

**POLO PARK**  
MIDDLE SCHOOL

APRIL 2022

# Stallion Sentinel

VOLUME 14 ISSUE 3

## Polo Park M.S.

11901 Lake Worth Rd.  
Wellington, FL 33449  
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fax: 561-333-5505

### Administration

**Mr. Michael Aronson**  
Principal

**Mr. Craig Corsentino**  
Assistant Principal - 6th Grade

**Mrs. Melissa Leiva**  
Assistant Principal - 7th Grade

**Mrs. Fallon Kauker**  
Assistant Principal - 8th Grade

### School Counselors

**Ms. Naomy Soto-Coleman**  
6th Grade

**Ms. Kelly Mayville**  
7th Grade

**Ms. Kris Connors**  
8th Grade

### County Web Address

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

### School Web Address

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

### Mission

Polo Park Middle School will empower our students to attain their maximum potential through partnering with parents and the community to foster the understanding, cooperation, and communication skills necessary for students to become literate, productive citizens.

For the Parents, Staff, Students, and Community of Polo Park Middle School

## Principal's Message

Dear Polo Park Family,

It is hard to believe that we are coming to the conclusion of the 2021-2022 school year! We have spent a lot of time recouping learning loss and teaching the grade level standards. I am so proud of how hard our teachers are working and I want to thank them all for the tremendous amount of time and preparation that they put in every day to get all of our students ready for their FSA and EOC tests. The writing test begins the week of April 4th and finishes by April 15th. FSA and EOC testing begin May 3rd and currently runs through May 27th.

We would like to welcome Ms. Gilman-Math to our staff and thank Mr. Kaliser and the P.E. department, as Mr. Kaliser will be covering an ELA class while the teacher is on leave.

Congratulations goes out to our Band for receiving straight superiors at the District 14 MPA's. As well as, our girls' soccer and boys' and girls' basketball teams on winning their divisions. As basketball and soccer begin their playoff runs, we will also be starting the seasons for track and boys' volleyball.

As we move through the fourth nine weeks I would like to bring your attention to some upcoming events. March 28th report cards were posted to SIS. April 29th PTSA will be sponsoring our 8th grade dance. The 8th grade trip to Gradventure will be May 6th. The Band Spring Concerts our on May 11th and 12th. May 24th will be our Million Words Club and Half-way There celebration was on April 13th. The 8th grade Awards night will be May 25th. May 27th is the last day of school.

Parents, as a continued reminder, safety is always a main priority of ours. Please continue to encourage your children to stay home if they are feeling ill and remind them that if they see something that they should say something. Also, please remember that supervision is only provided 30 minutes prior to the start of the school day and 30 minutes after, unless your child is enrolled in before or after care.

### Looking forward to a great Spring!

Sincerely,  
Michael Aronson

## Polo Park Pride

- Be Positive
- Be Disciplined
- Be Respectful
- Be Excellent
- Be Independent

## Vision

Polo Park Middle School is committed to empowering students to become productive and responsible citizens with the skills needed to succeed in a diverse and global society. Students will become responsible, independent, and creative life-long learners.

*If you need help translating this document, please contact Polo Park Middle School at 561-333-5500.*

### Creole Version:

Si w bezwen èd tradui dokiman sa a, tanpri kontakte Polo Park Middle School nan 561-333-5500.

### Spanish Version:

Si necesitas ayuda para traducir este documento, favor de comunicarse con Polo Park Middle School al 561-333-5500.

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**SCHOOL INFO & NEWS & PHOTOS**

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For More Information, & To Stay In The Know. Check out our Polo Park Middle School PTSA Facebook.



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## Student of the Month

Each month grade level teams select a student who stands out both academically and behaviorally for the Academic Student of the Month. Additionally, elective teachers pick an outstanding student for the Elective Student of the Month and our coaches and physical education teachers pick an athlete for the Athlete of the Month. The students receive a certificate and their pictures are posted outside the main office for all to see. Please congratulate the following students recognized for the months of November, December, January and February.

