



**POLO PARK
MIDDLE SCHOOL**

Stallion Sentinel

FEBRUARY 2020

VOLUME 12 ISSUE 3

Polo Park M.S.

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Wellington, FL 33449
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Administration

Mr. Michael Aronson
Principal

Mrs. Fallon Kauker
Assistant Principal - 7th Grade

Mr. Larry Matz
Assistant Principal - 8th Grade

Mr. Craig Corsentino
Assistant Principal - 6th Grade

Ms. Nicole Haddock
Dean

School Counselors

Ms. Brittny Kirik
6th Grade

Ms. Naomy Soto-Coleman
7th Grade

Ms. Kelly Fredley
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

Dear Polo Park Family,

Wow, it is hard to believe that we are more than half way through the 2019-2020 school year! I want to thank everyone who has participated in our many school and PTSA events and ask for your continued support throughout the school year.

Our First nine weeks' honor roll celebration was overwhelming, as we had over 600 students with a 3.5 GPA or above. The second semester honor roll celebration will be January 24th. Report cards went home January 15th and the third nine weeks' progress reports will go home on February 5th. We have been doing diagnostic testing the first few weeks of January and our 8th grade students recently received their PSAT scores.

We had some great events in the last couple of months, including the band's winter performance, which was amazing. I was equally impressed with the Drama Clubs Desert Theater. Over 150 students who met their Reading Plus goal and attended a luncheon honoring their accomplishments.

Congratulations goes out to our boys' soccer and girls' volleyball teams on successful seasons, with both winning their divisions and making the playoffs. The Cyber Stallions Robotics team will begin competing shortly and we look forward to another successful season for them. As basketball begins, we would like to remind everyone that spectators will only be allowed in with clear bags.

As we move through the third nine weeks I would like to bring your attention to some upcoming events. January 31st will be our Walkathon, February 7th our 8th graders will be taking a trip to Kennedy Space Center and we will be hosting a literacy night at Barnes and Nobles at 5:30 on Thursday, February 6th. February 8th is our night at the Palm Beach International Equestrian Center and March 7th is our school trip to Islands of Adventure.

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.

GET CONNECTED!



POLO PARK FACEBOOK

www.facebook.com/poloparkptsa



SCHOOL INFO & NEWS & PHOTOS



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

Band Concerts

On Wednesday, December 11th and Thursday, December 12th, Polo Park Middle School hosted its annual series of winter concerts. The Beginning Band and Advanced Jazz Band performed on Wednesday evening, followed by the Intermediate and Advanced Bands on Thursday evening. More than three hundred parents, family members, teachers, and administrators attended the concerts. The bands performed music ranging from The Beatles to Mussorgsky to *Les Miserables*.

Kevin Graham, Polo Park's band teacher explained, "Our Winter Band Concerts on December 11th and 12th were great successes. We had over two hundred students perform during the two nights of concerts. I am incredibly proud of the work the students put in to make these performances successful, and I'm looking forward to our Spring Concerts in May."

Based on the audience's response, both evening performances were a success. When the performance had concluded, principal Michael Aronson thanked everyone for attending and said, "I continue to be impressed with the performance of all our bands and Mr. Graham's exceptional work."

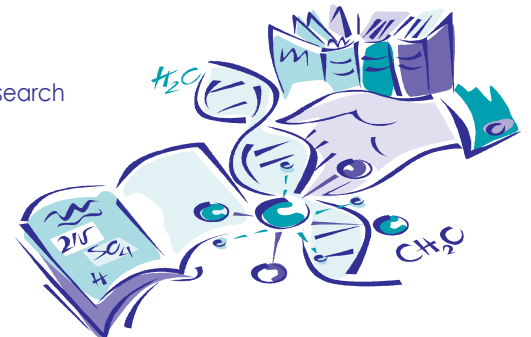


Polo Park's Science Fair Winners

Polo Park had its best showing ever at the district's science and engineering fair awards ceremony, only 15 students, out of all of the Palm Beach County middle schools, get the honor of winning 1st place. They will be advancing to the state science fair. Please congratulate Polo Park's TWO 1st place winners, William Adams and Eoghan Mcivor. Eoghan also won a special prize from the Palm Beach County Teachers of Mathematics association for his coding project. They will be proceeding to represent the school and the entire district in Lakeland, Florida in March.

Other students taking home prizes:

- Victor Vasquez and Alexander Tellison - Special prizes from the Office of Naval Research
- Colin Fenimore - 4th
- Victoria Bogacki - 4th
- Ethan Leimgardt - 4th
- Arianna Casanova - Silva- 3rd
- Giavanna Fioravanti - 4th



Congratulations again to our science and engineering winners!



