

**POLO PARK
MIDDLE SCHOOL**

MARCH 2023

Stallion Sentinel

VOLUME 15 ISSUE 1

Polo Park M.S.

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Administration

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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. Naomy Soto-Coleman
7th Grade

Ms. Julie Trujillo
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

Polo Park Middle School is entering into the last quarter of this school year with P.R.I.D.E. We have so many exciting things planned for our faculty, staff, and students. We will be celebrating teacher appreciation April 24-28, 2023. This is a wonderful opportunity to show our faculty and staff just how much they mean to us. We could not do the work we do with your students without the dedicated teachers and staff who keep our school running smoothly. Our 8th graders have a special trip coming available to them to replace Gradventure as well as their 8th grade dance and End of Year Awards. 6th and 7th graders have course selection for next year as well as another honor roll celebration. We are so excited to see the accomplishments that our students are achieving. This includes our amazing sports teams and clubs. As we sprint through the 4th quarter, please be sure that your student is present in May and ready for their End of Year exams. We have Progress Monitoring 3 for 6-8 ELA and 6-8 Math. We also have End Of Course exams for Algebra 1 Honors, Geometry Honors, and Civics. Additionally, our 8th graders will take their State Science Assessment. Therefore, it is imperative that our students are here for testing and ready to show off all that they know. There is a ton going on during the 4th quarter. We want all of our students to show their Stallion P.R.I.D.E. in all areas of campus so that we can make this a successful end of year experience for everyone.

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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Students of the Month

October

- 6th – Sabrina Carrasco – Borges
- 7th – Hailey Ross
- 8th- Layla Ashry
- Electives – Miriam Kamel

November

- 6th – Ryan Washburn
- 7th - Emilee Avila
- 8th – Lawson Ford
- Elective – Ethan Aronson
- Athletics - Jakob Trigazis

December

- 6th – Nikola Duperault
- 7th Elise Mendoza
- 8th – Laily Portales
- Electives – Rahul Sawant
- Athletics – Jillian St. Leger

January

- 6th – Massimo Nuzzolo
- 7th – Alexis Holt
- 8th – Annabelle Brisco
- Electives – Sophia Yohe
- Athletics – Alexia Hansen

February

- 6th – Fiorella Andino
- 7th - Jayden Bellange
- 8th – Sebastian Sokolor
- Electives – Alexandra Ramirez
- Athletics – Kieran Rivera



Kennedy Space Center

On Friday February 17, after a two-year pandemic related hiatus, 8th grade students finally had the opportunity to return to Kennedy Space Center. Under clear blue sunny skies and 85-degree temperatures, students explored KSC acquiring new knowledge about NASA and our space program past and present. The two most popular exhibits by far were Atlantis and the Apollo/Saturn V Center. The Shuttle Launch Experience was a hit in Atlantis, along with the Fiery Ride Home slide. The favorite in the Apollo/Saturn V Center was the Saturn V rocket and the Moonscape display.

Kennedy Space Center sits in the middle of the Merritt Island National Wildlife Refuge, which is one of the largest wildlife preserves in the state, supporting a significant number of threatened and endangered species. The bus tour between the main center and the Apollo/Saturn V Center often has surprises, past trips have included sightings of bald eagles, turtles, alligators, and wild pigs. On this trip, students observed a pair of nesting bald eagles and an alligator.

By any measure, the trip was a success and both students and left students and chaperones anxious for an opportunity to return.



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Robotics

The Cyber Stallions rose to new heights in February at their First Lego League Robotics Regionals. All three teams were successful in their aims to have fun, exhibit teamwork, and cultivate their growth mindset. Team 44893 the Royal Reboots showed how well rounded they are as a team. The team's Innovative Project the "Scream On" received 1st place. As a result, they received an invitation to The Western Edge robotics competition in Long Beach, California. Team 36112 the Rockin Robots rocked the regional even when adjustments had to be made on the fly with their robot Torpedo Ted. The team were the 2nd place champions overall and 2nd place for their robot performance. They received an invitation to the Razorback robotics competition held at the University of Arkansas. Team 16113 the Cyber Knights, came out of the competition as the overall champions as well as robot performance leaders with their Cyber Dragon. They will compete at the First Lego Leagues Worlds competition in Houston, Texas. The three teams were in the top 4 of the Southern Florida Regional out of 40 teams. All of the students will continue to learn new skills and show their Stallion Pride in the coming months. We are extremely proud of our Cyber Stallions!



Stallion Sentinel
 March 2023
 Published Five Times Per Year
 Fulton-Holland Educational
 Services Center
 3300 Forest Hill Boulevard
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 Issue #2



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PTSA

With the Stallion spring semester starting, PTSA and its wonderful volunteers got busy and geared up for the next events we sponsor. After our second installation of Fence Cups to add to this year's Beautification project, we turned to January's Walk-a-thon, which was a big success and the students had a blast! Participating students got to leave a morning class to walk the track with friends, listen to music, win prizes, and raise funds for school projects. Thank you to co-chairs Adriana Gonzalez and Pam Malloy!

