



POLO PARK
MIDDLE SCHOOL

Stallion Sentinel

MARCH 2024

VOLUME 16 ISSUE 2

Polo Park M.S.

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Wellington, FL 33449
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Administration

Dr. Jennifer Galindo
Principal

Mr. Andrew Kline
Assistant Principal - 6th Grade

Ms. Annjeanette Munnings
Assistant Principal - 7th Grade

Mr. Craig Corsentino
Assistant Principal - 8th Grade

School Counselors

Ms. Julie Trujillo
6th Grade

Ms. Kris Connors
7th Grade

Ms. Naomi Soto-Coleman
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

Our first semester has been very successful. Our students did well on their PM2 and are shining in every way. In the next couple of months we will have some more exciting things coming to our students.

- 7th grade will begin going on their Loggerhead field trips.
- 6th grade will get to see Puffs at Dr. Joaquin Garcia High School
- 8th grade will be learning more about the Holocaust with Letters from Anne and Martin.

Students are working diligently to maintain success for the 2nd half of the school year. There are a couple ways you can support them.

1. SIS is a sure way to keep up with how your student is doing in school. You can see absences, grades, discipline, and state assessments. Don't just check on your student at the end of the grading period. Checking SIS regularly allows for you to have important conversations in a timely manner to support your student.
2. Being on time and present is vitally important. Students cannot learn if they are not at school. As we get into the family travel season, please keep a school district calendar handy and schedule any travel, appointments or the such for times when we are out of school. This will help to show your student that school and education are a true priority.
3. Please support our school by reinforcing our policies and procedures. Things such as cell phone policies, dress code, tardies, and homework policies may seem like insignificant items, but they really do matter. The more you enforce them at home and support our enforcement at school, the more unified we will be in providing the most safe and successful educational environment for our students.

I am looking forward to continuing our work with your students as we progress through the 2023-2024 school year.

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

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. 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. Please congratulate the following students recognized for the months of November and January.

Student of the Month	November	January
6th grade	Navaeh Harris	Paulo Piper
7th grade	Andre Gonzalez da Silva	Maliha Chowdhury
8th grade	Maria Sadovnik	Jackson Holcombe
Electives	Nikolina Dengerud	Madison Verhine
Athletics	Andre Gonzalez da Silva	Giada Santoro



Kennedy Space Center

On Friday February 2, 8th grade students took off for Kennedy Space Center. Under clear blue sunny skies and 70 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 left students and chaperones anxious for an opportunity to return.



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Science and Engineering Fair

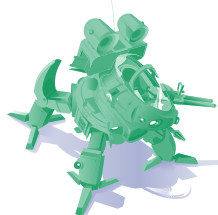
In January, students from Polo Park participated in the 69th annual School District of Palm Beach County Science and Engineering Fair. Showing off our school's exceptional scientific prowess, two of our students won first place in their respective categories and will be proceeding to represent our school in Lakeland, Florida at the state fair in April. Congratulations go out to Henry Honeycutt and Colin Sullivan. Additionally, Oskar Tarasinski and Aiden Tara won 4th place awards, while Brayen Wolfhope received a 3rd place award for his project.

In addition to the place awards, three additional Polo Park students were recognized for their exceptional and innovative works with special prizes from different public organizations. Charles Lewisohn- Moore received the "RICOH Sustainable Development Award," and planted 400 trees in his name. Oskar Tarasinski received a special prize for the "M.J. Davis Award for Innovation." Finally Celia Plevin received a special prize from the "Florida Association of Science Teachers." Our students show what the best traditional public school in the county can achieve!



Robotics

Congratulations to our Robotics teams! All three robotics teams qualified for and will be going to states!



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PTSA and its wonderful volunteers finished 2023 with our PTSA Annual Holiday Luncheon for our teachers and staff. The theme was cuisine's from around the world. The decorations were beautiful, and the food was delicious. It was great to show our teachers and staff how much we appreciate all they do. We also provided our teachers and staff with Sweet Treats. Thank you to all our Stallion families who donated sweets treats.

