



**POLO PARK**  
MIDDLE SCHOOL

FEBRUARY 2022

# Stallion Sentinel

VOLUME 14 ISSUE 2

## Polo Park M.S.

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

Wow, it is hard to believe that we are more than half way through the 2021-2022 school year! I want to thank everyone for their diligence in keeping students home when they are not well and helping to keep everyone as safe as possible.

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 February 9th. It will again be done during lunches. Report cards were sent home January 12th and the third nine weeks' progress reports will go home on February 11th. 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. Over 100 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 their amazing seasons, with volleyball winning their division and both making the playoffs. The Cyber Stallions Robotics team is off to a great start winning their first two competitions. As basketball begins, we would like to remind everyone that all visitors must wear masks indoors and will only be allowed in with clear bags.

As we move through the third nine weeks we are looking at events on a regular basis. We have postponed the Walkathon, until March. February 18th our NJHS will be hosting the Mini Dance Marathon in the courtyard. Stay tuned for other events as we feel comfortable holding them.

### Looking forward to a great spring!

Sincerely,  
Michael Aronson

## Polo Park Pride

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

## 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:

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### Spanish Version:

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## Band Concerts

Winter band concerts were held on December 8th and December 9th at Polo Park. On December 8th the Beginning Band and the Jazz Band performed. It was hard to believe that the students in the Beginning Band just started playing this year. The Jazz Band was awesome. On December 9th the Intermediate Band and the Advanced Band performed, keeping the audience entertained throughout the evening. Kuddos go out to Mr. Graham and his students.



Beginning Band



Intermediate Band



Advanced Band

## NJHS Toy Drive

"The holidays are all about giving to others without expecting something in return. Parents who struggle to get by want their children to be able to experience the excitement and joy of receiving "the toys of their dreams." That is where we - Polo Park Middle School- come in. This year, our school received numerous toy donations from students and parents that will be given to children in need (Palms West Hospital). "Everyone deserves to feel happy around the holidays," exclaimed students around our campus. Donating to local toy drives is a quick, easy, and free way to support your neighborhood friends." The NJHS Toy Drive ran from December 1st to December 13th.



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**Nora Bernstein**

[nora.bernstein@palmbeachschools.org](mailto:nora.bernstein@palmbeachschools.org)  
 Polo Park Middle School

# 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 October and November.



Maria Silva  
7th grade



Madison Price  
8th grade



Lily Rhodes  
Electives



Tyler Johnson  
Athletics



Mr. Aronson with October's  
Students of the Month

Joe-ceph Philor - 6th grade (not pictured)



Maria Silva  
7th grade



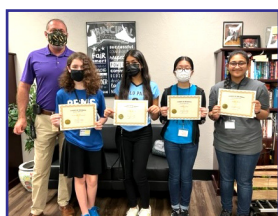
Madison Price  
8th grade



Lily Rhodes  
Electives



Tyler Johnson  
Athletics



Mr. Aronson with October's  
Students of the Month

Michelle Carrio - Electives (not pictured)

# Congratulations

Stallion Sentinel  
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Issue #2

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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!

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- Promo Girl
- Simply Braces, Dr. Matt Pickron

# THANK YOU

## PTSA

What a wonderful fall and holiday season for our Stallion family! Please continue to check your emails and social media for our latest happenings! [FB – Polo Park Middle School PTSA. Instagram – Poloparkptsa. Twitter – Poloparkptsa] We were thrilled to raise \$2,975 during our holiday drive to help out some local families during this time of year. Thank you to everyone who contributed! We also want to thank our wonderful business partners for their support throughout the school year!

The November Q1 Honor Roll celebration in the cafeteria at lunch time was a hit – the approx 600 students loved coming on stage to get their certificates from the administration and ice cream sandwiches from the PTSA! Thank you to Laura Davis and Mike Costello for coordinating!