Get ready for DUA's 1st Annual Spring Showcase

FOLLOW THE YELLOW BRICK ROAD

SATURDAY, MAY 30TH
SUNDAY, MAY 31ST

Registration for the 2020 Spring season will end March 1st!

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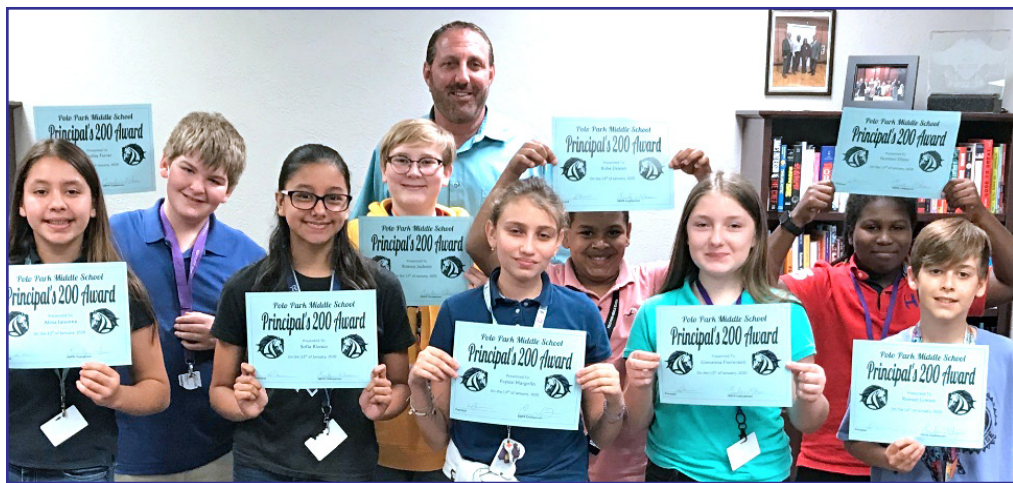
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Principal's 200

Congratulations to the first set of Winners for the Principal's 200 this school year. Student's receive a ticket to a faculty or staff member if they are caught doing something that shows Stallion Pride. We had thirteen students who won this time. Some were absent and are not pictured. They are: Norman Dixon, Sophia Meza, Bradley Farrar, Kobe Dejean, Alexa Ianonne, Hope Hess, Roman Jackson, Payton Margolin, Gavin Emerick, Roman Gomez, Giovanna Fioravanti, Sofia Blanco and Bryanna Ariza.



Drama Club

Polo Park Middle School Drama Club successfully performed (our first) "Dessert Theatre" in early December. The student run performance gave students an opportunity to display a wide range of talents from monologues to songs and dances, as well as group performances.

Please show your support and join us this spring for our performance of "Willy Wonka Jr.".

We look forward to entertaining you!



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School-Sponsored Shirts

This year all Polo Park t-shirts and school-sponsored clothing will be available for purchase online at our online store: <https://polopark.pyra360.com/>. The school T-shirts can be worn to school at all times. The P.E. T-shirt is only to be worn to P.E. classes and not during the regular school day.

This year's athletic event T-shirt is also available on this site. The athletic T-shirt can be worn to school at all times and gets you in to all of the home sporting events free.



A Word From Our PTSA

Our PTSA hosted a wonderful holiday lunch for teachers and staff on Friday 12/20 before the holiday break, with delicious food from **Chris' Taverna!** A merry time was had by all! We love to show our appreciation to our hard working teachers, staff, and administrators!

We would also like to say a special shout-out to **Mario The Baker** who catered the Back to School lunch in August!

The PTSA Board would like to begin by thanking all the parents who have come alongside us with helping hands for our back to school activities and Fall events! It takes many volunteers to accomplish our goals and we appreciate each one of you. We also want to thank those of you who have shown your support by purchasing a membership with us this year! We are still short of our membership goal, so if you haven't joined yet, it's not too late! Contact Mayra Morgado at membership@poloparkptsa.com to join! We were very happy to see some new faces at our General Meeting back on September 19th and look forward to our next General Meeting in the Spring.

BoxTops

BoxTops has gone digital this year so please download the app and help our school earn points that turn into school resources! Go to BTFE.COM for more information. If you have clipped actual BoxTops, please send in to the front office. 40 or more BoxTops earns your child a full size candy bar! Contact Shanna Finkel at boxtops@poloparkptsa.com with any questions.

