Kingsview (3:00 p.m.)
*February 5	Girls play Baker at JPMS (2:40 p.m.)—rescheduled 1/10
*February 5	Boys play Baker at Baker (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.)



Don't miss
the Science
Expo!

January 31!

See the great work our
science students have done!

PHS NEWS

Go Falcons!



Boys Varsity Basketball

January 25	7:00 p.m.	(H)	PHS vs. Seneca Valley HS at PHS
January 26	6:00 p.m.	(A)	PHS at Gettysburg HS
January 28	7:00 p.m.	(A)	PHS vs. Wheaton HS at Wheaton HS
January 30	7:00 p.m.	(A)	PHS vs. Northwood HS at Northwood HS
February 1	7:00 p.m.	(H)	PHS vs. Rockville HS at PHS
February 5	7:00 p.m.	(A)	PHS vs. Einstein HS at Einstein HS

Girls Varsity Basketball

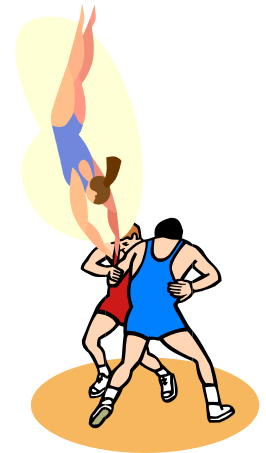
January 25	5:15 p.m.	(H)	PHS vs. Seneca Valley HS at PHS
January 28	5:15 p.m.	(A)	PHS vs. Wheaton HS at Wheaton HS
January 30	7:00 p.m.	(H)	PHS vs. Northwood HS at PHS
February 1	7:00 p.m.	(A)	PHS vs. Rockville HS at Rockville HS
February 5	7:00 p.m.	(H)	PHS vs. Einstein HS at PHS

CoEd Varsity Swim and Dive

January 26	9:15 a.m.	(A)	PHS vs. Churchill HS at Germantown SC
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Boys Varsity Wrestling

January 26	2:30 p.m.	(H)	PHS vs. B-CC HS at PHS
January 29	6:00 p.m.	(H)	PHS vs. Rockville HS at PHS
February 2	1:00 p.m.	(A)	PHS vs. Quince Orchard HS at QOHS
February 2	1:00 p.m.	(A)	PHS vs. Seneca Valley HS at QOHS



Congratulations to Anand Vijaykumar Patel and Joy Shuang Zeng, semi-finalists in the Intel Student Talent Search!

The class of 2013 has been selling reusable grocery bags at \$3.00 per bag. Get yourself a nice bag for stowing all your store bought goodies and show your Falcon Pride! See [Order Form](#) for details!

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