The teachers and staff were treated to a holiday lunch in December before winter break. Co-chairs Allison Browning and Paula Howell organized food, gifts, and winter wonderland décor to show the teachers all of our appreciation for all they do. Special thanks to Diana Berman for an amazing hot cocoa station with all the fixings!

Our Spirit Nights at local restaurants, and on-campus after-school snack sales, will continue into 2022. Each month, the students have loved grabbing a sandwich or nuggets on their way out after school! Thank you to Christina Sullivan for organizing these fundraisers.

**Walk-a-thon** will be here before you know it! It is being held for students, on our campus track, with a DJ and raffle drawing! Keep your eyes peeled for student ticket and raffle purchase information. We have some great prizes the students will love! More details will be forthcoming.

In addition, we have **Beautification Day** and the **8th Grade Dance** coming up. It will be a busy spring! As always, thank you to all the volunteer parents who give of their time to help and make these events a success, as well as your donations and fundraiser support.

It is not too late if you have not purchased a PTSA membership yet! The link is: <https://poloparkptsa.memberhub.com/store>. As well, if you would like to donate directly for any of our events, please contact us at [president@poloparkptsa.com](mailto:president@poloparkptsa.com). See you in the new year!



Teachers and staff enjoyed a Holiday Lunch provided by PTSA, catered by CR Chicks. Dessert sponsored by Shullman Orthodontics.

Jon Goldblatt, LMHC, Psy.D.  
Licensed Mental Health Counselor

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## NHL Most Valuable Teacher Program

The NHL, NHLPA, SAP and EVERFI have selected Ms. Ardizzone-Johnson as 1 of 20 teachers across North America to be entered into the Most Valuable Teacher Program for January 2022.

This honor includes winning a prize for helping bring STEM concepts to life for students in our school community! Polo Park is honored that Ms. Ardizzone-Johnson was one of the finalists chosen for this recognition.

Ms. Ardizzone-Johnson is dedicated to teaching applications for STEM because she knows that it not only impacts how healthy and productive students are during this time, but also their well-being and success far beyond the K-12 years.



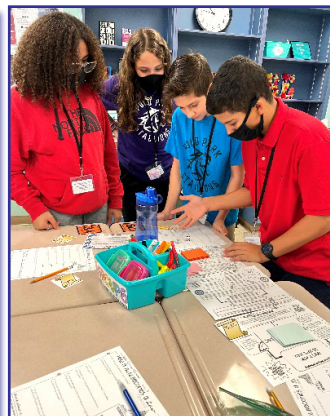
## Cause for Paws

Cause for Paws visited Peggy Adams Rescue League. While there, they learned a little bit about what Peggy Adams does for the community as well as made homemade toys for the cats. They were even able to share the toys they made and spend time with some of the cats! It was a great time!



## Ms. Stern's Civics Class

Ms. Stern's Civics classes enjoyed simulating the lawmaking process through playing the "How a Bill Becomes a Law" board game. This game uniquely allowed students to understand just how difficult it is for some bills to become laws. Although politics and chance prohibited some of our bills from becoming laws, we still had a lot of fun playing this game!



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# Robotics

On Saturday, January 8th, the Rockin Robots competed at their Qualifier against 10 other teams. It was a great day. They were the overall champions and also had the highest robot run score with a score of 440 which is one of the highest in the state. Team members include: Ethan Aronson, Pedro Bathomarco, Ephrosyni Esopakis, Chase Greenberg, George Honeycutt, Gianna Luiso, Jena Musallam, Bradley Schube, and Zachary Koenig.

Congratulations to Team 44893 the Royal Robots on their Qualifier on January 15th at Glades Middle School. They won two of the top five awards. Robot Performance with a high score of 380 points and the Innovative Project Award for their Pressure Packer Device for food delivery systems. The Royal Robots members are: Tyler Cortes, Sofia Kukec, Hazel Poirier, Vincent Pople, Tyler Sahlbach, President Talleyrand, Lakshita Vishnuvardhan, Colton Zehler, Abhi Ayithi, Layla Ashry, and Sofia Camacho. They have worked really hard all season. Now on to the Regionals on February 26th!

