



**POLO PARK  
MIDDLE SCHOOL**

JUNE 2019

# Stallion Sentinel

VOLUME 11 ISSUE 5

## Polo Park M.S.

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

### Administration

**Mr. Michael Aronson**  
Principal

**Mrs. Fallon Kauker**  
Assistant Principal - 7th Grade

**Mr. Larry Matz**  
Assistant Principal - 8th Grade

**Mr. Craig Corsentino**  
Administrative Dean - 6th Grade

### School Counselors

**Ms. Caleine Ajusma**  
6th Grade & 7th Grade  
(Q-Z) Counselor

**Ms. Kelly Fredley**  
8th Grade & 7th Grade  
(A-P) Counselor

**Mrs. Naomi Soto-Coleman**

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 have concluded the 2018-2019 school year! It has been a pleasure getting to know the students as well as their families. I look forward to continuing to build positive relationships with you, and to another great year! As you read through this newsletter, you will see some of the amazing things that happened at Polo Park this year!

As we enter summer, I encourage each of you to remind your children of the importance of reading over the summer. In an effort to make sure that students maintain their learning gains, each child is required to read at least one of the Sunshine State Reading Award books this summer. The list is located on our website, as well as in this newsletter. All students will be expected to take a Reading Counts test on their book when they return in August.

I would like to thank our PTSA and their many volunteers for helping to make this year a huge success. They organized some major events, such as the campus beautification project, the Glow Party and the 8th Grade Dance. PTSA's major fundraising efforts allowed for many of our teachers to get needed supplies for their classrooms, support our athletic programs, purchase chrome books and honor many of our students at the Honor Roll assemblies.

The Polo Park Prep program for our incoming 6th graders will be July 29th-31st. As always, if you have any questions, please feel free to call or visit the school. Our office summer hours are Monday - Thursday from 8:00-12:00 and 1:00-4:00. We will be closed for lunch from 12:00-1:00.

We will be working hard this summer to ensure that everything is ready for our students when they return. We will be unveiling some new things, so be on the lookout for emails from us, as well as for information posted on twitter, Instagram, and on our new Facebook page, as we look for ways to spread the word about what is happening at Polo Park.

I hope each of you has a fantastic summer, and I look forward to seeing you in August.

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:**

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### **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 page and our PTSA section on Edline.

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 Issue #5

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## Principal's 200 Award

On Wednesday, May 29th, 2019, ten students earned the overall Principal's 200 Award. These students followed one of the universal guidelines (PRIDE) to have the opportunity to put their name on the Principal's 200 board. Once on the board, they needed to wait to see if there names connected. When ten names connect on the board, those students were invited to a pizza party with Principal Aronson. Those ten students names also went into a drawing, and one student was the lucky recipient of a new bicycle. We now look forward to next year's winners of the Principal's 200 Award.



## Robotics

On Saturday, April 6th, Polo Park Middle School's Robotic Teams competed at the 2019 FLL State Invitational in Delray Beach, FL. It was a historic day as the Cyber Stallions competed at the State Invitational for the first time in our school's history. It was also special because of the 48 teams competing we were the only team that had two teams competing. We did not receive top honors at the State Invitational, but we did get high praise from all the judges in the Core Values, Robot Design, and Project rooms. The robot game was very successful with Team 16113 scoring 96 points and Team 36112 scoring 103 points. The success of this program could not have been achieved without the support of our principal Mr. Aronson, the administration, teachers, our awesome parents, Coach Grad, Coach Nowling, Mentor Martinez and of course our incredible robotics students. We look forward to an amazing 2019-2020 year. Go Cyber Stallions!!



## Band Concert

Congratulations to Mr. Graham and his band students for two nights of wonderful spring concerts. A great time was had by all.



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# 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. Due to the size of our sixth grade class, sixth grade selects two students for this recognition. 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 month students recognized for the months of April and May.