Equestrian Night and the Great Charity Challenge was February 4th and we were there alongside the PPMS Chorus and PPMS Robotics team, selling glow items and representing our school for our assigned theme, Candy Bling. Thank you to Aimee Croatti for chairing this event and putting together our basket and everything else we needed to participate to gain funds for our school.

Next up is Science Night in early March at Cox Science Center. If you went last year, you know what a fun evening this was, with a Robotics demonstration, food trucks, mini-golf, 20 STEM interactive stations, and we have the whole center to ourselves again! Come check it out – it's a FREE event!

We are excited to be planning the 8th grade party and other events for 8th grade students, happening in April and May. The 8th grade committee has met and we are thankful for a wonderful group of parents who will help make the 8th graders feel special and have a well-deserved end of year event to celebrate their middle school years... especially since this class did not have anything for them at the end of 5th grade in Spring of 2020. If you want to be a part of the committee, or donate any items needed, please contact us! Ticket information for the party will be coming soon.

Teacher Appreciation Week will be here before we know it – we will celebrate the teachers and staff the last week of April with a breakfast one day, some R&R surprises, and a catered lunch. We also will have our annual 'Sweets Day' where generous parents drop off yummy sweets for our hard-working teachers and administrators. This event is a success because of YOU and all involved appreciate it greatly!

Our monthly on-campus after-school snack sales continued – our students love grabbing chicken sandwiches, nuggets or cookies, and monthly at lunch we give out candy treats to all student PTSA members! We will have some upcoming Parent Mixers to meet new potential volunteers; we would love for you to attend one of the dates - grab some coffee and treats, and find out how you can get involved, what positions will be open for next year's board, what events we need chairs for, and meet our wonderful principal Dr. Galindo.

Continue to check your emails and social media for our latest happenings and dates of all these events!

Email us: communications@poloparkptsa.com



8th graders at Walk-a-thon in January pose for a picture after walking the track with friends.

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Library Media

We've been very busy in the library media center (LMC). When we returned from winter recess, we began getting ready for Literacy Week and our author visit (see stand-alone articles). During January, we highlighted Black authors with a display in the LMC, in March we displayed books highlighting the lives of notable women. Next month, for National Library month, we are planning some fun lunchtime activities.

Literacy Week

Literacy Week was celebrated January 30th – February 3rd at Polo Park. Each day of the week had a theme and an activity that took place in the library media center during lunch. Students had to register for the lunchtime activities and those who participated had a lot of fun. On Monday, students painted rocks, Tuesday was reading bingo, on Wednesday we created blackout poetry, Thursday was designing a lanyard tag, and Friday was First Chapter Friday. On First Chapter Friday, Mrs. Bernstein shared *The Red Umbrella* by Christina Diaz Gonzalez, the author who was scheduled to visit on February 21, 2023. On Thursday, February 2, we celebrated Literacy Week at Barnes and Noble. During this time, we held two contests, our door decorating contest and our bookmark contest. Winners of the door decorating contest received cookies and our bookmark contest winners had their bookmarks professionally printed.