On Saturday, January 22nd our Robotics teams had another great day. We had a Qualifier in the morning and Scrimmage in the afternoon, with a little parade in the middle of it all. Team 3, The Cyber Guardians received the high robot score. The Cyber Guardians members are: Zaina Ahmed, Andrew Bueno-Taveras, Gabriel Forjan, Raul Junco, Bryan Martinez, Ayad Morad, Evan Seith, Aarna Singh, Maxx Swisher, Nicholas Dellosa, Rodriguez, Diego. In addition, Team #1, The Rockin Robots, won their scrimmage posting the highest score in the state so far. 440.



Rockin Robots



Royal Robots



Polo Park Cyber Stallions in the Parade



Cyber Guardians



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# Palm Beach County Science and Engineering Fair

On December 8th, Polo Park had fourteen students participate in the Palm Beach County Science and Engineering fair. From those fourteen students, six were selected to be recognized with awards. Lucas Demattos was recognized by the Navy League of the U.S., Palm Beach Council with the "Outstanding Spirit and Achievement" award. Evan Seith earned a fourth place award for his project. Michael Niemczyk, Emily Ramirez and Lakshita Vishnuvardhan achieved third place awards for their work.

For the sixth time in Polo Park history, we had a student earn first place standing and advance to the state science fair. Alejandro Rincon's project in the category of Environmental Engineering earned a first place award as well as four special recognition awards from the following organizations: The Florida Department of Environmental Protection, The Pollution Prevention Coalition of Palm Beach County, The Ricoh Sustainable Development Award, and the South Florida Water Management District. He will have the honor of representing our school at the 67th Annual State Science and Engineering at the end of March.



*Congratulations to all of our Polo Park science fair champions!*



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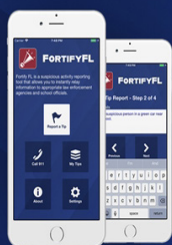
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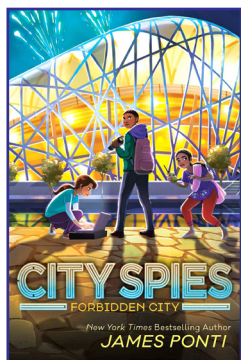
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## Library Media

I'm really excited to announce that New York Times bestselling author, James Ponti, will be making a visit to Polo Park on his promotional tour for his newest book, *Forbidden City*. *Forbidden City* is the third installment in the *City Spies* series about a group of 5 kids from all around the world who make up an elite team of M16 agents. After all, who would expect that a group of kids would be spies? All students chosen to hear Mr. Ponti speak will receive a copy of *Forbidden City* thanks to our wonderful PTSA. PTSA is also helping with other costs associated with Mr. Ponti's visit.



At the beginning of March, we will welcome author Taryn Souder to Polo Park. Ms. Souder is the author of *Coop Knows the Scoop*, one of this year's Sunshine State Young Readers Award books. Students should listen for details on how they can secure a spot to hear Ms. Souder speak.

I am currently reading *The Radium Girls* Young Readers Edition by Kate Moore.

Happy Reading,  
Mrs. Bernstein

## Girls' Volleyball

Polo Park Volleyball Coaches Matt Besman and Nestor Garrido are very proud of their team. The Polo Park Lady Stallions Volleyball team completed their regular season with a perfect 10-0 record. This marks the first time in school history the Girls' Volleyball team won all thirty games of every match. Next up for the team is the County Championship playoffs after the holidays. Team players include captains Lyla Buser, Daniela Garrido, and Isabella Duque. The rest of the team include Olivia Berman, Nicole Koch, Zoë Pikula, Sophia Bui, Lily Hutcheson, Tyler Young, Paula Castillo, Jillian St. Leger, Elianna Acosta, Ana Galindo, and Jordan Molinar. The team will have plenty of open spots next year so if you love volleyball and would like to try out for the team next year you may want to join a club or league and start practicing now.

