



POLO PARK
MIDDLE SCHOOL

Stallion Sentinel

DECEMBER 2023

VOLUME 16 ISSUE 1

Polo Park M.S.

11901 Lake Worth Rd.
Wellington, FL 33449
tel: 561-333-5500
fax: 561-333-5505

Administration

Dr. Jennifer Galindo
Principal

Mr. Andrew Kline
Assistant Principal - 6th Grade

Ms. Annjeanette Munnings
Assistant Principal - 7th Grade

Mr. Craig Corsentino
Assistant Principal - 8th Grade

School Counselors

Ms. Julie Trujillo
6th Grade

Ms. Kris Connors
7th Grade

Ms. Naomi Soto-Coleman
8th Grade

County Web Address
www.palmbeachschools.org

School Web Address
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

Exciting things are happening around campus at Polo Park Middle School. We have successfully completed the first quarter and are well on our way to completing the 2nd quarter. Students are working hard and learning a great deal. As we move closer to the end of the 1st semester, there are a couple of important things to remember.

1. SIS is a sure way to keep up with how your student is doing in school. You can see absences, grades, discipline, and state assessments. Don't just check on your student at the end of the grading period. Checking SIS regularly allows for you to have important conversations in a timely manner to support your student.
2. Being on time is vitally important. Student conductor does not reset until January. We have a growing number of students racking up tardies, especially in the morning. If you are running late and your student is walking in as the bell rings, walk in with them. By signing them in, you are letting us know that you are aware they are entering late. We will give them a consequence free pass and they can head to class. If they come in on their own, we don't know if they were late due to traffic or leaving campus in the morning and coming back late.
3. Being a student in good standing is a requirement for students who want to participate in the fun things we have planned for this year such as Gradventure, Universal Trip and more. Being in good standing means that the student owes no obligations to PPMS, has no suspensions (in or out of school) on their record this year, and have earned the needed credits for each quarter.

I am looking forward to working with your students as we work our way through the 2023-2024 school year.

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 ed 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.



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

Anti-Bullying

October was anti-bullying month, and the students celebrated this with many lessons and activities in school. They did an activity to help them understand that once an action is taken or words are said, it can never be fixed or erased. Our biggest activity with the students was to make paper shoes to "Stomp Out Bullying". Each kid was given a paper shoe to decorate in their own individual style as a way to inspire anti-bullying. All of the shoes were then collected, cut out, and glued on to large sheets of poster paper to be hung up and displayed in the hallways. The kids really showed their creativity and individuality with this project.



Perfect FAST Scores

On Monday, October 23, 2023 we celebrated the achievements of our Polo Park students who received perfect scores on their FAST test from last year. We are proud to say that we had 54 students who received recognition from the State of Florida. Students celebrated with ice cream and treats.



Students 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. Please congratulate the following students recognized for the months of September and October.

September:

- 6th grade – Ela Ergel
- 7th grade – Anika Sanchez
- 8th grade – Jeremiah Davis
- Electives – Sophie Maule
- Athletics – Jace Humphrey

October:

- 6th grade – Achsah Jaimson
- 7th grade – Abby Petiotte
- 8th grade – Tony Evans
- Electives – Julia Lees
- Athletics – Grace VanDyke

How Lenses Refract Light Waves

Mr. Bernstein's 7th grade science class is observing how lenses refract light waves.

Refraction is the bending of a wave as it moves from one material into another. As light waves move from the air into the plastic lens, they slow down, and bend. The shape of the lens controls how much the waves bend, allowing students to aim (focus) the light waves onto a piece of paper towel.



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A Visit from a Holocaust Survivor

Holocaust Survivor Mary Eckstein captivated 8th graders at Polo Park Middle School with her firsthand account of resilience and survival. Eckstein's personal story not only shed light on the atrocities of the past but also inspired the students to reflect on the importance of empathy and understanding in today's world.



Flight Simulation

Polo Park's eighth grade pre-engineering program strongly focuses in on flight and space engineering. Our curriculum is a blend of Project Lead the Way (PLTW), the Embry Riddle Aeronautics University middle school program, Civil Air Patrol and teacher created content. One aspect that has been missing is a "close to real world" experience, such as flying an airplane. After over six months of work, Polo Park's Pre-Engineering program finally has a one-to-one, realistic flight simulation for its students. Students are utilizing Microsoft's Flight Simulator to learn how propeller, commercial jet, glider and military aircraft operate. They are currently experiencing basic flight training on a Cessna 152, guided through oral directions from the "flight instructor." The computer scores them on how closely they can match the expected actions they should be taking. Future activities will include planning and carrying out flights from takeoff to landing. The sky is the limit!



Stallion Sentinel
December 2023
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What a wonderful fall for our Stallion family! We were thrilled to help our students at Curriculum Night, School Picture Day, and at lunch for the "Start with Hello" campaign. We celebrated our first quarter **Honor Roll students on November 8th with their certificates and a treat.**

Our **Spirit Nights** and monthly on-campus **PDQ sales** continue – our students especially love grabbing chicken sandwiches, nuggets or cookies after a long day. We rotate the sale days to accommodate for the students' dismissal schedule. Our monthly PTSA student member **Candy Days** are also a huge hit. We surveyed the students to determine their favorite candy!