Walk-A-Thon

We will be hosting our annual student Walk-A-Thon on Friday, January 31st. Planning for this event will begin this month and we would love for you to be part of the fun! If you are interested in being on the planning committee and/or helping day of event, please contact Darla Murga and Claudia Davis at walkathon@poloparkptsa.com and they can let you know of volunteer needs.

Glow Party 2020

We are excited to invite all Polo Park students to our 2020 Glow Party on Friday, February 21st from 6:30 to 8:30 pm in the PPMS Cafeteria. Tickets for the Glow Party will go on sale on February 10th. Tickets will cost \$10 and include 2 slices of pizza, 2 bottles of water, 1 glow item and 1 raffle ticket. Please bring cash to the party for additional purchases of glow items, snacks or drinks. Wristbands will be distributed at the door on the night of the event. No walk-ins allowed so buy your tickets early! Wear white or neon colors and come prepared to have fun and watch your favorite teachers participate in an epic lip sync battle! If interested in being on the planning and decorating committee, please contact Vanessa Quigley or Rachel Frishberg at winterparty@poloparkptsa.com.

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A Word From Our PTSA Continued

Business Partners Shout Out

A huge shout out to our wonderful and generous business partners: Adrenaline, Allstar Pressure Washing, Allstate -Todd Miller, Bolay, Chick fil-A, Code Ninjas Wellington, Cooper Orthodontics, Elstein Law, Five Guys Burgers and Fries, The Foot and Ankle Clinic - Dr. Tabora,, HealthCare Appraisers, I9 Sports, Kelly Richter - EXIT REALTY, Kona Ice, Little Caesars, PDQ, Rescue Clean 911, Santelli Orthodontics, Score At The Top, Shullman Orthodontics, Shults Orthodontics, Skate Zone, Smile Designs, Sole Escape, Tricoli Team Keller Williams, 20 Twenty Eyecare, and Urban Air Wellington. Want to see your business listed here? Contact Christina Sullivan at businesspartners@poloparkptsa.com for information on how to become a PPMS Business Partner!

Fundraising Efforts

Our last bit of news is very exciting! With all of our fundraising efforts, we have been able to fund teacher grants to Mr. Besman, Ms. Blackford, Mr. Climo, Ms. Conant, Ms. DaSilveira, Mr. Grad, Mr. Hanson, Ms. Lockey, Mr. Milington, Ms. Strackman, Mr. Tripp, and Ms. Wortzel. As technology is always a priority, we have helped fund the purchase of 24 Chromebooks. We also provided half of the necessary funding for "Stop The Bleed" kits for all classrooms. We were also able to fund campus improvements such as refurbishing our school marquee by main entrance, power washing in common areas, schedule tree trimming in main parking lot, order additional benches for placement along car line sidewalk, and begin saving toward upgrading to a digital marquee.

We are excited about all that is happening to make our school the best it can be! There are many aspects of PTSA and a variety of ways to get involved. Please contact our PTSA President, Jen Safriet to get plugged in at school. She is more than happy to connect you to the right person and help you get started! She may be reached at president@poloparkptsa.com with any questions, comments, and/or ideas!

Wendy Field
PTSA Secretary
Polo Park Middle School
Go Stallions!
poloparkptsa.com

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- > PARTY SETUP & CLEANUP

Test Taking Tips for Parents

Tip #1: Make attendance a priority, especially on days that you know standardized testing will be administered. Though it's important for your student to be in school every day, making sure he's there when the test is taken helps to ensure he won't lose more learning time because he has to make up a test during school. Make a note of test days on the calendar. That way both you and your student know what's coming and will be prepared.

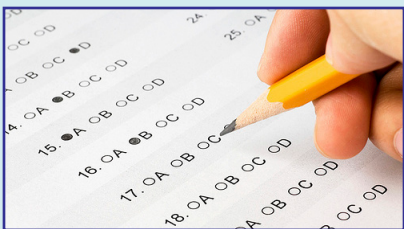
Tip #2: Monitor your student's progress and check for understanding. Subjects like science, social studies and math often have cumulative exams at the end of learning units. If your student is struggling with something now, it won't be easy for her to have time to try again to learn it just before the test.

Tip #3: Set a reasonable bedtime and stick to it. Eight hours of sleep is preferable. Many parents underestimate the importance of a rested mind and body. Tired children have difficulty focusing and are easily flustered by challenges.

