



**POLO PARK**  
**MIDDLE SCHOOL**

# Stallion Sentinel

JULY 2023

VOLUME 15 ISSUE 3

## Polo Park M.S.

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

### Administration

**Dr. Jennifer Galindo**  
Principal

**Mr. Andrew Kline**  
Assistant Principal - 6th Grade

**Mr. Craig Corsentino**  
Assistant Principal - 7th Grade

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

### School Counselors

**Ms. Kris Connors**  
6th Grade

**Ms. Naomi Soto-Coleman**  
7th Grade

**Ms. Julie Trujillo**  
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

Stallion families,

Happy Summer! Thank you all for making my first year at Polo Park such a wonderful one. We truly have the best faculty, staff, and students ever. Our families are supportive and make such a difference with the work we do. I also want to give a huge shout out and thank you to our PTSA for all of their hard work and support of our school. They are amazing and truly make exciting things happen. As we enjoy our summer vacation, please encourage your student to read and keep their skills fresh. There is an assigned reading project for all students that will be a grade upon return, but they are always welcome to read more and participate in our media center's summer reading challenge. Most importantly, I'd like to wish everyone a safe and relaxing summer. The 2023-2024 school year will be remarkable and I am looking forward to seeing our returning stallions in the fall.

Thank you,  
Dr. Galindo

## Polo Park Pride

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- 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:**

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### **Spanish Version:**

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## From the Library Media Center

Hi everyone, Happy Summer!

We've had a busy year, this year in the library media center. We introduced library lunchtime activities and they have been a great success. Students love our bingo activities. We've had book bingo, women's history bingo and Harry Potter bingo. We had first chapter Fridays and makerspace activities, and next year we plan to have more. This year we had an author, Christina Diaz Gonzalez, visit us. Students in attendance received a copy of her graphic novel, Invisible, thanks to our wonderful PTSA. Invisible is on The 2023-2024 Sunshine State Young Readers Award list and therefore on this summer's reading list. This summer my reading list includes the 15 Sunshine State books, which is the same list that students must select from for their mandatory summer reading project. You can find out more information about summer reading at our library website <https://sites.google.com/palmbeachschools.org/poloparkvirtuallibrary/home>

This year we combined several of our reading incentive programs to have one large reading celebration. Thanks to our wonderful PTSA, we celebrated reading successes with lunch from Panda Express, we had a make your own ice cream sundae buffet, students in the Half-Way There Club received medallions, and our Million Word Club students received trophies for their reading efforts.

We have lots of wonderful things planned for next year, but now it is time to rest, relax, and read.

If you have any question about summer reading, I'm only an email away <nora.bernstein@palmbeachschools.org>

Happy Reading,  
Mrs. Bernstein



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## Robotics

The Rockin Robots Robotics team competed at the Razorback Invitational in Arkansas. They received two awards, 2nd place in the Robot Alliance Competition competing against 40 alliances throughout the United States and Internationally. They also were a top 8 finisher in the Innovative Project out of 72 teams throughout the United States and Internationally.

The Polo Park Middle Team 44893 Royal Reboots placed 4th out of 80 teams at the Western Edge Invitational in Long Beach, CA.



## Reading Plus

The Reading Plus SeeReader Party, on 5/15/23, was for intensive reading students who completed 90+ SeeReaders at 80%+ this school year. We also invited our reading students who made large enough gains on the ELA FAST PM3 to score a 3 or higher.



Stallion Sentinel

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Thank you to all of our loyal business partners for their generous support of PPMS! The school would not be as amazing without their support. Polo Park families, let's show them our support in return!

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## PTSA

That's a wrap for the 2022-2023 school year! The 4th quarter was a busy one for the PTSA. The biggest events of the last quarter were the celebrations of our teachers and staff and then our 8th grade students before they head to high school.

Teacher Appreciation Week this year was celebrated at Polo Park during the week of April 25 - April 28. Our theme was "You Lift Us Up". Teachers and staff were treated on Monday with a delicious breakfast from Chick Fil A. Shoutout to Blue Ocean Turf for donating Jupiter Donuts which is always a big hit! On Tuesday the staff enjoyed a catered lunch by PBE Catering and Crumbl Cookies for dessert. A HUGE thank you to all of our Polo Park families who donated sweet treats on Wednesday. Our amazing families always provide an abundance of treats for our deserving teachers and staff! The staff was then treated to chair massages and facial analysis provided by European Day Spa. On Friday, Dr. Galindo and Ms. Wells worked the grill to provide lunch for the staff. We hope that our teachers and staff felt the love and know how much they are appreciated.