## April



Hibatollah Mourak  
6th Grade



Ryan Haggerty  
6th Grade



Manuel Marroquin  
7th Grade



Kathleen Hooks  
8th Grade

*\*Not Pictured:  
Olivia Kaczmarek*

## May



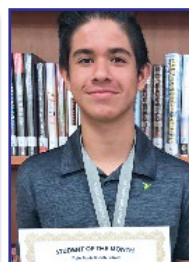
Stephanie Remy  
6th Grade



Parker Calleja  
6th Grade



Nicholas Ruggeri  
7th Grade



Julian Restrepo  
8th Grade



Sofia Blanco  
Electives



Tavis Holman  
Girls Track



Matthew Pilger  
Boys Track

*\*Not Pictured:  
Daniel Sappia  
Boys Volleyball*



# Soccer

The Polo Park Middle School girls soccer team won the Palm Beach County Championship, defeating Don Estridge Middle School 3-1 in the title game. The team finished undefeated, with eight wins and two ties during the regular season, and then winning all three playoff games.



**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



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## Awards

Polo Park students were recognized at grade level awards ceremonies as the school year came to a close. Students attending the ceremonies were awarded Academic Achievement Awards, for the highest grade point average in their class, or Teacher's Choice Awards. Students reading a million words or more received trophies. In eighth grade students who went above and beyond at Polo Park, exhibiting academic excellence or outstanding citizenship received plaques. Congratulations to all our award recipients.



## Literacy Event

On April 12th 2019, Polo Park celebrated literacy with a school-wide visit from renowned authors: James Patterson, Kwame Alexander, and Nancy Castaldo. Students were able to meet the authors, ask questions, and have books autographed. It was truly a memorable and educational experience. This literary event was made possible thanks to our principal Michael Aronson, and Lois Cahall of the Palm Beach Book Festival. We hope to make this an annual event.



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## From the Library Media Center

The last few weeks have been busy ones in the library media center. In April, students who read 3 or more Sunshine State books voted for their favorite Sunshine State Young Readers Award book for 2018-2019. The overall favorite at Polo Park was *Restart* by Gordon Korman. This was also the favorite of students across Florida. In addition, these students were invited to an Ice Cream Extravaganza where they were able to make an ice cream sundae with a choice of 15 toppings; one for each of the Sunshine State titles. A big thank you to our local WalMart grocery store for their donation. Their generosity helped offset the costs of our celebration.



Ice Cream Extravaganza

Students in the Half-Way There Club and the Million Word Club celebrated reading between 500,000 and 5,000,000 words this school year with a delicious luncheon from Panda Express. A big thank you to Panda Express for all the extras they donated to our luncheon. This year we had 20 teachers and staff members who joined 60 students as members of the Half-Way There Club and the Million Word Club.



Million Word Club and Half-Way There Club Luncheon

I encourage everyone to read over the summer. Students should have brought home information regarding my summer reading challenge. Upon returning to school, students are encouraged to earn 500,000 words or more, by the end of August through Reading Counts. Students reaching this goal will be invited to join me for breakfast and doughnuts one morning.

I'd just like to thank those parents who have generously volunteered their time in helping me with our library media activities.

Have a wonderful summer and happy reading,  
Mrs. Bernstein

## From the Cafeteria

As a reminder: any negative balances will follow your student to the next year. If you have any blocks on your students account(s) you will receive NO SNACKS or Snack only on Friday. If you want this removed, please send an email or note to school. We must have a paper trail in order to process your request.

Applying for Free / Reduced Meal Plans won't start until the middle of July.

On-line pre-payments won't be available until August 1, 2019.

## Coffee with the Counselors

This year we had a number of successful "Coffee with the Counselors" workshops for parents. These sessions are designed to educate parents on difficult and pertinent issues facing students and their families.



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## 8th Grade Dance

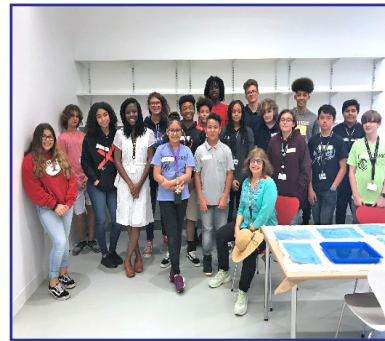
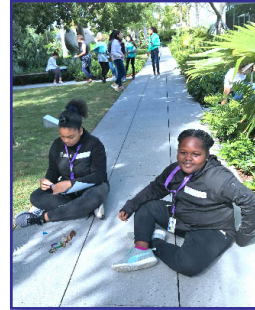
The 8th graders ended their year with a memorable evening. Everyone was all dressed up in their party attire as they danced the night away at Polo Park, thanks to our PTSA.