Our **BIG FALL EVENT** was a huge success – the students had a blast at the **GLow PARTY** in early November! The dance floor was packed as the DJ played for 2 hours! Besides dancing, the students took pictures at the 360-photo booth, had pizza and cotton candy, and got to pick items from the candy bar and glow item table! It was great having 6th, 7th, and 8th graders participate in such a great event together!

The PTSA annual Holiday Luncheon for our teachers and staff is **December 15th**. This is a great opportunity to volunteer and show your appreciation. If you are unable to volunteer for the luncheon, **Sweet Treat Day** on **December 19th** is another great way to show your appreciation. You can drop off a sweet treat in the morning during car line drop off.

Walk-a-thon, our next BIG student event, will be here before we know it! It will be held on February 9th, on our campus track, with a DJ and multiple raffle drawings! Student ticket and raffle purchase information will be out soon. We have some great prizes the students will love but need more – if you have any raffle items to donate, please let us know. We would love any water donations as well!

Please join us at the second **General PTSA Meeting** for 2023-2024: 12/14/23 at 5:30pm in the Media Center. This is one of three General Meetings throughout the year; we would love to have you come!

PARENTS, IT'S NOT TOO LATE... SUPPORT YOUR SCHOOL AND SIGN UP FOR YOUR PTSA MEMBERSHIP FOR THE 2023-2024 SCHOOL YEAR! Volunteering is optional! MemberHub link: <https://poloparkptsa.memberhub.com/store>. As well, if you would like to donate directly for any of our events, like the upcoming Teacher and Staff Holiday Luncheon on December 15th, Honor Roll quarterly celebrations, or 8th grade dance, please contact us at president@poloparkptsa.com

Please check your emails and social media for our latest happenings and links to important sites!

- Facebook – Polo Park Middle School PTSA
 - Instagram – Poloparkptsa
 - PTSA Website - poloparkptsa.com
- See you in the new year!

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Thank you to all our loyal business partners for their generous support of PPMS! The school would not be as amazing as it is today without their unwavering support. Polo Park families let's show our support in return! If you are interested in being one of our Business Partners, please email businesspartners@poloparkpts.com, or for any questions on any topic send emails to president@poloparkpts.com!

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The Annual Teacher Costume Contest

Each year the teachers and staff dress up for Halloween. The students get to vote by ballot for the funniest and the most creative costumes. This year's winners were: Ms. Ardizzone-Johnson, Mr. Coney, Ms. De Celles, and Ms. Stalker. Congratulations to all those participating in our Halloween events.



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From the Library Media Center

It has been very busy in the library media center. Two of our ELA classes will be participating in the Battle of the Books (BOB) this year. I am excited to be collaborating with Ms. Beach and Ms. Llewellyn and the students they selected for BOB. Those classes visited the LMC where we went over the rules, divided into teams and selected the books that they will become experts in. Our online challenge takes place in February.

On October 20th we had our Phenomenal Pancake Party for students who completed the optional Summer Reading Challenge. Dr. G really makes phenomenal pancakes. We also had our Halloween craft with many variations of ghost ornaments, as you can see pictured below. On the Monday before Halloween, we celebrated with Halloween Bingo during our library lunchtime activities, everyone had a great time with prizes, cake and treat bags. On Halloween, I shared The Legend of Sleepy Hollow with students attending our lunchtime activities. We took a virtual trip to Tarrytown

and Sleepy Hollow and again enjoyed treats for the holiday.

November has us celebrating with Birthday Bingo for Ms. Mancusi and a fall felt craft during our lunchtime activities. We have been updating our displays to reflect the different events that are recognized each month. Currently, we have displays for Holocaust Education, National Native American Heritage Month, and Veteran's Day. Our bookfair will begin November 29th and run through December 7th.

In December we will celebrate Dr. Galindo's birthday with birthday bingo and we will have two holiday themed read-alouds. Permission slips for all lunchtime activities are available in the library media center. For information on anything library related, please contact me at nora.bernstein@palmbeachschools.org

Happy Reading,
Mrs. B.



Halloween craft – one of our library lunchtime activities. Some students sewing their ghosts.



Book Displays highlighting Monthly Events and Celebration



Pancake Breakfast



Veteran's Day Display

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Baseball Victory

CONGRATULATIONS Goes out to Coach Kaliser and our Boy's Baseball team. They are the County Champs!!! It was an amazing game that ended with their 4-3 victory over Don Estridge. The boys played their hearts out. Way to go, Stallions!



From the Reading and ELA Departments

Don't be left out, complete 50 Sea Readers with 80% proficiency or higher by Dec. 8th to qualify.

PIZZA PARTY

DECEMBER 18
2023

READING PLUS REWARD



WHO: 6TH, 7TH, &
8TH GRADE

LOCATION: MEDIA CENTER
TIME: LUNCH BLOCK

Must complete 50 Sea Readers with 80 % proficiency or higher
by December 8th

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