



**POLO PARK  
MIDDLE SCHOOL**

MARCH 2020

# Stallion Sentinel

VOLUME 12 ISSUE 4

## 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**  
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](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 are coming to the conclusion of the 2019-2020 school year! I want to thank all of our teachers for the tremendous amount of time and preparation that they put in every day to get our students ready for their FSA and EOC tests. The writing test begins the week of April 1st and finishes by April 9th. FSA and EOC testing begins May 1st and runs through May 17th. We are very proud of the results we had last year, and expect even better results this year.

Congratulations goes out to our Band for receiving straight "Superiors" at the District 14 MPA's, as well as our girls' soccer and boys' and girls' basketball teams on winning their divisions. As basketball and soccer begin their playoff runs, we will also be starting the seasons for track and boys' volleyball.

As we move through the fourth nine weeks I would like to bring your attention to some upcoming events. On April 8th report cards go home. On April 23rd and 24th our Drama Club will present "Willy Wonka Jr". On May 1st PTSA will be sponsoring our 8th grade dance. The 8th grade trip to Gradventure will be May 8th. The Band Spring Concerts are on May 13th and 14th. May 24th will be our Million Words Club celebration. May 29th is the last day of school.

Parents: as a continued reminder, safety is always a main priority of ours. Please remind your children that if they see something, that they should say something. Also, please remember that supervision is only provided 30 minutes prior to the start of the school day and 30 minutes after, unless your child is enrolled in before or after care.

### 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.

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**SCHOOL INFO  
& NEWS  
& PHOTOS**



STAY INFORMED!

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



**POLO PARK  
MIDDLE SCHOOL**

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Issue #4

**Career and Technical Education**

The Pre-Information Technology program at Polo Park won the GOLD award for Career and Technical Education (CTE) Program of the Year in the middle school category. Congratulations to the teachers and students in our Pre-IT Choice Program.



**Science and Engineering**

Students in Mr. Grad's classes used the **engineering design process** to create a paper helicopter. The goal of the project is to design your helicopter so that it stays in the air for the longest time possible.



Get ready for  
DUA's 1st Annual Spring Showcase

**FOLLOW THE  
YELLOW  
BRICK ROAD**

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SUNDAY, MAY 31ST**

Registration for the  
2020 Spring season  
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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 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 November and January.

### November



Eva Massimino  
6th Grade



Parker Calleja  
7th Grade



Jamir Hutchinson  
8th Grade



Picture Not Available  
Dylan Strackman  
Electives



Ava Rodgers  
Athletics

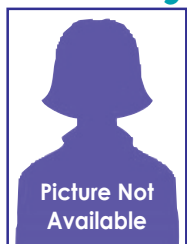
### January



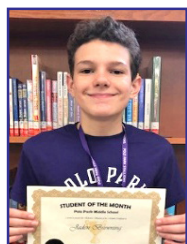
Joshua Abrams  
6th Grade



Chase Levy  
7th Grade



Picture Not Available  
Jocelyn Ranney  
8th Grade



Jaden Browning  
Electives



Tavis Holman  
Athletics

## From the Library Media Center

On February 6th, we held our annual Barnes & Noble Literacy Night; a great time was had by (all see article below.) As part of literacy night we held a contest to see which class had the highest percentage of students in attendance. Fifty-two percent of Ms. Connolly's 5th period class attended Barnes & Noble Literacy Night, winning a pizza party and read aloud. They claimed their prize on February 25th and enjoyed pizza, cookies and a frosty treat.

Currently, I am working to get new books out of boxes, labeled and into students' hands. I'm excited about many of the new titles we've purchased.

On April 24th we will hold our Million Word Club and Half-Way There Club luncheon. Students must qualify by 3 p.m. on Friday, April 17. This celebration has become an annual tradition and everyone is looking forward to Panda Express. On April 24th we will also hold our SSYRA Ice Cream Extravaganza complete with 15 different toppings, certainly proof that reading is a sweet treat.

I am looking forward to reading James Ponti's new book City Spies and creating a digital scavenger hunt for our students. Students participating will have a chance to win a copy of City Spies.