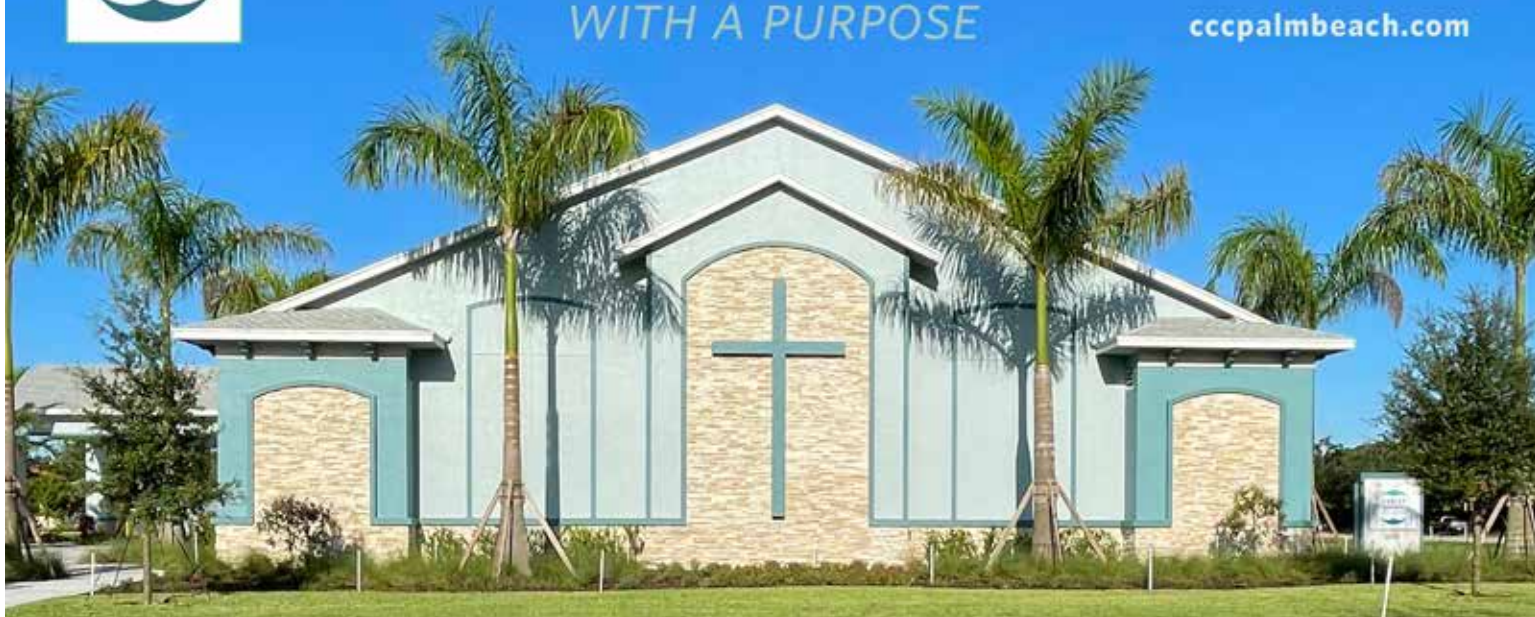


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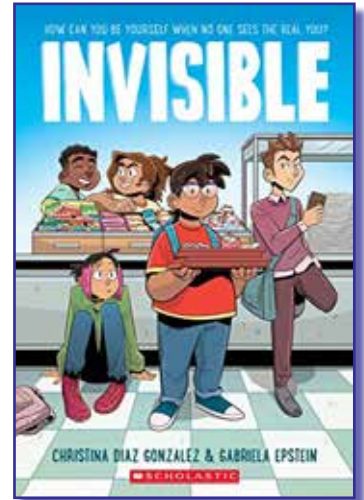
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Author Visit

On February 21, author Christina Diaz Gonzalez visited Polo Park thanks to the generous financial assistance from our PTSA and SAC. Approximately 180 students attended one of the author's presentations in which she spoke about the writing process, her background, how she became a writer, and about her books.

During the lunchtime presentation, Christina Diaz Gonzalez presented in Spanish and English and spoke about her new graphic novel. Lunch was from Don Ramon's' and was very tasty. All students attending received a copy of Invisible, which she personally autographed for them. It was a very exciting and informative day.



Author presentation



Author Christina Diaz Gonzalez autographs books for students.



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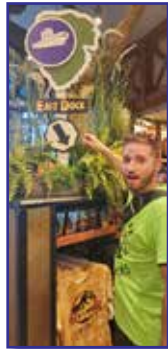
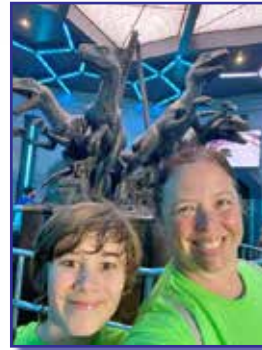


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Islands of Adventure

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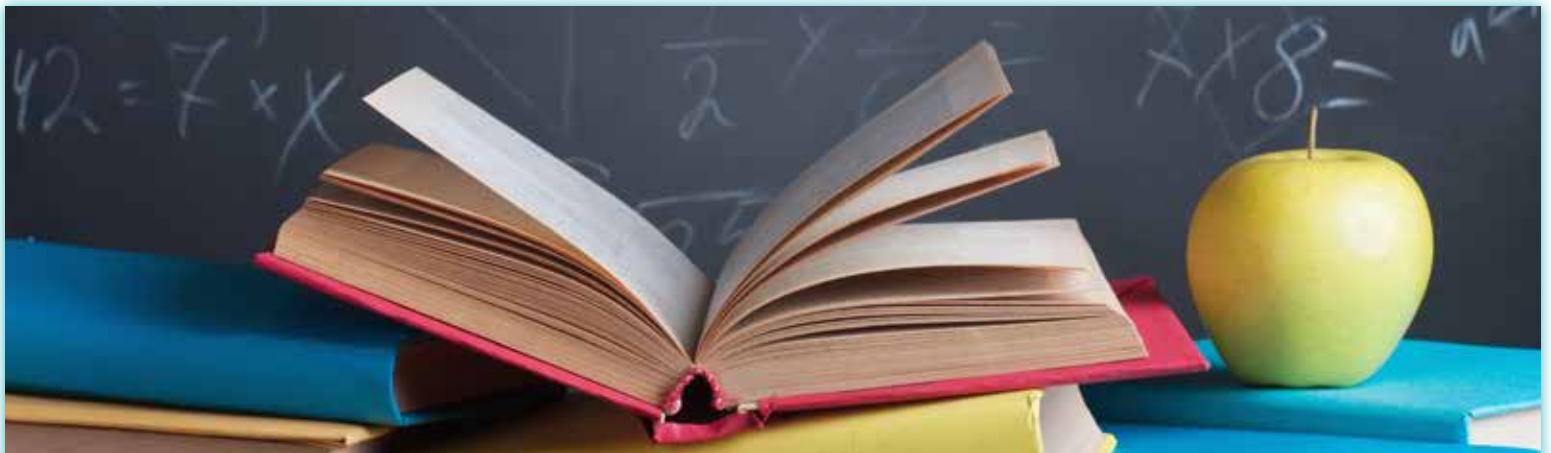
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