### November



Kate Drummond  
6th Grade



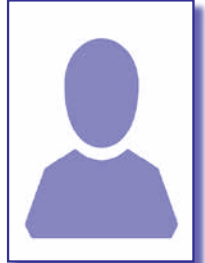
Amna Seraj  
7th Grade



Shirna Jiang  
8th Grade



Daniela Garrido  
Athletics



Michelle Carrio  
Electives  
(not pictured)

### December



Jordanna Mitchell  
6th Grade



Elysia Hyun  
Electives



Janaya Louis  
7th Grade



Madelynn Wood  
8th Grade



Oliver Wasilewski  
Athletics

### January



Aliah Oliva  
6th Grade



Miriam Kamel  
7th Grade



Sophia Yohe  
Electives



Azariah Tolliver  
Athletics



Naimah Cetut  
8th Grade

continued

### A few spots are left!



**We need you!**

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**Nora Bernstein**

[nora.bernstein@palmbeachschools.org](mailto:nora.bernstein@palmbeachschools.org)

**Polo Park Middle School**



February



Philopater Samaan  
6th Grade



Alice Chaul Maranhao de Sa  
7th Grade



Andres Gutierrez  
8th Grade



Jordan Amster  
Electives



MacKenzie McDonough  
Athletics

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Group photos with Mr. Aronson



November



December



January/February

Choice Student of the Year

Each year, one of our choice programs has the pleasure of selecting a Choice Student of the Year. This student must be in their third year of the program and is selected for excellence both in and out of the classroom. This year's choice student is Ethan Hirsch. Ethan is in the Pre-Information Technology Choice Program. Congratulations, Ethan.



Mr. Aronson, Ethan Hirsch,  
and Mr. Corsentino

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## Our 2021-2022 PTSA Business Partners

Thank you to all our loyal business partners for their generous support of Polo Park Middle School. Families of Polo Park - let's do all we can to support them as well!

**Adrenaline**  
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**Promo Girl**  
**Simply Braces, Dr. Matt Pickron**  
**SMALLCAKES of Royal Palm Beach**

*Thank You!*



Students enjoyed participating in Walk-a-thon and Science Night. Parents came out for a night of food, and drinks, and to learn more about PTSA at Ford's Garage.



**Jon Goldblatt, LMHC, Psy.D**  
*Licensed Mental Health Counselor*  
**(954)608-9171**  
**jgoldblatt@wellingtonmentalhealth.com**  
**www.WellingtonMentalHealth.com**

1035 State Rd 7, Suite 315  
 Wellington, FL 33414



Next up was **Walk-a-thon**, where students got to leave a morning class to walk the track with friends, listen to music, and raise funds for school projects! Thank you to all who participated! And thank you to the staff and volunteers for helping it run smoothly.

The **Q2 Honor Roll celebration** was on February 9th in the cafeteria at lunch time. The approximately 550 students were treated by the PTSA to individually-wrapped ice-cream cones. They came on stage to get their certificates from the administration and well-deserved 'Congratulations!'

We appreciate our volunteers who have been selling **concession** items at our Stallion home basketball games. We have been selling out of items due to major interest and may bring back pizza slices next year! As well, our **PDQ after-school sales** continue to sell like crazy – the students love these afternoons!

Thank you to the parents who came out to Ford's Garage for the outdoor patio **PTSA parent mixer** in February. It was nice to meet some new faces! We will be having another **Parent Mixer 4/12**, this time in the morning, after drop-off. If you would like to find out how you can get involved, come out and join the current board for coffee and bagels in the Media Center. We are looking for volunteers for next school year.

Our next big event for students is the **8th Grade Dance on 4/29**. This exclusive event is for 8th graders only, and we are proud to sponsor this farewell event for these students to celebrate their years at Polo Park Middle School. Tickets can be purchased on MemberHub. Food will be included as well as glow items. The link is: <https://poloparkptsa.memberhub.com/store>

Also coming up the last week of April is **Teacher Appreciation Week**. Among other planned events, we are happy to announce that we are bringing back **Sweets Day**, where in past years pre-Covid, parents have generously donated sweet items on a designated day – muffins, donuts, cookies, cakes, you name it! Such a nice way to participate and show the teachers we appreciate their hard work. At drop-off, we will come to your car window and grab your food donation – it's that easy! Look for emails and the A-frame outside the school for what day to bring the sweets – tentatively set for Tuesday April 26. If you would like to make a monetary donation, please email [hospitality@poloparkptsa.com](mailto:hospitality@poloparkptsa.com)

Please continue to check your emails and social media for our latest happenings! [FB – Polo Park Middle School PTSA. Instagram – Poloparkptsa. Twitter – Poloparkptsa] If you would like to donate directly for any of our events, or wish to volunteer, please contact us at [president@poloparkptsa.com](mailto:president@poloparkptsa.com)

Friendly Remember that without volunteers, these events do not happen – and we do not want that happening next year! Please consider helping next year by taking a Board position or chairing an individual event! Your school needs you – thank you for your consideration!