Happy Reading!  
Mrs. Bernstein



## FBLA District XX Polo Park Award Winners

Polo Park Middle School's FBLA chapter has just competed in the district FBLA competition. We would like to congratulate the following students for placing at the district competition:

- **Kaden Balfour** for placing 4th in Keyboarding
- **Jordan Duffey** for placing 1st in Keyboarding
- **Danil Anzalone** for placing 2nd in Elevator Speech
- **Adrian Miller** and **Zachary Mountcastle** for placing 6th in Desktop Publishing
- **Rebecca Roldan** and **Adrianna Ray** for placing 2nd in Desktop Publishing
- **Collin Fenimore** for placing 3rd in Business Math and Financial Literacy
- **Parker Nochomson** for placing 5th in Public Speaking
- **Zachary Schneider** for placing 7th in Career Exploration
- **O'brian Ortiz** for placing 3rd in Introduction to Computer Science and Coding
- **Aparna Ravindran** for placing 1st in Spreadsheet

We are so proud of all of you for your hard work!



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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.



### INFLUENZA

## AVOIDING THE FLU 6 THINGS YOU CAN DO



PROTECT YOUR HEALTH

Take action to lower your chances of getting the flu this season. Look inside to find out how. For more information, talk with your health care provider. Or visit [www.cdc.gov/flu](http://www.cdc.gov/flu) on the Internet.



**POLO PARK  
MIDDLE SCHOOL**

This pamphlet is not a substitute for medical care. If you have questions or concerns, please talk with a health care provider.

Written by Nancy Calhoun.  
Designed by Eva Bernstein. Illustrated by Fred Bell.  
Special thanks to our medical, professional and audience reviewers.

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### IS IT THE FLU?

Flu symptoms include:

- Fever and body aches\*
- Runny nose
- Dry cough
- Headache
- Extreme tiredness
- Sore throat
- Nausea, vomiting or diarrhea (more common in children)

\*Not everyone with the flu will have a fever.

### IF YOU DO GET SICK:

- ✓ Stay home and rest.
- ✓ Drink plenty of fluids.
- ✓ Try over-the-counter medications to help with a fever or cough.
- ✓ Never give aspirin to children or teens with a fever or other flu-like symptoms. Do not give children under 4 years old any medicine without talking to your doctor.
- ✓ Antivirals are prescription medicine that can treat the flu if they are given at the start of the illness. Ask your health care provider if they are right for you.
- ✓ If you are concerned about your illness, contact your health care provider.



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## AVOIDING THE FLU: 6 THINGS YOU CAN DO

You know the flu can make you miserable. For some people, the flu can lead to pneumonia or other infections. It can also make asthma and heart disease worse. In some cases it can even cause death. But you can take action against the flu.

### 1. GET A FLU VACCINE.

- ✓ A seasonal flu vaccine helps your body fight off the flu.
- ✓ Flu vaccines are usually available six to eight weeks before flu season starts in October or November. You must get a new vaccine each year.
- ✓ You can get vaccines at doctors' offices, clinics and pharmacies. Sometimes the flu vaccine is offered at schools or workplaces.
- ✓ Most communities have low-cost flu vaccine clinics. Contact your local health department to find one near you.



### WHO SHOULD GET A FLU VACCINE?

The flu vaccine is recommended for **everyone** over 6 months old. Getting a flu vaccine helps to keep you from getting sick. It also reduces the chances flu will spread to others. This helps protect those who may not be able to get the vaccine.

### 2. WASH YOUR HANDS.

- ✓ Frequent hand washing gets rid of the germs on your hands that can make you sick.
- ✓ When you wash, use soap and water and rub all surfaces of your hands for at least 20 seconds.
- ✓ If soap and water aren't available, use an alcohol-based hand cleanser or alcohol-based wipes.



### 3. TRY NOT TO TOUCH YOUR EYES, NOSE OR MOUTH.

- ✓ If you touch something with the flu virus on it and then touch your eyes, nose or mouth, the virus can enter your body and make you sick.

### 4. AVOID CLOSE CONTACT WITH SOMEONE WHO IS SICK.

- ✓ The flu virus is easily spread when people cough or sneeze.
- ✓ If you are around people who are coughing or sneezing, try to keep your distance.
- ✓ Keep babies, young children and older adults away from people who are sick.

### 5. TAKE CARE OF YOURSELF.

- ✓ Eat healthy meals, exercise regularly and make sure you get enough sleep.