With the Stallion spring semester starting, we kicked off the year celebrating those students who made the Honor roll for the 2nd 9 weeks. Thank you to all the volunteers for your participation during the lunches to make this a success. We also participated in Equestrian Night and the Great Charity Challenge on February 3rd. Our team, that represents all Wellington schools, came in 5th place, winning a grand total of \$70,000 which will be distributed amongst all the schools. Our team's TV show theme was Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles, and both riders dressed the part. On February 9th we held our 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 purchase popsicles. These events raise funds for school projects.

Next up is the PTSA Meet and Greet on April 12th for any parents wanting to get involved in the PTSA in some capacity. We would love for you to attend, 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. We will also hold an appreciation breakfast for all our wonderful Business Partners and Volunteers on April 16th. We are very excited to be planning the 8th grade party/dance on April 26th 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. Ticket information for the dance will be out in the coming weeks. 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.

Our monthly on-campus after-school snack sales continue – our students love grabbing chicken sandwiches, nuggets, or cookies. Candy Day is also a huge success with the students, monthly at lunch we give out candy treats to all student PTSA members!

If you want to be a part of any of the PTSA committees, or donate any items needed to make these events a success, please contact us!

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

- Facebook – Polo Park Middle School PTSA
- Instagram – Poloparkptsa
- PTSA Website - poloparkptsa.com

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Thank you to all our loyal business partners for their generous support of PPMS! The school would not be as amazing as it is today without their unwavering support. Polo Park families let's show our support in return! If you are interested in being one of our Business Partners, please email businesspartners@poloparkpts.com, or for any questions on any topic send emails to president@poloparkpts.com!

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Winter Band Concerts

Winter band concerts were held on December 8 and December 9 at Polo Park. On December 13 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 14 the Intermediate Band and the Advanced Band performed, keeping the audience entertained throughout the evening. Kuddos go out to Mr. Graham and his students.



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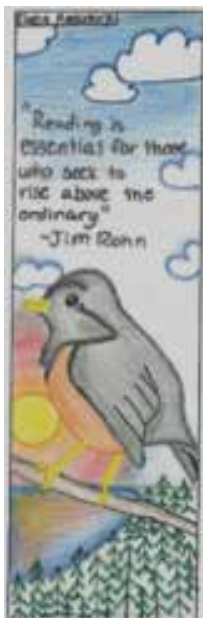
Since the establishment of our Library Lunch Club, attendance has been picking up at our lunchtime events. We've had read-alouds, bingo, rock painting, blackout poetry, and lots of felt craft. We celebrated Literacy Week with spirit days and our annual bookmark contest. The winners of the bookmark contest will have their bookmarks professionally printed and distributed at school. We had lots of great entries, and the judges had a hard time deciding. This year's winners are: Amber Grzebien, Gabriella Small, Elena Regueiro, Lluvia Echanique, Maliyah Paschal, and Fiorella Garzon. Congratulations!

If you've been missing out on our library media events, sign up for my Google Classroom. There you will find our calendar of events, and you'll be made aware of any changes. The code to join is: **74dklwa**, we hope that you will join the library media center classroom and participate in all of our activities.

In December we had a wonderful winter bookfair. On March 11 – March 15, we will be holding our spring bookfair. There will be a great selection of books, posters and assorted items for sale. All profits go to support library materials and activities.



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8



The Polo Park Lady Stallions Volleyball Team

The Polo Park Lady Stallions Volleyball team ended their season with a 10-0 record on top of their division. Their season ended with a hard fought matchup in the semifinals of the County Championship. Coaches Besman, Gilman, and Nestor are very proud of the girls and what they accomplished this year. Team members included 3 year players/captains Sophia Bui, Jordan Molinar, and Kally Buser. Other players included 8th graders Anna Fesenko, Amelia Cole, Maliyah Newton, Gabriella Versailles, and Jordana Mitchell. Returning next year will be Savannah Andrade, Teagan Hill, Izabel Lalla, Piper Breen, Emiliana Duque, and Juliana Nicholson. If you would like to be a part of our winning tradition, tryouts next year will begin in October. Coach Besman would also like to thank Coach Nestor and Coach Gilman for all their hard work and time in helping this year's team achieve the success they did. Congratulations Ladies....It was a magical season and we wish our 8th graders much success in their High School volleyball careers.