On April 28, we celebrated our 8th graders with their end of year carnival themed party. The committee worked hard since January to make this a night to remember. The students had a great evening enjoying music, food, carnival games, face painting, a photo booth and more. Thank you to the entire committee for all of their hard work. Special thanks to Allison Browning, Connie Beiber, Diane Hartel-Prince and Leighann Deery for being the committee chairs for the event. We wish all of our 8th graders the best of luck as they move on to high school in the fall.

Also in April, we had our first annual Business Partner and Volunteer Appreciation Breakfast from Panera Bread provided by PTSA. It was so nice to be able to thank all of them in person. We were grateful that Wellington Mayor Anne Gerwig was able to attend and show her support of our school and PTSA. We are looking forward to continuing this annual event in the years to come.

In May, we voted in our new board members for the 2023-2024 school year. We are excited to continue to support our school, staff and students in as many ways that we can. We would always love to get more parents and community members involved! If you would like to get involved either as a volunteer or business partner, please email [president@poloparkptsa.com](mailto:president@poloparkptsa.com). Thank you to Dr. Galindo for all of her support this year! It was an awesome year and we are so appreciative of how involved and supportive she was with the PTSA. We hope that everyone has a great summer break!

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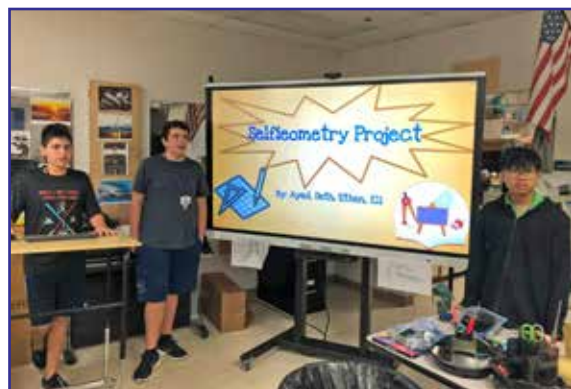
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## From the Math Department

Mrs. Gilman's Algebra classes presented their Selfometry group projects this week. All groups were to pick out 20 geometry terms, create a slide with definition and attribute, as well as post a selfie picture showing the term.



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## Dessert Theater

We had a wonderful dessert theater this year! The comedy improv group the Jeremy's premiered this year, introducing and closing the show. Jeremy 1 (Jericho), Jeremy 2 (Madison), Jeremy 3 (Jaylen), and Steve (Maya) worked great together after just a few days of practice. The vocal talents of Rhianne, Jaylen, Katelin, and Meghan were wonderful and dominated the show. The comedic monologue by Amari was a fun take on pimples and growing up. It was a great show and the cast and crew did a great job!



## Peace Poem Competition

Every year, the Village of Wellington hosts a Peace Poem competition. Polo Park student, Zane Matari was one of this year's winning entrants. Check out Zane's poem to the right.

May peace prevail on Earth,  
From the mountains to the sea,  
May all nations come together,  
And live in harmony.

Let there be no more war,  
No violence, no hate,  
May love and compassion reign,  
And unite us all as one great state.

May the sound of gunfire cease,  
And the cries of suffering end,  
May we learn to coexist,  
And become each other's friend.

May we lay down our weapons,  
And pick up the tree branch,  
May we find common ground,  
And advance together in a dance.

May we embrace diversity,  
And celebrate our differences,  
May we recognize our similarities,  
And find joy in our existence.

May the world be a peaceful place,  
A haven for all to live,  
May we share in this vision,  
And work towards it with all we give.

May our hearts be filled with kindness,  
And our minds with clarity,  
May we find a path to peace,  
And follow it with sincerity.

May peace prevail on Earth,  
And all beings live in bliss,  
May we create a world of love,  
And find in it our eternal kiss.



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# Athletics



Striving for excellence is the core value for all the athletic teams at Polo Park, and the results for the 2022-23 school year for all the teams proves that out. There were five teams who won the Western Division, six teams who made the playoffs, two teams who made it to the Final Four in their sport and one who played for the County Championship. Overall, this was another extremely successful year for Polo Park athletics.

It began back in August with the fall sports, softball and baseball. The softball team took some time to find their groove, but once they did, they were highly competitive and found themselves in a number of close, hard fought games on their way to five wins. The baseball team, however, was even more successful, winning the Western Division for the fifth time in the last seven years. The team went 9-1 in the regular season before an extra-inning loss ended their playoff run. The 8th graders on the team who played the previous year as well compiled a two year record of 21-2 with two division titles and a County Championship.