### 6. COVER YOUR MOUTH.

- ✓ When you cough or sneeze, cover your mouth and nose with a tissue, then throw the tissue away and wash your hands.
- ✓ If you don't have a tissue, cough or sneeze into your elbow.
- ✓ Covering your mouth won't protect you from getting the flu, but it can prevent others from getting sick.



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# Robotics

At Polo Park Middle School we pride ourselves in providing excellent educational opportunities for our students both in and out of the classroom. One of our programs of excellence is our First Lego League Robotics Club, an extracurricular program in which students expand their skills and knowledge in a variety of STEM activities such as using CAD software, researching and developing new solutions for world problems, calculating estimated production costs, and programming Lego Mindstorm robots to complete given tasks.

In the current 2019-20 First Lego League Season, we created a THIRD Cyber Stallions team!! This was a huge step for the Cyber Stallions, as we were able to select 10 more amazingly brilliant students to be a part of our family. While the addition of a third team was a feat in itself, at our Regional Tournament (which all 3 teams qualified for), all three of our teams were awarded the opportunity to move on to the next level. Team #16113 and team #36112 both qualified to move on and compete in the Florida State FLL Tournament in Niceville, Florida, while team #44893 (our 100% Rookie team) was chosen to represent South Florida FLL in the Razorback International Invitational located in Fayetteville, Arkansas. We are so proud of all our student's accomplishments and cannot wait to see what experiences they will have at their next tournaments. We continue to raise funds for our teams to travel. We have a Go Fund Me if you would like to share this page that would be great. [gf.me/u/xkyucg](https://www.gofundme.com/u/xkyucg)

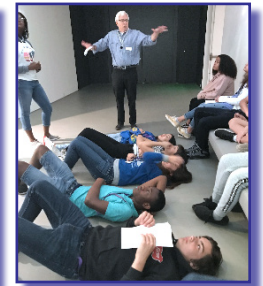


# Art

The Eighth grade art class took on this year's Equestrian Challenge to create a picture representing freedom and made from all recycled materials. We called the picture "Never be Afraid To Spread Your Wings And Do What Makes You Free".



Students cut out tons of stallions to make up the American Flag behind the Pegasus, we used feathers to make the wings and shredded cardboard for the mane and tail. Magazines were used to create value and shape the horses body and the figure riding the horse. It was a satisfying and successful collaboration!



**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](mailto:nora.bernstein@palmbeachschools.org)

**Polo Park Middle School**



## PTSA

Dear Polo Park Families,

We are still glowing from our most recent event! The annual **Glow Party** on February 21st was a huge success with over 330 students attending. Mr. Grad defended his title as the winner of the lip sync battle! He led the "Village People of Polo Park" in a choreographed number that had all the students singing and dancing along with them. Ms. Conant and the "Out of Sync" group with many of our math teachers also delivered an incredible performance that had their fans screaming for more. PTSA wants to give a huge thank you to the most amazing teachers for putting on such a tremendous show! Check out our post on Facebook!



**PTSA**<sup>®</sup>  
everychild.one voice.<sup>®</sup>

Polo Park was well represented at **Equestrian Night** again this year! Side-by-side with our sister school, Panther Run Elem., PTSA members, Student Council members, and student volunteers worked together and displayed artwork, sold reusable straws, candy, and drinks! After multiple requests to purchase some of the student artwork, the PTSA and the Polo Park art department are looking into the possibility of a fundraiser next year! We are also happy to share the good news that in the **Great Charity Challenge**, our team riders placed 5th overall and we will be sharing the winnings equally with the other 10 Wellington schools. We are so thankful for the generosity shown to the Wellington school PTSAs, PTAs and PTOs. For those families that came out to these exciting equestrian events, we hope you had as much fun as we did! Thank you for supporting our Stallions in the community!