Tip #4: Make sure your child has enough time to wake up fully before he has to go to school. Just as rest is important, so is having enough time to get his brain engaged and in gear. If his test is first thing in the morning, he can't afford to spend the first hour of school groggy and unfocused.

Tip #5: Provide a high-protein, healthy, low-sugar breakfast for your student. Kids learn better on full stomachs, but if their stomachs are full of sugary, heavy foods that will make them sleepy or slightly queasy, it's not much better than an empty stomach.

Tip #6: Talk to your student about how the test went, what he did well and what he would have done differently. Think of it as a mini-debriefing or brainstorming session. You can talk about test-taking strategies after the fact as easily as beforehand and these discussions will improve performance on future tests.



From the Library Media Center

As we approached the holiday season, I was able to have some fun with Ms. Lockey's students. We did a Thanksgiving book reading and a digital scavenger hunt about the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade. There were prizes involved and the students enjoyed learning about this iconic American tradition.

I'd like to send a huge thank you to The Jacobs Wellington Charitable Fund for their generous funding of our grant requests. Earlier this year, The Jacobs Wellington Charitable Fund accepted our grant proposal in the amount of \$22,206.36 for a laptop cart and 30 laptops for use in the library media center. These laptops are being used daily by individual students and by classes. Recently, The Jacobs Wellington Charitable Fund awarded Polo Park \$49,493.50 to fund 5 Chromebook carts with Chromebooks for the English Language Arts Department. That grant was a collaborative effort between the library media center and the ELA department. Exciting things are always brewing in the library.

On February 6th we will be hosting our annual Literacy Night at Barnes & Noble in Wellington. Our band and chorus will perform, our art department will have work on display, and we have other exciting activities starting at 5:30 that evening. Please come out and support literacy as we showcase the talents of our students.

On April 24th we will hold our SSYRA Ice Cream Extravaganza as well as our Million Word Club and Half-Way There Club luncheon. Students must qualify by 3 p.m. on Friday, April 17.

Please take note, James Ponti, Edgar Award winning author, will be visiting us next fall. His new book *City Spies* will be coming out mid-March. Look for fun activities to start soon leading up to his visit next year.

Happy reading,
Mrs. Bernstein

A few spots are left!



We need you!

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This is a wonderful way
for your company
to get community recognition
and exposure,
and at the same time

help support your local schools!

Nora Bernstein

nora.bernstein@palmbeachschools.org

Polo Park Middle School

Art

Ms. Wortzel's class enjoyed a second visit from the Fashion designer Pam Tatti. She is educating our students to question the single use industries that make fabrics from petroleum products into products that are not well made or designed to last. This is a tremendous strain on the resources of our planet.

We learned about reusing fabric that would otherwise be tossed into a landfill. We took the scraps created from our first lesson of taking tee shirts that were no longer useful and turning them into grocery bags, the students took what remained from this project and cut the remnants into strips and sewed them together. We then wove them onto a handmade loom and created a rug. Our students are learning about the value of earth's precious resources and becoming creative and thoughtful in how these resources are used. We are educating our students to help make this world a clean and healthy environment for all.



Family, Career and Community Leaders of America

Polo Park Middle School's FCCLA club will be competing at the State Leadership Conference March 20-23, 2020 in Orlando, Florida. Our members are working on their STAR EVENT competition which they will present at the conference. First and second place winners will be able to compete this summer at the National Leadership Conference in Washington, DC.

We would like to encourage faculty, staff, parents and businesses to help support our club by donating money so that our members can attend both the State and National Leadership Conference. Please contact Mrs. Holmstock at 561-333-5544. Your support is greatly appreciated. You can visit FCCLA's state website: flfccla.org or the national website: fcclainc.org to find out more information about FCCLA.

Our State Community Service Project is "Tune In For Our Troops! We are collecting items to bring to the State Leadership Conference. They will be boxed along with letters and cards to our troops. Please bring these items to Room 2-104. The list is in the Main Office and outside the door of Room 2-104. Thank you for supporting our project.

We will be pre-selling Great American Cookie Company Heart Shaped Cookies and delivering them on Valentine's Day. Stay tuned for morning announcements and posters for more information.

Family, Career and Community Leaders of America meets every Wednesday after school in Room 2-104. Any Polo Park student is welcomed to join. You can be part of a great national student run organization, learn leadership skills, compete, and travel. You will also meet amazing students throughout the United States who have the drive and ambition to be our future leaders. Please come to our meetings or speak with Mrs. Holmstock in Room 2-104.



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Polo Park Middle School
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