## Photoshop

This year, students in our Photoshop classes visited the Norton Museum of Art for a fabulous field trip. We were able to visit the new galleries, designed by the famous architect Sir Norman Foster, and see world renowned artwork. Students were also able to work on their own art project, projecting images onto photographic paper. Then we ate in the newly renovated Sculpture Garden.

Students are encouraged to return to the museum with their families. The museum will be free on Fridays and Saturdays this whole year, and Friday it is open until 10 at night, with live music, films, and more. On Saturdays there are often special events designed for families and children. Please check out the website [www.norton.org](http://www.norton.org) to take advantage of this great opportunity!



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## National Junior Honor Society

65 STUDENTS WERE INDUCTED INTO NATIONAL JUNIOR HONOR SOCIETY

Polo Park Middle School's annual induction ceremony for the National Junior Honor Society was on May 23rd at 6pm. A total of 65 students were inducted into the school's chapter.

To be eligible for membership consideration, students must have a cumulative grade point average of 3.75 for both their 6th and 7th grade years. Additionally, candidates must meet high standards of service, leadership, and character.

Leadership is based on the student's participation in two or more community or school activities, or election to an office. To meet the service requirement, the student must have been active in service projects in the school and community. Character is measured in terms of integrity, behavior, ethics, and cooperation with both students and faculty. Citizenship is evaluated based on participation and responsible involvement in activities such as scouting, community organizations, and school clubs.

Students are reviewed by a faculty council consisting of five members of the faculty appointed by the principal.

As members of NJHS, these students will now engage in a number of individual and chapter service projects. This year's NJHS activities included: our Palms West Children's Hospital toy drive where we personally delivered toys to the children at Palms West Hospital, we hosted a clothing drive for local families in need, we volunteered at our night of science where we showcased varying scientific disciplines and principles, we helped run the choice registration and open house nights where we welcomed incoming stallions to the polo park campus, we ran a peer tutoring program after school where we helped our peers become academically successful, we raised over \$1200 for the Leukemia and Lymphoma society, and we volunteered at events such as the showcase of schools, Binks Forest stem night, and the Binks Forest fall festival.

The NJHS advisers, Ms. Fredley and Ms. Green, look forward to all of the events and volunteering opportunities that are in store for them next year. They are proud of this years record of accomplishment and welcome the new members who bring new energy in support of our continuing work as an NJHS chapter.

NJHS is the nation's oldest and best-known student recognition program for middle level students and was founded in 1929 by the National Association of Secondary School Principals.



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## SSYRA Books

SSYRA **2019-2020** SSYRA  
Grades 6-8



**How many will you read???**

## Summer Reading

All Polo Park students are required to read one of the fifteen grade 6 - 8, 2019 - 2020, Sunshine State Young Readers Award titles:

1. *24 Hours in Nowhere* by Dusti Bowling
2. *The Adventurers Guild* by Zack Loran Clark
3. *All's Faire in Middle School* by Victoria Jamieson
4. *Boy X* by Dan Smith
5. *Breakout* by Kate Messner
6. *Captain Superlative* by J.S. Puller
7. *Elephant Secret* by Eric Walters
8. *Ethan Marcus Stands Up* by Michele Weber Hurwitz
9. *Greetings from Witness Protection* by Jake Burt
10. *Ivy Aberdeen's Letter to the World* by Ashley Herring Blake
11. *Knockout* by K.A Holt
12. *Nightbooks* by J.A. White
13. *Playing Atari with Saddam Hussein* by Jennifer Roy
14. *Slider* by Pete Hautman
15. *Small Spaces* by Katherine Arden

Students will be tested on their selection once we return to school in August; they will receive more information in their ELA classes.