A quick recap of our **Walk-A-Thon** fundraising event back on January 31st... It was a very successful day and the weather could not have been more perfect for being outdoors! More than 740 students participated and enjoyed their time walking around the track and dancing with friends. PTSA wants to again thank everyone for their support. Your continued generosity makes a real difference in our schools and community. We'd like to give special thanks to our generous **event sponsors** whose donations helped make everything possible:

Adrenaline Rush!, Kona Ice, California Pizza Kitchen, PDQ, Five Guys, Wal-Mart, Chick-fil-A, Universal Orlando, The BlowOut Lounge, Fresh Market, Shullman Orthodontics, Wellington Volleyball, Dicks Sporting Goods, Bogacki Family, Bostwick Family, Elstein Family, Field Family, Ramseyer Family, Sullivan Family, Weiss Family, and several anonymous families who also made contributions

One of the best ways to spend the money we raise is to be able to provide **teacher/staff grants**. In the month of February, grants were given to Mr. Aronson (cleaning of tennis courts and basketball courts), Mrs. Hruska (7th grade Social Studies/Civics and 7th grade Language Arts), and Mrs. Bernstein (Million Word 1/2 Way Luncheon and reading incentives/rewards).

Our next **spirit event** is on Thursday, March 19th at SoBol which is located at 13880 Wellington Trace in the Publix shopping center. If you are able to stop by and make a purchase, please remember to mention Polo Park when you pay for your order so our school gets credit.

**Parents of 8th graders...** The 8th Grade Committee needs volunteers to help plan the dance party they will be hosting on May 1st for all 8th grade students. If you are able to volunteer and/or make a donation, please contact Joannah Maranto and Paige Romano at 8thgradeparty@poloparkptsa.com and let them know of any needs you can help fill to make this a memorable evening for our 8th graders.

A huge shout out to our wonderful and generous **business partners**: Adrenaline, Allstar Pressure Washing, Allstate -Todd Miller, Bolay, Catania Italian Restaurant & Pizzeria, 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!

**The PTSA wishes everyone a wonderful and safe Spring Break!**

## Kennedy Space Center

On February 7th, 102 eighth graders from Polo Park Middle School went on a trip to the Kennedy Space Center where students explored the many exhibits within the facility.

"We wanted all our eighth graders to have a great experience and a great memory of middle school," said James Ring, one of the coordinators of the trip. "It is the best time I've had in my sixteen years of teaching."

The students observed different space shuttles and went through a simulation that let them experience what a space shuttle taking off felt like. They also learned about the various missions that took place in the Space Center itself.

A bus tour showed the students where the rockets launch from and gave them a chance to see the actual command center that helped launch an actual Apollo mission.

There were many other fun activities to do on the trip, such as a slide that took patrons from the second story to the first in the Atlantis building. Students even enjoyed the opportunity to shop for souvenirs like sweatshirts, water bottles, and different space themed gifts.

8th grader Reid Snider said, "It was fun to hang out with friends. My favorite part was the Atlantis and Saturn V buildings."

The students left the school at 6:30am in the morning and returned back at 8:00pm in the evening.

The trip cost \$70 to go on and covered the bus and entry fees. Students that paid received a shirt as well that they wore on the trip.





# Stallion Sentinel

*For the Parents, Staff, Students,  
and Community of Polo Park  
Middle School*

**Polo Park Middle School**  
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## Barnes & Noble Literacy Night

On Thursday, February 6, Polo Park Middle School held their annual Literacy Night and Book Fair at Barnes and Noble. The event was held from 5:30-8:00 pm, where students and parents enjoyed a night filled with books, raffles, and all around fun.

The event was organized by Media Center Specialist Nora Bernstein, who is extremely proud of the event. "I love literacy night because it brings everyone together and we highlight the talents of our school. People are given free choice of what they select to read."

During Literacy night the students and parents listened to the Polo Park band and chorus, viewed the student artwork, entered the raffles for gift baskets, participated in scavenger hunts, played bingo, and obtained extra credit from their English teachers.

The students in the band played a variety of music such as the Jurassic Park theme song and many classic art pieces. Kevin Graham, the Polo Park band director said, "Just getting to show off what my students do everyday, and what we get to do is so special. I'm so happy to be here with my students."

Attendees were able to browse and purchase books, with a percentage of the proceeds going towards the Polo Park library.

Students thoroughly enjoyed the night as they had fun, shopped for books, and had a great time with their friends.

"I love playing and showing everyone what our great band can do," said eighth grader Leonardo Lipson. "I also love showing all the young kids all the cool instruments."

The event was a great success for Polo Park where many books were bought, and the school raised money for their library.