## PTSA

With our spring semester rolling out, PTSA and its wonderful volunteers got busy and excited, gearing up for the next two big events we sponsored – Science Night and Walk-a-thon. We are happy to report that **Science Night at the Cox Science Center** was well-attended and a HUGE success! This private event put on for our Stallion family had STEM stations to visit, mini-golf to play, food trucks for dinner, and of course Mr. Grad and the robotics teams showing how their robots work! Thank you to all of the Polo Park students, families, teachers and staff that came out to enjoy this event. (And NJHS for volunteering at the tables.)



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# The Garden Gnomes Garden Club

The PPMS Garden Club also known as "The Garden Gnomes" continues to grow both in terms of membership and outreach. Our mission is to take the PPMS Garden of Dreams project to a whole new level while providing a visually appealing and interactive ecosystem. Garden Club members are learning how to germinate seeds, grow pineapples, milkweed and have recently constructed a sunflower nursery for two dozen new sunflowers. Our Butterfly Garden is already receiving out of town "guests" in the form of Monarch and Passion Butterflies while the Tropical Garden segment is showing off its true colors with bromeliads and Birds of Paradise. Last week, representatives from the Wellington Garden Club joined us as we broke ground on a new addition to our garden paradise. We are excited about the progress we have made and our plans for future growth. We are still accepting new members and encourage PPMS students and their families to check out our new website at [www.Ggnomes.org](http://www.Ggnomes.org). Think green and get growing!



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## Polo Park Cyber Stallions Take State by Storm!

The Polo Park Cyber Stallions robotics teams competed in the FLL State Championship held in Niceville, Florida on March 31 – April 2nd. They crushed it!

Team 36112, The Rockin' Robots, won the title of **Grand Champion** becoming not only the first Polo Park robotics team to ever take home the state title, but also the first South Florida Region team to do so as well. This year saw 495 teams registered in Florida for the Cargo Connect season, all with hopes of achieving this top honor. The Rockin' Robots beat out the 40 top teams from the states' five regions to secure the title of State Grand Champion. This award is given to the team that fully embraces the Core Values while achieving excellence and innovation in Robot Performance, Robot Design, and the Innovative Project. And talk about team spirit...a teammate who had transferred to Texas mid-season traveled all the way to the tournament with her mom to support her former team. This display of dedication was critical in the Core Values challenges presented during the weekend's events and helped them rise to the top!

In addition, The Rockin' Robots also took home the 1st place Robot Performance Award for their robot table run score of 520, beating the runner-up by a solid 85 points.

But your Cyber Stallions didn't stop there.

Team 16113, The Cyber Guardians, took home the prestigious Breakthrough Award. This award is only given if and when a team displays significant progress in their confidence and capability and is able to demonstrate that they understand that what they discover is more important than what they win, which is the embodiment of the FLL philosophy.

These two teams have worked non-stop since the beginning of the school year with practices lasting late into the night five days a week. They have persevered through disagreements, missed practices, and scheduling conflicts. Yet, they were still able to pull it together to dominate at the State Final showing everyone that dedication, hard work, and team spirit are the key ingredients to a winning season!

Polo Park's third robotics team, Team 44893, the Royal Robots, will represent South Florida at the World Invitational in Houston, Texas April 20th – 23rd.



Ethan Aronson, Chase Greenberg, Zachary Koenig, and George Honeycutt



Maxx Swisher, Gabe Forjan, Andrew Bueno Tavares, Nicholas Delloso, Aarna Singh, Evan Seith, Mr. Grad, and Mr. Bernstein

*continued*

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Zach Koenig, Ethan Aronson, Chase Greenberg, Olivia Chiampou, George Honeycutt, Eoghan McIvor Dave Grad, and Roy Bernstein



Zachary Koenig and Chase Greenberg explain their project to some Foxbots, an elementary team.



Maxx Swisher, Gabe Forjan, Andrew Bueno Tavares, Nicholas Delloso, Aarna Singh, Evan Seith



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# Stallion Sentinel

*For the Parents, Staff, Students,  
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## From the Library Media Center

It has been a busy few months in the library media center. We had two wonderful authors visit us. In February, James Ponti was at Polo Park promoting *Forbidden City*, the third installment in the *City Spies* series. In March we were joined by Taryn Souders whose book, *Coop Knows the Scoop*, is one of this year's Sunshine State Young Reader's Award titles. For Mr. Ponti's visit PTSA donated funds to cover a book for every student in attendance as well as providing funds towards lunch. A SAC grant paid for books for Ms. Souders visit. All students attending our author visits went home with an autographed book.

On April 13th Our Million Word Club and Half-Way There luncheon was held as was our Sunshine State Young Reader's Award Ice Cream Extravaganza.

We are currently working on our summer reading program, so look for more details in late May and in our next edition of the Stallion Sentinel.



James Ponti's visit



Taryn Souders' visit