The next season continued the success of the fall with the girls volleyball team winning their third straight Western Division title, compiling a 9-1 regular season record and a win in their first playoff game. The girls recent domination of the Western Division bodes well for the future of the program. The boys soccer team, though not making the playoffs for the first time in five years, finished with a winning record of 5-4-1. The team competed with a lot of sixth and seventh graders seeing significant minutes, so the future is bright for the team.

After the new year, the girl's teams picked up right where Volleyball left off, with both the girl's soccer team and the girl's basketball team both winning the division and earning top seeds in the playoffs. The basketball team finished 9-1 and won their first round playoff game. The soccer team found even more success, finishing without a loss for the second straight year with a 9-0-1 record and earning the top seed in the playoffs. After receiving a bye in the first round, the team beat Jupiter Middle to advance to the Final Four where, for the second straight year, they gave up no goals in the game but lost in a penalty shootout. The third winter sports team, boys basketball, had a tough year, finishing with three wins. However, they fought really hard each and every game, getting great contributions from some younger players and should once again be ready to compete for a division title next year.

The spring sports closed out the year with a bang as the boys volleyball team went back-to-back with Western Division titles, finished with nine regular season wins (a school record), and won three playoff games against Independence, L.C. Swain and Western Pines, making it all the way to the Championship Match in the County Playoffs. The last two years have seen the team win 21 games and make it to the Final Four twice in the last four seasons. Not to be outdone, the boys and girls track teams were extremely successful with over 20 athletes qualifying for the Regionals, 12 of which went on to compete in the Palm Beach County Track and Field Finals.



As the school year comes to a close, Athletic Director Stacy Blackford and coaches Craig Kaliser, Johnny Torres, Matthew Besman, Telliferro Isaac, Nick Dragovich, Steve Hanson and Dawn Kohl would like to thank all the athletes who competed this year. A special congratulations to our Male and Female Athletes of the Year, Tanner Gilman and Chelsea Dever. Polo Park has a long history of being highly competitive in athletics, and this year was no exception. We wish all the best to the 8th graders as they hopefully continue their athletic endeavors in high school, and we look forward to the returning sixth and seventh leading Polo Park next year to continued athletic success.

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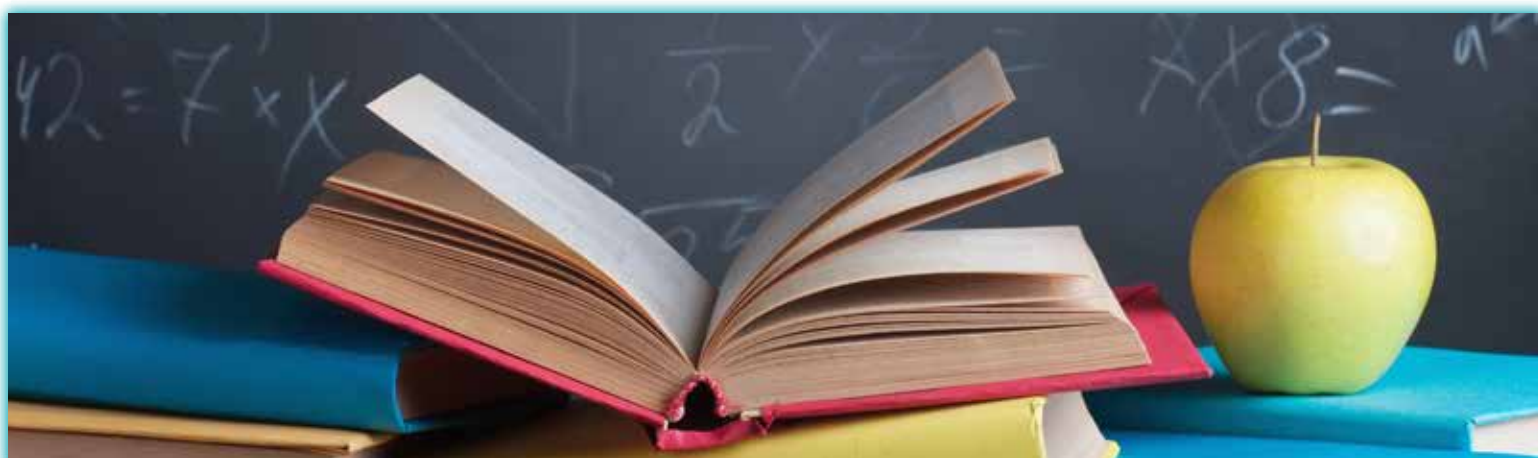
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